COMPLEMENTARY CHARISMS

Ignatian Clarity & Franciscan Tenderness

A Reflection for the New Evangelization in Japan
Including Marian Insights & Resources

Catholic Faith Formation • Kibe Hall, St. Ignatius Church, Tokyo

Opening Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful,
and kindle in them the fire of Your love.

Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created,
and You shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit
did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
grant that by the same Spirit we may be truly wise
and ever rejoice in His consolation.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mary Immaculate, St. Francis, St. Clare, St. Bonaventure,
Bl. John Duns Scotus, St. Ignatius, St. Paul Miki,
St. Maximilian Kolbe — pray for us.

Journey of Our Reflection

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The Central Insight

The Church needs disciples who can discern spirits with Ignatian clarity and love the Crucified with Franciscan tenderness.

These complementary gifts, enriched by Marian theology and the witness of the Japanese martyrs, are especially fruitful for the New Evangelization in Japan.

The Franciscan Charism

- **Minority & Poverty**
  Living as lesser brothers and sisters; freedom from possession
- **Affective Love of the Crucified**
  Tenderness toward the wounds of Christ and of the poor
- **Fraternity with Creation**
  Brother Sun, Sister Moon — all creatures as family
- **Joyful Going Forth**
  Itinerant presence, peace-making, example before words
- **Contemplative Gaze**
  Clare’s mirror; Bonaventure’s vestiges of the Trinity

Key Franciscan Saints

St. Francis of Assisi
Founder – Gospel lived sine glossa

St. Anthony of Padua
Doctor of the Church

St. Clare of Assisi
Co-founder – Mirror of contemplation

St. Maximilian Kolbe
Knight of the Immaculata – Japan

St. Bonaventure
Seraphic Doctor – Six Wings

St. Pio of Pietrelcina
Stigmata & spiritual direction

Bl. John Duns Scotus
Defender of the Immaculate Conception

St. Elizabeth of Hungary
Third Order – charity

Bl. John Duns Scotus & the Immaculate Conception

The Question

How could Mary be preserved from original sin if Christ is the universal Redeemer?

The Principle

“Potuit, decuit, ergo fecit” — He could do it, it was fitting, therefore He did it.

Perfect Redemption

Mary was redeemed more perfectly by prevention rather than by healing after the fall.

Primacy of Christ

Christ was predestined first; Mary’s privilege flows from His absolute primacy.

Dogmatic Fruit

His arguments prepared the way for the solemn definition by Pius IX in 1854.

Note on the Proposed 5th Marian Dogma

Mary as Co-Redemptrix, Mediatrix and Advocate

According to the Catholic Church:

The title of Mary as Co-Redemptrix has not been defined as a dogma of the faith. It remains an open theological question.

Catholics are free to discuss this title privately and in theological study, provided they do not present it as already defined dogma and remain obedient to the Church's current magisterial teaching.

Several popes have used related language in non-dogmatic contexts, while recent statements have urged caution about a formal definition. Until the Church makes a definitive judgment, it is a legitimate subject for private reflection, prayer, and careful discussion.

The Ignatian Charism

- **Magis**

  The more — greater glory of God, deeper availability

- **Indifference**

  Ordered freedom from disordered attachments

- **Discernment of Spirits**

  Rules for recognizing consolation and desolation

- **Contemplation in Action**

  Finding God in all things while serving

- **Sentire cum Ecclesia**

  Thinking and feeling with the Church

Key Ignatian / Jesuit Saints

St. Ignatius of Loyola
Founder – Spiritual Exercises

St. Aloysius Gonzaga
Model of purity & service

St. Francis Xavier
Missionary to Asia

St. Robert Bellarmine
Doctor of the Church

St. Peter Faber
First companion – spiritual direction

St. Peter Canisius
Doctor – Catechist

St. Paul Miki & Companions
Japanese Martyrs (1597)

St. Claude de la Colombière
Sacred Heart apostle

St. Paul Miki and the Japanese Martyrs

Jesuit scholastic • Crucified at Nagasaki, 5 February 1597 • Canonized 1862

Japanese by birth

Born into a samurai family; entered the Society of Jesus as a scholastic and gifted preacher.

The 26 Martyrs

Arrested with companions during the persecution under Toyotomi Hideyoshi.

Witness on the Cross

From his cross he forgave his persecutors and proclaimed the doctrine of Christ.

Ignatian + Japanese

Embodies Ignatian availability united with deep Japanese cultural roots.

Relevance today

Patron of Japan; his blood is the seed of the Church in this land. Calls us to joyful, fearless witness.

Bonaventure’s Six Wings

Itinerarium Mentis in Deum – Journey of the Mind into God

1–2

Vestiges Outside

God through & in creation

3–4

Image Within

Natural powers & grace-reformed soul

5–6

God Above

Divine Unity & Most Holy Trinity

Beyond the six wings: Mystical Transitus — passing over into God through the Crucified

Inspired by Francis’s vision of the six-winged Seraph at La Verna

Bonaventure on Divine Illumination

The human mind cannot attain certain knowledge of immutable truths by its natural powers alone. Divine light acts as a regulative and moving cause that cooperates with the soul's faculties.

- Light of the senses → creation as vestige
- Light of reason → image of God in the soul
- Light of grace & faith → reformed image
- Higher illuminations → Unity & Trinity
- Light of glory → mystical union

Complementary Accents

Franciscan	Ignatian
Affective, joyful, spontaneous	Ordered, methodical, discerning
Minority & humility	Magis & availability
Brother/Sister relationship with creation	Means to the end – use as they help
Gaze upon the Crucified	Imaginative contemplation of Gospel
Evangelical poverty	Spiritual Exercises & freedom
Itinerant presence & example	Contemplation in action & mission

St. Maximilian Kolbe in Japan

1930–1936 • Nagasaki • Mugenzai no Sono (Garden of the Immaculate)

- Arrived with almost nothing — pure minority and trust
- Founded monastery and Japanese edition of Knight of the Immaculata
- Entire apostolate rooted in total consecration to the Immaculate
- Creative use of the press as early media evangelization
- Monastery survived the 1945 atomic bombing — sign of protection
- Model of Franciscan tenderness + determined missionary drive

Application to Evangelization in Japan

Creation & Beauty

Japanese reverence for nature meets Franciscan vestiges and the Canticle

Minority vs Success Culture

Freedom from status anxiety through poverty of spirit and indifference

Careful Discernment

Ignatian rules speak to Japanese sensitivity to atmosphere and relationships

Fraternity & Belonging

Small warm communities answer loneliness in a group-oriented society

Marian & Martyr Witness

Scotus, Kolbe, and Paul Miki provide bridges with existing Marian and historical currents

Practical Pathways for Japan

1. Structure faith formation around complementary pairs of insights
2. Use Japanese-background sacred art that fuses creation and the Cross
3. Prefer low-key presence and hospitality over large campaigns
4. Digital media under the banner of the Immaculate (Kolbe model)
5. Quiet retreats and guided Examen that respect Japanese silence
6. Invoke the intercession of St. Paul Miki and the 26 Martyrs

Key Quotes — Franciscan

“Gaze upon Him, consider Him, contemplate Him, as you desire to imitate Him.”

— St. Clare

“Christ is the way and the door; Christ is the ladder and the vehicle.”

— St. Bonaventure

“Potuit, decuit, ergo fecit.”

— Bl. John Duns Scotus

“Only love creates.”

— St. Maximilian Kolbe

Key Quotes — Ignatian

“Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam” — For the Greater Glory of God

— St. Ignatius

“Go forth and set the world on fire.”

— St. Ignatius

“I have committed no crime… The only reason I am killed is that I have taught the doctrine of Christ.”

— St. Paul Miki

“Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty…”

— Suscipe Prayer

“Find God in all things.”

— Ignatian maxim

Recommended YouTube Resources

Click any title to open • Fully expanded list (all previous + new requests)

Bonaventure & Clare

- Journey of the Mind into God – full reading
- The Journey of the Mind Into God (Bonaventure)
- Bonaventure Six Stages explanation
- St Bonaventure on Divine Illumination
- July 15: St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor
- St. Clare “The Other Francis”
- August 11: St. Clare, Virgin
- The Untold Story of Saint Clare of Assisi

Scotus & Marian

- SAINT OF THE DAY | Blessed John Duns Scotus
- The champion of Mary's Immaculate Conception
- Bl. John Duns Scotus & The Incarnation
- The Golden Thread #7: Scotus on Will
- What is Franciscan Theology?
- The Franciscan Intellectual Tradition (Barron)
- How can I live like a Franciscan? (Capuchin)

Ignatian

- Was St. Ignatius a Franciscan in Disguise?
- Ignatius the Franciscan (Boston College)
- Ignatius of Loyola – Finding God In All Things
- Hallmarks of Ignatian Spirituality
- 3 Simple Ignatian Ways for Discovering God's Will
- Ignatian Reflections – We Are Loved Sinners
- Ignatian Spirituality – Living Divine Mercy (EWTN)

Sacred Art — Key Links

Franciscan

Giotto – St. Francis Receiving the Stigmata (Louvre INV 309)
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Giotto_-_Saint_Francis_Receiving_the_Stigmata.jpg

Caravaggio – St. Francis in Ecstasy (Wadsworth 1943.222)
Jan van Eyck – Stigmata (Philadelphia Cat. 314)

Ignatian

Domenichino – Vision of La Storta (LACMA M.89.59)
https://collections.lacma.org/node/224587

Andrea Pozzo frescoes – Church of Sant'Ignazio & Il Gesù, Rome

Synthesis for Japan

Japan does not need a foreign spirituality imposed from outside.

It needs disciples who can see God already present in the beauty of creation and the quiet longings of the heart (Franciscan / Bonaventure / Scotus),
and who can discern and respond freely and courageously (Ignatian / Paul Miki).

When clarity and tenderness are held together — and when Marian devotion and the blood of the martyrs are remembered — the Gospel becomes both attractive and credible on Japanese soil.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
You called Francis to rebuild Your Church in poverty and joy,
and Ignatius to set the world on fire with ordered love.

Grant us, in this land of Japan,
the clarity to discern Your will
and the tenderness to love You in the Crucified and in every person.

Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate,
St. Francis, St. Clare, St. Bonaventure, Bl. John Duns Scotus,
St. Ignatius, St. Paul Miki and the Japanese Martyrs,
and St. Maximilian Kolbe,
make us humble instruments of Your peace and Your greater glory.

Amen.

Thank You

Questions & Conversation

St. Ignatius Church • Kibe Hall • Tokyo

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam • *Pax et Bonum*