



**Liturgy of Thanksgiving
Celebrating
Venerable Mary Frances of the Cross Streitel
Casa Generalizia, Rome
April 11, 2010**

Having received word from the Congregation of the Cause of the Saints at the Vatican that Mother Frances Streitel had been proclaimed “Venerable” on March 27, 2010, the general council hosted a special liturgy of Thanksgiving on Sunday, April 11, 2010 in the chapel at Casa Generalizia at 11:00 a.m. The Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, Archbishop Msgr. Angelo Amato presided along with 9 concelebrants. There were some Franciscans from the General Curia, from Assisi, priests from our parish, some of our priest friends, and the General Superior of the Salvatorians. Other guests of the Sisters included nearby religious congregations, families and friends in the area. Sr. Maria Stella Carta directed the choir with Fr. Giovanni Pucci, OFM as organist.

Sr. Teresina Marra, General Superior, read the first part of the special Decree on the Heroic Virtues of Venerable Servant of God Mary Frances of the Cross Streitel and Archbishop Angelo Amato, who signed it, read the final part of the document. The participants burst into applause and the postulants and novices lit a special designed candle that was displayed in front of the picture of Mother Frances.

In his homily the Archbishop reviewed the most difficult phases of the Cause and stressed that it was in these challenging situations of her life that Mother Frances had shown her heroic virtues. He strongly encouraged everyone, especially the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother, to imitate her in the Easter way of sanctification.

A festive meal followed the ceremonies. It was a time of great rejoicing with sisters and guests.