Famous is the vision of Christ accompanied by the Blessed Mother and by a multitude of Angels which Francis had one night in 1216 in the little church of the Portiuncula.

On that occasion is when Francis made the request that “all those who are truly penitent and have confessed and come to visit this chapel will obtain full pardon for all their sins.” The Lord granted the request on the condition that the Pope would agree to it. Pope Honorious III gladly gave his assent and granted the indulgence which is still in effect. Each year on August 2nd, the indulgence can be gained in any parish Church, any Franciscan Church, or at the Portiuncula on any day of the year.

Another occasion to be noted, in September of 1224, Francis was at Mt. Verna where he desired to spend, in silence and in solitude, 40 days of fasting, meditating on the Passion of Jesus as was his custom to do so four times in the year. During his intense and suffered prayer the Saint received the Stigmata:

In retrospect, St. Bonaventure, one of the major biographers of the Saint, recounts: “One morning, close to the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, while Francis was deep in prayer at the foot of the mountain, Francis beheld the likeness of a Seraphim with six wings and shining with intense light, all aflame coming down from the Heavens. In a quick flight, the Seraphim hovered in the air nearby the man of God, and through divine revelation he could discern within the wings the image of a crucified man, with his hands and feet nailed to a cross. Two wings were stretched out covering his head, two wings were used for flight, and two wings veiled the body. That vision stupefied Francis intensely, while joy and sadness inundated his heart... He fixated, full of amazement, that mysterious vision, conscious that the infirmity of the Passion could not coexist with the natural to it. Pope Honorious III gladly gave his assent and granted the indulgence which is still in effect. Each year on August 2nd, the indulgence can be gained in any parish Church, any Franciscan Church, or at the Portiuncula on any day of the year.

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