



## St. Michael the Archangel (Feast Day, September 29<sup>th</sup>)

[Quotes taken from *Francis of Assisi: The Saint*, Early Documents, Vol. I]

There is mention of Michael the Archangel in many of Francis' prayers.

Because of Your love, we humbly beg the glorious Mother, the most blessed, ever-virgin Mary, Blessed Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael [*Prayer of Thanksgiving* in the *Earlier Rule*, p. 83]

Blessed be the Holy Trinity and Undivided Unity. Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. [*Exhortation to the Praise of God*, p. 138]

Spouse of the Holy Spirit, pray for us with Saint Michael the Archangel [*Antiphon: Holy Virgin Mary*, p. 141]

[Quotes taken from *Francis of Assisi: The Founder*, Early Documents, Vol. II]

One time blessed Francis went to the hermitage of Mount La Verna and because that place is very remote, he liked it very much, and he wanted to do a Lent in honor of Saint Michael. He went there before the feast of the Assumption of the glorious Virgin Mary, and he counted the days from the feast of Saint Mary to the feast of Saint Michael, which are forty days, and he said: "I want to make a Lent here, in honor of God, the Blessed Virgin Mary, His mother, and blessed Michael, the prince of angels and of souls." [p. 226]

He often said that Blessed Michael should be especially honored because his duty is presenting souls to God. In honor of Saint Michael he would fast with great devotion for forty days between the Feast of the Assumption and St. Michael's feast day. For he used to say: "Each person should *offer God* some special praise or *gift* in honor of such a great prince." [p. 374]

When he went to the hermitage of La Verna to observe a forty-day fast in honor of the Archangel Michael, birds of different kinds flew around his cell, with melodious singing and joyful movements, as if rejoicing at his arrival. They seemed to be inviting and enticing the devoted father to stay. When he saw this, he said to his companion: "I see, brother, that it is God's will that we stay here for some time, for our sisters the birds seem so delighted at our presence." [p. 593]

Out of devotion to them [the angels] he used to spend the forty days after the Feast of the Assumption of the glorious Virgin in fasting and continual prayer. Because of the ardent zeal he had for the salvation of all, he was more devoted with a special love to blessed Michael the Archangel in view of his duty of presenting souls to God. [p. 598]

After true love of Christ *transformed* the lover *into His image*, when the forty days were over that he spent in solitude as he had desired, and the feast of St. Michael the Archangel had also arrived, the angelic man Francis *came down from the mountain*, bearing with him the likeness of the Crucified, depicted not on *tablets of stone* or on panels of wood carved by hand, but engraved on parts of his flesh *by the finger of the living God*. [p. 634]