

Tuesday, March 9, 2021
Tuesday of Third Week of Lent
Saint Frances of Rome, Religious

Azariah, one of the three young men cast into the furnace by King Nebuchadnezzar, prays with incredible faith in today's first reading. Jesus listens to Peter's questions concerning how many times he must forgive his brother. Jesus' response of "seventy-seven times" means always. Just as God is ready to always forgive us when we repent and are sorry for our sins, so must we forgive those who sin against us. It was forgiveness that moved Pope Francis in his recent visit to Iraq. He was moved by an Iraqi mother's testimony after the loss of her son and his cousin and a neighbor: "Our strength undoubtedly comes from our faith in the Resurrection, a source of hope. My faith tells me that my children are in the arms of Jesus Christ our Lord. And we, the survivors, try to forgive the aggressor, because our Master Jesus has forgiven his executioners. By imitating him in our sufferings, we testify that love is stronger than everything." The Pope commented on this: "I forgive. This is a word we have lost. We know how to insult big time. We know how to condemn in a big way ... But to forgive, to forgive one's enemies. **This is the pure Gospel.** This hit me in Qaraqosh." (Quoted from CNA.)

Today's saint was a "noblewoman, wife, and mother" who died in 1440. She "founded a community of Benedictine women oblates committed to serving the poorest of the poor." (Quoted from the ORDO.)

St. Frances of Rome, pray for us!

God Love You!

Fr. Jim Starasovich

