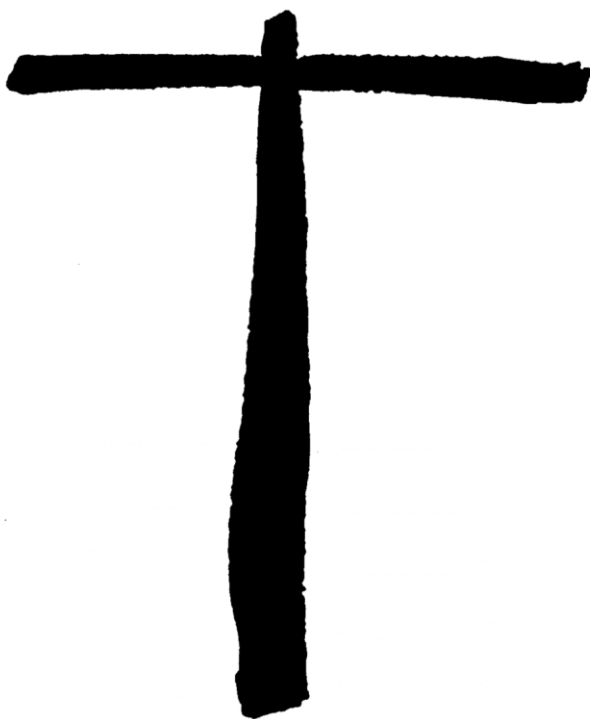


**DEVOTIONAL
COMPANION**
**WITH CALENDAR
AND OTHER LITURGICAL RITES**



**THIRD ORDER,
SOCIETY OF SAINT FRANCIS
PROVINCE OF THE AMERICAS
2015**

Devotional Companion 2015

Preface to the 2015 edition

While God is the same today and always, our relationship changes as our understanding of God grows. And our worship changes as our interaction with the world around us changes. This latest edition of the Devotional Companion continues to build on the faithful work of the past editions. Changes include some new commemorations of Franciscans into our calendar; additions of new material: “An Informal Service of Holy Eucharist for Franciscan Gatherings” an alternative “Transitus of St. Francis,” and the “Burial Office for a Departed Third Order Franciscan”; some formatting changes to make the Directory easier to use and save space; changes in some of the Collects to make them consistent with the wider Franciscan community; and some deletions of materials seldom used.

Editor of the 2015 edition.

(2015 Edition approved by Chapter October 2014)

From the 2004 edition

A Companion is a friend – someone who is on the journey with you. So this booklet of prayers and liturgies is intended to go with you. Keep it with your Prayer Book. Take it with you to Franciscan fellowships and convocations. May God bless you as you are strengthened and nourished by it.

Sources for the Third Order Calendar and materials:

Armstrong, Regis J. and Ignatius C. Brady. *Francis and Clare: The Complete Words*. Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle – Paulist Press, 1982.

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McCloskey, Patrick. *Franciscan Saint of the Day*. Chicago, IL: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1981.

Proper Offices of Franciscan Saints and Blessed in the Liturgy of the Hours. NY: Catholic Book Publishing Co., Published by the English-Speaking Conference of the Order of Friars Minor, 1975 and from other TSSF Provinces.

Third Order Manual (Part 2) African Province Proposed Calendar from the New Zealand Province, 1993.

The Society of St. Francis

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THIRD ORDER CALENDAR



Biographies

Collects

Propers

Commemorations

THIRD ORDER CALENDAR

(Please Note. This calendar is a supplement to the Book of Common Prayer. It is assumed that Third Order members will observe the Prayer Book holy days. Using the collect for the appropriate day is recommended, especially when Eucharistic participation is not possible. The date given with each individual is the date of death.)

JANUARY 7

ANGELA OF FOLIGNO (1309)

Tertiary

While still a wife and mother, **Angela**, with the help of her confessor, began to dedicate her life to prayer and works of charity. On the death of her husband and children, she entered the Franciscan Third Order and developed a vivid mystical prayer life. She continued to serve the poor and sick of Foligno and acted as beggar for their needs. With her confessor she wrote a Book of Visions and Instructions.

Collect: Almighty and everliving God, to whom Angela of Foligno dedicated her life of mystical prayer and works of charity; grant that we may minister to the sick and poor of our age, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

JANUARY 16

FIRST FRANCISCAN MARTYRS (1220)

First Order Martyrs

First Franciscan Martyrs: Brothers Bernardo, Peter, Accursio, Adiuto, and Otto were sent to preach to the Moslems in Seville, Spain. There they were put in custody and sent to Morocco where they preached in the streets of Marrakech. Initially, they were thought to be mad. An attempt at bribery only brought a retort, "We despise all these things for the sake of Christ." Finally they were put in chains, they were cruelly tortured and beheaded.

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Collect: Almighty God, grant by the example of the holy martyrs Bernard, Peter, Accursio, Adiuto, and Otto, through whose glorious martyrdom you sanctified the beginning of the Franciscan First Order, that we may at all times desire things heavenly and may love Christ; through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

JANUARY 18-25

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Christian Unity: The Society of the Atonement at Graymoor began its life as a religious order of the Episcopal Church but was received into the Roman Catholic Church in 1909. One of its major emphases is unity, and thus they began the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which is widely observed in the Episcopal Church, Protestant denominations, and the Roman Catholic Church. The unity of Christ's Body the Church ought always to be a concern of prayer among Franciscans.

Collect: Holy God, who calls us in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ to continue his work of reconciliation and reveal you to all the world: Forgive us the sins which tear us apart. Give us the courage to overcome our fears and to seek that unity which is your gift and your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

JANUARY 23

YONA KANAMUYEZI (1964)

Third Order Martyr

Yona Kanamuyezi, a deacon of the Anglican Church, provided a home on his mission at Nyamata for refugees during the civil war in Rwanda-Burundi. His activities became suspect to the authorities when he refused to take sides in the conflict. He and two other members of his mission were arrested and led away to be shot.

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Collect: O God of Peace: Grant that we may become true “peacemakers” through searching to preserve inner peace, which will govern our minds and our actions so that the love of Christ may be seen in us no matter what we may suffer at the hands of the world. We ask for this inner peace, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

JANUARY 28

BROTHER JUNIPER (1258)

First Order

Brother Juniper: Brother Juniper joined Francis in 1210. He is depicted in the *Little Flowers of St. Francis* as the epitome of simplicity, obedience, and generosity. Francis sent him to establish “places” for the friars in Gualdo, Tadino and Viterbo, and when Clare was dying, he consoled her. Francis said of Juniper, “Would to God, my brothers, I had a whole forest of such Junipers.”

Collect: Heavenly Father, may we, like Brother Juniper, attain the state of perfect patience by keeping the truth of our own lowliness constantly in mind, while following Christ on his way of the Cross. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (paraphrase of #85, *Mirror of Perfection*)

FEBRUARY 5

FRANCISCAN MARTYRS OF JAPAN (1597)

First Order Brothers

Franciscan Martyrs of Japan: In 1593, Peter Baptist and five other friars were sent to Japan where they labored zealously, converting many, building churches, and founding hospitals. The arrival of Westerners to Japan resulted in national political upheaval, which led to the arrest of the friars. They were taken to Nagasaki where, with three Jesuits and fifteen Franciscan tertiaries, they were executed by crucifixion.

Collect: God our Father, source of strength for all your saints, you led Peter and his companions through the sufferings of the Cross to the joy of eternal life. May their example give us courage to be loyal until death in professing our faith. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

FEBRUARY 7

COLETTE (1447)

Second Order

Colette: After her parents' death, Colette obtained permission to live the life of an anchoress in a small abode attached directly to the church wall, where she followed the rule of the Third Order. God soon called her, however, to recover the strict observance of the rule of St. Clare, which had been greatly relaxed by the fifteenth century. Colette's humility led her to resist the call. She was struck dumb and later blind till she cried out: "Lord, what wilt thou have me do? I am ready to do anything thou desirest of me." At once her speech and sight were restored. She founded seventeen convents in which the primitive rule of St. Clare flourished.

Collect: God our sustainer, who inspired Colette to be an example and leader of evangelical perfection for many: Grant that the spirit of Francis and Clare, which she wisely taught and wondrously confirmed by her example, may ever abide in us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FEBRUARY 8

JACOBA OF SETTESOLI

Jacoba of Settesoli: Lady Jacoba of Settesoli (also known as Giacomina) was a wealthy noblewoman and widow in Rome who became a dear friend of Francis. She supported the Franciscan movement with her wealth and influence, and led an austere life dedicated to acts of charity. Because of her fortitude, humor, and frankness, as well as her loyalty to Francis, he nicknamed her “Brother Jacoba.” Although her responsibilities as a mother prevented her from giving away her wealth and joining the Poor Clares, her example of following the Franciscan virtues in the world may have inspired the founding of the Third Order. Francis summoned her when he lay dying, and she brought him her almond dessert that he loved. When Jacoba died years later, she was buried in the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, near the tombs of Francis and the Friars, who were his closest companions.

Collect: Lord God, grant us the same courage and passion for the gospel of Jesus Christ that Francis found in his friend Jacoba. Even among the cares and duties of this world, may we devote ourselves to acts of kindness, faithfully serving the poor and our sisters and brothers in Christ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FEBRUARY 15

GEORGE POTTER (1960)

Friar

George Potter: ‘Father Potter of Pekham’ as he was known, was an Anglican parish priest in a poor area of South East London just after the First World War. Great were the needs of the area, and his enthusiasm drew together men willing to work for the people. The vision was Franciscan, and the Brotherhood of the Holy Cross was formed. Considerable work with homeless boys was done, and homes were set up. The work carried on during the Second World War, although bombed out of one property. Father Potter was closely involved with the amalgamation of communities to form the Society of St. Francis and, although he did not join, not long after his death, the remaining BHC brothers became part of SSF.

Collect: O loving God, who cares for all those in need, we thank you for George Potter who inspired others to form the Brotherhood of the Holy Cross to work with homeless boys; we pray that we also may have our hearts stirred to care for your little ones, through the example of our Savior Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

FEBRUARY 19

CONRAD OF PIACENZA (1351)

Third Order

Conrad of Piacenza: A married man of means and leisure, Conrad loved hunting. Once, when his quarry hid itself in dense underbrush, he tried to force it into the open by setting fire to the brushwood. The fire got out of hand, and a large forest as well as a grain field was destroyed. When an innocent man was apprehended, tortured, and sentenced to death by the Governor, Conrad confessed and repaired the damage. This was a conversion experience for Conrad. Thereafter he sold all his possessions and, with his wife, forsook the world and joined the Third Order.

Collect: Almighty God, who inspired Conrad through his zeal for justice to serve you faithfully in the desert as a member of the Third Order: Grant us grace to follow his example by living justly and piously in anticipation of coming home to you. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

FEBRUARY 25

**FOUNDING OF THE COMMUNITY OF ST. FRANCIS
(1905)**

Founding of the Community of St. Francis: Rosina Rice was the founder of the Community of St. Francis. She had been a member of the Sisters of Bethany for eighteen years when she felt called to a life of greater poverty. With permission of her Superior, she left to found the CSF in 1905 and was soon joined by three other women. In 1910 Mother Rosina was received into the Roman Catholic Church and entered the Society of the Atonement in New York State. The Community of St. Francis continued to grow and to do the Lord's work under its new Mother, Elizabeth.

Collect: Loving God, we celebrate your love, your power, your hope within each one of us. We give you thanks for faithful and courageous women throughout the ages, especially Mothers Rosina and Elizabeth in whose company our hearts are made glad. With them we magnify your name, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Amen.

MARCH 4

SYLVESTER OF ASSISI (1240)

First Order Friar

Sylvester of Assisi: Sylvester was one of the first twelve associates who gathered around Francis, and he was the first priest in the Order. Sylvester had sold Francis a large number of stones for the rebuilding of St. Damian's, and he had received a fair price. But when he later found Bernard and Francis distributing Bernard's wealth to the poor in Assisi, Sylvester complained that he had not received enough money for the stones. In response, Francis reached down into the bag of money and filled Sylvester's hands with more coins. Struck by his own sense of avarice, he reproached himself and resolved to rectify his wrong. Soon Sylvester sold all his goods, divided the proceeds among the poor, and humbly asked admission to Francis's Order. Later, because Sylvester became such a lover of solitude and prayer, Francis would often turn to his aid for discernment. It was Sylvester who along with Clare revealed to Francis that he should go and preach the gospel. He lived fourteen years after Francis died.

Collect: Turning, turning, turning—dear Lord Jesus, you turn us right around as you turned Sylvester from money to prayer, from the city to mountain solitude. Never stop turning us, Lord Jesus, and never allow us to stop turning at your bidding. We ask this in your name. Amen.

MARCH 7

FATHER JOSEPH (CLAUDE CROOKSTON), (1979)

Founder of the Order of St. Francis, U.S.A.

First Order Friar

Father Joseph: As a secular priest serving as interim at St. Luke's Church, Cincinnati, Fr. Joseph attempted to found a Franciscan community. The First Order community failed, but the Third Order was successfully begun. In 1919, while serving as vicar of the Church of the Ascension in Merrill, Wisconsin, Fr. Joseph succeeded in founding the Order of St. Francis and in helping to found the Poor Clares. He made his profession in 1924 and served as Father Minister until 1967. His great work of editing the Anglican Missal and the Anglican Breviary aided and influenced the liturgical life of the Episcopal Church. A gifted mission preacher, he was actively involved in the Anglo-Catholic movement. He died on 7 March 1979 at Little Portion Friary

Collect: O God, whose blessed Son became poor that we, through his poverty, might be rich: Deliver us from an inordinate love of this world, that inspired by the devotion of Father Joseph, our founder, we may attain to the riches of the age to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

MARCH 28

WILLIAM SIRR (1937)

Friar, Monk, Solitary

William Sirr: Father William lived and died a member of a Franciscan community, The Society of the Divine Compassion, but was given permission to try to found an enclosed Order for men. He established the monastery of Saint Mary at the Cross, Glasshampton in Worchestershire. A man of great prayer, his spiritual and pastoral advice benefited many. Sadly, William of Glasshampton was never able to found an Order, and towards the end of his life he was able to say, ‘We must not mind being a failure. Our Lord died on the cross a failure.’ His gifts of prayer, courage, kindness, and the ability to trust in God’s purposes continue to be an influence and attract all manner of souls to the monastery, now in the care of the Society of St. Francis.

Collect: Heavenly Father, who endowed William Sirr with gifts of prayer, courage, and kindness, which he used for the benefit of many, help us also to trust in your purposes, Eternal and Triune God. Amen.

MARCH OR APRIL

DAY OF PENITENCE

Friday before Palm Sunday

Day of Penitence: A day of penitence was early observed by tertiaries in England on the Friday before Palm Sunday. This observance, which spread to all the Provinces, is one means of building community in obedience to the vision of Francis.

(Suggested devotions elsewhere in this booklet include: Third Order Litany, Stations of the Cross, Sorrowful Mysteries of the Dominican Rosary or of the Children’s Chaplet.)

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

APRIL 3

BENEDICT THE BLACK (1282)

First Order Friar

Benedict the Black: Born to slaves who had been transported from Africa to Italy where they converted to Christianity, Benedict was given his freedom when he was 18. He was popularly called the “Holy Black” by the poor and sick for whom he cared, and he was received into the Order of Friars Minor. Although illiterate, he soon became the guardian of the friary in Palermo, but at the expiration of his term of office, Benedict went back to his kitchen duties with greater joy than when he had entered into his duties as superior. Because of his extraordinary gifts of prayer and counsel people of every class sought his guidance.

Collect: Heavenly Father, you enriched your servant Benedict with heavenly gifts and made him renowned in your Church for miracles and virtues. We ask you to bestow on us your good gifts that we may follow his example of faithful, joyful, and humble service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

APRIL 8

FRANCISCAN SAINTS AND MARTYRS OF THE AMERICAS

Franciscan Saints and Martyrs of the Americas: Franciscans brought Christianity to the New World along with the Spanish settlements about the same time as the Jesuits did in Canada with the French settlements. Many Franciscans are recorded as giving their lives in this attempt. Martyrdoms occurred in Georgia, Kansas, and Arizona long before the Puritans landed in Massachusetts.

Collect: Almighty God, who sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself: We praise and bless you for those whom you sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the gospel to the peoples of the Americas. As we proclaim that the good news of Jesus is for all nations, so may we all become a community of love, gathered by prayer and faith in Jesus Christ our Savior. We ask it in his name. Amen.

APRIL 10

WILLIAM OF OCKHAM (1347)

Friar, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith

William was born in Ockham (probably modern-day Woking) in Surrey. After becoming a friar he studied and taught theology at the University of Oxford. In 1324 he was summoned to Avignon by Pope John XXII to defend himself against a charge of teaching dangerous doctrine. He was never condemned, but was later excommunicated after getting involved in the debate over Franciscan poverty. William was eventually reconciled with the Church, and is recognized as one of the most influential philosopher-theologians of the fourteenth century.

Collect: We give thanks most loving God for the witness and teaching of William of Ockham who followed his conscience in promoting Franciscan poverty at great cost to himself, we pray that we may be led by his example to be delivered from an inordinate love of this world, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who became poor that we might become rich, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

APRIL 16

**FOUNDING OF THE POOR CLARES OF REPARATION
AND ADORATION (1924)**

Sister Mary Christine PCR made her profession in perpetual vows on 16 April 1924 and became the community's first Mother. It is considered their foundation date, although several sisters had been living together for some while preparing for that day. Until its demise, the community had been the only Poor Clare nuns in the Episcopal Church in the USA. They had been nurtured by their close contact with the Order of Saint Francis and eventually had their convent alongside that of the brothers on Long Island. Never very many in number, they faithfully maintained the life of prayer until the death of the last sister in January 2000.

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Collect: Most loving God, we thank you for Sister Mary Christine and the other sisters of the Poor Clares of Reparation and Adoration, whose life of prayer and contemplation in the Episcopal Church USA supported all followers of St. Francis. Be with all those who use prayer for the benefit of others, through Jesus Christ who promised his presence whenever two or three gather in his name. Amen.

APRIL 23

GILES OF ASSISI (1240)

First Order Friar

Giles of Assisi was the third companion to join Francis, and he played a central role in the early Franciscan movement. At the great chapter in 1219, Francis commissioned Giles and several companions to go to Africa and preach the gospel to the Mohammedans. They were unsuccessful, for as soon as they arrived, the Christians there, fearing a general persecution, forced the Franciscan missionaries to another ship returning to Italy. Urged on by his spirit of devotion, Giles made pilgrimages to various shrines all around the Mediterranean. He mainly lived as a hermit in his later years.

Collect: Almighty God, you called your servant Giles to follow blessed Francis in the way of poverty and lifted him to the heights of contemplation: Grant that we, serving you in humility, love, and joy, may come at last to your everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

APRIL 28

LUCHESIO AND BUONADONNA (1260)

Third Order Married Couple

Luchesio and his wife, Buonadonna, wanted to follow St. Francis as a married couple. This wish prompted Francis to start the Third Order. Luchesio was originally a greedy merchant in Poggibonzi. But his life changed after he met Francis around 1213, when he began performing many acts of charity. Initially his wife was not very enthusiastic about this change in behavior, but she soon became as zealous for the poor and simple life as her husband was. He and his wife sold their business, farmed enough land to provide for their needs, and distributed the rest to the poor. Luchesio and his wife wanted something else, a way of sharing in religious life yet remaining outside the cloister. To meet their desires as well as his own plans for an order for lay people, Francis set up the Third Order (then known as the Order of Penance), and Pope Honorius III approved a more formally worded Rule in 1221.

Collect: Beloved Lord Jesus, thank You for blessing all walks of life and allowing lay and professed, married and single, to find a deeper walk with you in the very midst of their earthy challenges, duties, and joys. Give us who live in the secular world grace to remember that we care for you when we care for our brothers and sisters. Amen.

MAY 9

CATHERINE OF BOLOGNA (1463)

Second and Third Orders

Catherine of Bologna: As a child, Catherine was a maid of honor at a royal court. She then joined a group of Franciscan tertiaries, who later became Poor Clares. In 1456 she returned to her birthplace as abbess of a new convent. From an early age, Catherine was subject to visions. She also was an effective novice-mistress and superior, and had a talent for calligraphy and miniature painting.

Collect: Grant, O God, that we, your servants, may be helped by the example of holy Catherine, that by the sweet odor of her virtues, we may be joyfully attracted to your sanctuary; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

MAY 10

YVES OF BRITTANY (1303)

Third Order

Yves of Brittany: Educated at the Universities of Paris and Orleans, Yves became a civil and canon lawyer. As a diocesan judge, he was distinguished for his equity and incorruptibility, and concern for the interests of the poor and ignorant. When he was ordained priest, he gave himself wholly to parish work. His legal knowledge was always at the disposal of his parishioners, as were his time and possessions. He gave an example of a simple and unassuming living.

Collect: O God, who chose blessed Yves, your confessor, as a notable minister to the welfare of souls and to the needs of the poor, we ask you to grant that we may both imitate his charity and be guided by his example; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

MAY 16

MARGARET OF CORTONA (1297)

Third Order

Margaret of Cortona: Margaret was a beautiful woman who was the mistress of a young nobleman for nine years and bore him a child. In these years she had doubts about her situation, but, like St. Augustine, she prayed for purity—but not just yet. One day she found her lover murdered, and the crime turned her to a life of penance; she became a tertiary in 1277. Some doubted the sincerity of her repentance. Despite continuing skepticism and slander, she founded a hospital, cared for the sick, and converted many by her prayers and counsel.

Collect: God of mercy, give us grace that we may truly repent of our sins following the example of your servant, Margaret of Cortona, and that, by a living faith, we may obtain full forgiveness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MAY 17

PASCHAL BAYLON (1592)

First Order

Paschal Baylon: Paschal was born in Spain in 1540 and spent his youth working as a shepherd. Even in the fields he was devout and attentive to the church bell that rang at the elevation during Mass. In 1564 he joined the Friars Minor and, though urged to become a priest, he preferred to remain a lay brother and worked as porter, cook, gardener, and official beggar, but spent his spare time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. He died in 1592.

Collect: O God, you filled your servant Paschal with a wondrous love for the sacred Mysteries of the Body and Blood of your Son; Grant that we may obtain the same spiritual enrichment which he received from this heavenly banquet. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

MAY 28

MARIANA OF JESUS DE PAREDES (1645)

Mariana was born in Quito, Ecuador, and, having lost her parents as a youngster, she dedicated herself to God. Unable to enter a monastery, she embraced the ascetic life in her own home devoting herself to prayer, fasting, and other pious works. After joining the Third Order, she endeavored also to aid the native Indians and African-Americans in all kinds of charitable undertakings. God also favored Mariana with extraordinary mystical gifts: with the sign of the Cross or by sprinkling holy water, she restored many of the sick to health, and she raised a dead woman to life. After her death, a beautiful lily sprouted forth from her blood, and so she has been styled the “Lily of Quito.”

Collect: Heavenly Father, you were pleased to have Mariana grow like a lily amid the thorns of the world's allurements. Through her example may we be kept from vice and strive after perfection; through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

MAY 30

JOAN OF ARC (1431)

Third Order Patron of France

Joan of Arc, the “Maid of Orleans,” was called to lead the French armies during the Hundred Years’ War with England. Her bravery, the visions and angelic voices of counsel that motivated her, and the treachery that betrayed and handed her over to the English who burned her at the stake, have captured the imagination of even the most skeptical of writers (Bernard Shaw in *St. Joan* and Mark Twain in *The Story of Joan of Arc*). Joan was a member of the Third Order, who left a peaceful life as a peasant’s daughter and shepherd to do God’s bidding.

Collect: O God, who wondrously raised up blessed Joan for the protection of her faith and homeland: Grant that by your grace her example may enable your Church to overcome all the devices of her enemies and to rejoice in unity and concord. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

MAY OR JUNE:

THURSDAY AFTER TRINITY SUNDAY

CORPUS CHRISTI

DAY OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE EUCHARIST

Collect: Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament you have given us the memorial of your passion: Grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries of your body and blood that we may know within ourselves and show forth in our lives the fruits of your redemption; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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Day of Thanksgiving for the Eucharist

Eucharist: 1 Corinthians 11:23-9

John 6: 47-55

1st EP: Psalms 23, 42, 43

Exodus 16: 2-15

John 6: 22-35

MP: Psalms 81, 147:13-21

Exodus 24:1-11

Mark 14:12-25

2nd EP: Psalms 110, 111, 116:10-17

Deuteronomy 8:2-16

John 6: 51-8

BEGINNING THE THURSDAY AFTER TRINITY SUNDAY, THE FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI

SOLEMN NOVENA

NINE DAYS OF PRAYER FOR SPECIAL INTENTIONS OF THE THIRD ORDER

Thursday: Thanksgiving for the Holy Eucharist; for the Poor Clares and their life of adoration.

Friday: Thanksgiving for our Bishop Protector and for all bishops.

Saturday: Thanksgiving for the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Community of St. Francis and the Order of St. Clare.

Sunday: Thanksgiving for the Third Order; for our Minister General, Provincial Ministers, Chapters and pastoral officers.

Monday: Thanksgiving for the associates, with thanksgiving for their Franciscan witness.

Tuesday: Thanksgiving for the SSF friars and their work, especially for the friaries and houses of the American Province.

Wednesday: Thanksgiving for all departed friars, nuns, tertiaries, associates, and benefactors.

Thursday: Thanksgiving for those in authority in the Society of St. Francis, especially the Ministers General, the Provincial Ministers, the Reverend Mothers and Sisters-in-Charge of the Poor Clares, and the heads of houses.

Friday: Thanksgiving for the love of Christ, for vocations to our three Orders.

JUNE 3

POPE JOHN 23RD (1963)

Third Order

Pope John 23rd: Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, Patriarch of Venice, was elected Pope in 1958 at the age of 77. During the four and one-half years of his pontificate he exercised a profound influence for good upon the church and the world. He convened the Second Vatican Council in 1962, and though he died before the Council finished its work, it carried his lifelong vision of a pastoral church to the corners of the world. He also made the College of Cardinals far more international in representation than it had ever been. The son of a farmer, he was born in northern Italy and became a Franciscan tertiary at the age of 14. As Pope, he said to the members of the Franciscan Orders (quoting the words of Joseph in Egypt): “I am Joseph (Giuseppe) your brother.” He was the Pope of *aggiornamento* – the opening of the Church to speak more clearly and witness more deeply to the twentieth century. He was trusted and loved by so many, both inside and outside the Church, for his humility, warmth, humor, and genuine holiness.

Collect: O lord, strengthen in us the holy simplicity of your servant Pope John 23rd, and grant that we may ever follow the light of your Holy Spirit for the renewal of your church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JUNE 13

ANTHONY OF PADUA (1231)

First Order

Anthony of Padua: Anthony was inspired by the first Franciscan martyrs to become a friar and travel to Morocco as a missionary, but sickness compelled him to return. However, when his biblical scholarship and unusual gift for preaching were discovered, he was appointed tutor in theology to the Order with the approval of Francis. In the last years of his life, he was released from this office to devote himself to preaching, through which he touched the learned no less than the simple.

Collect: O God, you called blessed Anthony to preach the Gospel of Christ to the poor and to follow the example of our Father Francis in poverty: Grant that we and all your people may follow the teachings of Jesus Christ and at the last come to everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

JUNE 19

MATT TALBOT (1925)

Third Order

Matt Talbot: Born in Dublin, Matt began to drink heavily as a teenager, and, for fifteen years, he was a very active alcoholic. One day he decided to take “the pledge” for three months, make a general confession, and begin attending daily Eucharist. His first seven years after taking the pledge were extremely difficult, but he began to pray as intensely as he had formerly drunk. He paid back all those from whom he had borrowed or stolen money. For most of his life, he worked as a builder’s laborer, and he joined the Third Order, initiating a life of strict penance. In 1923 his health failed, and he was forced to quit work. He died on his way to church on Trinity Sunday.

Collect: Almighty God, grant us, with blessed Matt Talbot, to arrive at the perfection of humility by despising the world yet loving all people; despising our sins, yet accepting your forgiveness. We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

JUNE 22

**THOMAS MORE, PATRON OF LAWYERS AND
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS (1535)**

THIRD ORDER

Thomas More was a lawyer whose services, though constantly in demand, were always tempered with attendance at daily Eucharist and other pious practices. Around 1498, he became a member of the Third Order. As a father, he was concerned that his children grow up in a Christian atmosphere. Beginning in 1518, Thomas was Henry VIII's Chancellor for eleven years, and he became known and respected throughout Europe. When Henry sought divorce, remarriage to Anne Boleyn, and Parliamentary designation as Head of the Church in England in the Act of Supremacy, Thomas resigned. Unable to swear to the Act, Thomas was imprisoned in the Tower for fifteen months and then beheaded after being condemned on perjured evidence.

Collect: God of love, who gave your servant Thomas More a gentleness of spirit and a firmness of faith: Strengthen us in holding to your truth that at the last, we may ever live and love together with all your saints in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JULY 3

RAMON LLULL (1315)

Third Order

Ramon Llull: Ramon Llull was born of noble parents in Palma in about 1235 and spent his youth at the royal court serving as majordomo. As his awareness of the emptiness of the world increased, he joined the Franciscan Third Order and founded a college to teach Franciscan missionaries various languages, particularly Arabic, so that they could preach the Gospel to unbelievers. He then spent nine years as a recluse and the next forty advancing the cause of Christ by founding seminaries and by serving as a missionary himself. In Bougie in Africa, he was stoned and left for dead, but some sailors took him on board their ship. He died as they sighted Majorca on June 19, 1315.

Collect: Almighty God, you adorned Ramon Llull with a zeal for spreading the faith. Grant that, aided by his prayers, we may firmly keep until death the faith we have received by your grace. This we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

JULY 7

MARY CHRISTINE (LILY DORSET GRAY) (1932)

Founder of the Second Order in the U.S.A.

Mary Christine: Lily Dorset Gray was the first Poor Clare in the Episcopal Church of the U.S.A. After receiving her training with the sisters of St. Anne, she made her vows and took the name in religion of Mary Christine. There was no room for an enclosure at the Order's first convent, called House of Prayer, in Merrill, Wisconsin. It was not until Mother Mary Christine's death in 1932 that enclosure was established by her successor, Mother Mary Veronica, in the convent at Mount Sinai, New York.

Collect: Loving God, we thank you for the hidden lives of prayer and contemplation of our Poor Clares, and especially the examples of Mother Mary Christine and Mother Mary Veronica. Give us grace to continue, faithful to the vocation to which you have called us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JULY 8

ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL (1336)

Third Order

Elizabeth of Portugal was named after her great-aunt (Elizabeth of Hungary, November 19). Elizabeth was married at the age of 12 to King Denis of Portugal. Although Denis was an effective ruler, he was a bad husband. Elizabeth suffered much from his neglect and infidelities. However, she remained a devoted wife and combined a life of deep prayer with service to the poor and needy. She is best remembered for her role as a reconciler and peacemaker, since she settled many a family feud by her tact and humility. After Denis's death, she spent her last days living as a Franciscan tertiary.

Collect: Most merciful God, who among many excellent gifts bestowed on blessed Queen Elizabeth peculiar grace to allay the violence of war: Grant us grace to be guided by her example to attain in this life that peace for which we humbly pray and by your grace attain hereafter to eternal felicity; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

JULY 15

BONAVENTURE (1274)

First Order Friar

Bonaventure: “When I was a young man...I was at death’s door, and I was saved only by his intercession.” So wrote Bonaventure of Francis. It was not surprising that at an early age he became a Franciscan. He taught theology at Paris, becoming one of the greatest theologians of his time, but he would always emphasize that a fool’s love and knowledge of God may be greater than that of a wise person. In 1257, he was appointed Minister General and had the task of reforming and consolidating the Order in the face of internal dissension and external hostility. His work on the life of Francis was approved by the Order in 1266 as the definitive life of its founder. In 1273, he was made a cardinal and took part in the Council of Lyons, which sought to reconcile the churches of the East and West.

Collect: O God, you endowed blessed Bonaventure with apostolic zeal to preach the Gospel to the poor and added to your Church wisdom by his learning: May we who venerate his holy life profit by the example of his virtue; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

MP: Ps 21, 92
Sirach 15:1-6
1 Timothy 4:1-5
HE: Ps 16
1 Cor 2:6-16
Matthew 5:13-19
HE: Ps. 15, 112
1 Kings 3:1-14
Mark 4:1-9

JULY 19

FOUNDING OF TSSF (1917) THE AMERICAN CONGREGATION

Founding of TSSF: The American Congregation of the Third Order Secular began July 19, 1917 by the investiture of two novices in the Chapel of our Lady and St. Clare, located in the Convent of Our Lady, Help of Christians, in Cincinnati, OH (the initial convent of the Poor Clares). Fr. Joseph, ordained Claude Crookston (see March 7), conducted the service in the presence of the recent novices (July 15) of the First and Second Orders. By December 30, 1917, eighteen men and women had become novices in our Third Order. Meanwhile, the attempts of the Friars' and Sisters' life failed until 1919 and 1922, respectively, when their ways of life were permanently established. Of the eighteen original Tertiaries, some persevered and some did not, but the Third Order has steadily developed its life and its understanding of the Franciscan vocation.

Collect: O God, we thank you for having joined to the Society of St. Francis a Third Order, dedicated to your service. Grant, we pray, that being knit together in the spirit of love and unity, we your servants may glorify your holy name after the example of St. Francis and win others to your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JULY 23

BRIDGET OF SWEDEN (1373)

Third Order

Bridget: Although Bridget wanted to consecrate her virginity to her Lord, in obedience to her father she married Prince Ulf, a young man of solid virtue. Both joined the Third Order in order to strengthen themselves in the works of piety and the practice of penance. God blessed their marriage with eight children, whom Bridget raised in the fear of God. Her care of the poor and infirm was one of her outstanding charities. After her husband's death, she divided her estate among her children and the poor, clothed herself in coarse garments, and began to live a very austere life. At age 70 she was struck by an illness that lasted a year, and she died on the day she predicted in 1373.

Collect: Almighty God, who through your Son revealed to blessed Bridget the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, grant, we pray, that we your servants may rejoice with Bridget in the revelation of your everlasting glory, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

AUGUST 2

OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS OF THE PORTIUNCULA

Our Lady of the Angels: In the first centuries of the Christian era, hermits from Palestine built an oratory called St. Mary of the Angels. This oratory, with its small plot of land at the foot of the mountain on which Assisi is situated, was given to St. Benedict in the 6th century. This oratory was the first to be restored by the converted Francis and is regarded as the birthplace of the Franciscan Order and the Poor Clares and the place of Francis' death.

Collect: Father, as we honor the glorious memory of the Virgin Mary, Queen of the Angels, we ask that with her prayers we, too, may come to the fullness of your grace. This we ask in the Name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

AUGUST 4

JOHN VIANNEY, CURE D'ARS (1859)

Third Order

John Vianney, known as the Cure d'Ars, was only accepted for ordination after a long struggle, for he found academic study extremely hard. He became a parish priest of the remote and backward village of Ars in 1818 where he remained until he died. He transformed the whole spiritual and moral life of the community by his preaching, love, and holiness. His fame as a confessor spread, and from far and wide people came to him for his simple and straightforward guidance (in the last years, over 20,000 people visited him yearly). Some of his fellow clergy judged him mentally deranged. The bishop, however, replied: "I wish that all my clergy had a touch of the same madness."

Collect: God of love, who filled your servant John Vianney with zeal as a priest, pastor, and confessor: help us, by your grace, to win all our brothers and sisters for Christ and to share with them in eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

AUGUST 9

MARIANNE COPE OF MOLOKAI (1918)

Third Order

Marianne: In 1883, a decade after Father Damian began to serve as chaplain of the leper colony at Molokai, Mother Marianne personally led a group of fellow sisters of the Third Order Regular to work among the lepers in Hawaii. This was the first time a religious order founded in the United States entered upon mission work in a foreign land. These first sisters were followed by others, and from 1883 to 1888, under Mother Marianne's guidance, twelve sisters cared for lepers and other sick and the female children of lepers at Honolulu, Oahu, and Wailuku, Maui. In 1888, Mother Marianne went to Molokai to take charge of the Boys' Home, and in 1895 until her death 23 years later, she was in charge of the Bishop Home for women and girls at the Kalaupapa settlement on Molokai.

Collect: O God, fill us with your grace that, when you call us to your service, we may answer with your servant Marianne Cope, "I am hungry for the work, and I wish with all my heart to be one of the chosen ones whose privilege it will be to sacrifice themselves for the salvation of souls." This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (paraphrase of Mother Marianne's letter of July 12, 1883 accepting work among the lepers of Hawaii)

AUGUST 9

DESMOND LIONEL MORSE-BOYCOTT (1979)

Third Order

Fr. Desmond, as he was known, served at the church of St. Mary's, Somers Town in an impoverished area of London. He would venture out at night and mingle with the young men on the street corners whom he found playing cards and gambling. He took what food he could spare and shared it with them. These boys eventually became the foundation of Fr. Desmond's choir and school. He left his position at the parish to found the school where boys could be educated and trained to sing in the choir. He also served as leader of the Custodia (Third Order Fellowship) in London for many years. The school he founded helped into life 268 boys, 22 men were helped into the priesthood and 3 became professional musicians. The choir traveled 106,286 miles in tours. Fr. Desmond died August 9, 1979.

Collect: Gracious God, you have given us the gift of music to sing your praise and have called us to serve the poor and bring the little children to you: Grant that we, after the example of your servant, Desmond Lionel Morse-Boycott, may praise you with our lips and with our lives as your servants, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

AUGUST 11

CLARE (1253)

Founder of the Second Order

Clare: On Palm Sunday of 1212, 17-year-old Clare escaped from the home of her noble parents in Assisi to join St. Francis. After receiving her vows in religion, cutting off her hair, and giving her a habit to replace her satin finery, Francis placed her in a Benedictine convent. Soon he was able to establish her in the church and convent of San Damiano, where she lived for more than 40 years as head of a community of contemplative nuns. Her sister Agnes and her mother became part of her religious order, which spread even in Clare's lifetime to Germany and Bohemia. Clare is said to have routed the soldiers of Frederick II by her faith in the Blessed Sacrament.

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The bond of love between Francis and Clare was strong and significant, though they saw each other only rarely. The example of their love for God, each other, and the whole family of God informs and inspires all Franciscan orders to this day. Clare died two days after receiving the Pope's approval of her rule binding the Poor Clares to the Franciscan ideal of complete poverty.

Collect: God of peace, who in the holiness of blessed Clare gave us a clear light to shine in the darkness of this world: Give us grace so to follow in her footsteps that we may, at the last, rejoice with her in your eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HE: Song of Solomon 2:10-13

Psalm 63:1-8 or 34: 1-8

Luke 12: 32-37

1st EP: Psalms 27, 113

MP: Psalms 27, 113

Song of Solomon 8: 3-7a

Ecclesiasticus 2:1-0

Revelation 19:1-9

Matthew 11:44-51

2nd EP: Psalms 61, 66

Isaiah 54: 1-8

Matthew 11: 25-30

AUGUST 14

MAXIMILIAN KOLBE (1941)

First Order Friar

Maximilian Kolbe: This Polish priest of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual and founder of the Militia of Mary Immaculate was imprisoned in Auschwitz by the Nazis in May of 1941. Dr. Joseph Stemler, another prisoner, remembered: "Like many others, I crawled at night in the infirmary on the bare floor to the bed of Father Maximilian. The greeting was moving... 'Hatred is not creative,' he whispered to me. 'Our sorrow is necessary that those who live after us may be happy.'" An escape from the camp resulted in ten prisoners being condemned to death by starvation. Maximilian stepped forward to take the place of one of the condemned who had a wife and children. He was permitted to do so, and ministered to his fellow sufferers in their long agony. After three weeks, the camp executioner killed Maximilian and the three remaining survivors with injections of carbolic acid.

Collect: All powerful and everliving God, we praise you who can turn our weakness into strength. As you called Maximilian to give his life for a brother and to always have faith in the final victory of good: Grant us the grace to live in faithful witness to you, even unto death, for our brothers and sisters. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our only mediator and advocate. Amen

AUGUST 17

ROCH OF MONTPELLIER (1327)

Third Order

Roch: The only son of a nobleman, he was raised in a devout manner. At age 20 when both his parents died, he sold all his goods, gave the proceeds to the poor, became a member of the Third Order, and began a pilgrimage to Rome. As he journeyed to Rome, Roch encountered towns ravaged by epidemics. In each town, Roch offered his services, working day and night to care for the sick. Finally when he himself became sick, aid was refused to him since he was “an outsider.” Roch nursed himself in the forest sustained by food brought to him by a dog. Upon recovery, he was inspired by God to return to his home, Montpellier. But he found a town ravaged this time by war, and, mistaken for a spy by his own uncle, he was cast into prison and forgotten for five years. After receiving the last sacraments and dying, a tablet appeared on the wall on which appeared in golden letters the name of Roch, with the prediction that all who would invoke his intercessions would be delivered from the plague.

Collect: O God, who granted to Roch of Montpellier the promise not to permit anyone who sought his intercession to be afflicted with a contagious disease: Grant that we, who celebrate his memory, may be preserved from every contagion of soul and body; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

AUGUST 25

LOUIS IX (1270)

Patron of the Third Order

Louis IX personified the highest ideals of a medieval Christian ruler. From the time he began his rule, Louis was the ideal monarch: sincerely religious, but not a bigot; impartial and merciful in administering justice, insisting on each person's rights; an acute and trustworthy statesman. He was able to reconcile kingly power with great simplicity and poverty of spirit. Above all, the quality he most valued, and which he himself possessed, was integrity. He is honored as a shining light of the Third Order and is one of our patron saints (the others being Francis, Clare, and Elizabeth of Hungary).

Collect: O God, you called your servant Louis of France to an earthly throne that he might advance your heavenly kingdom, and gave him zeal for your Church and love for your people: Mercifully grant that we who commemorate him this day may be fruitful in good works, and attain to the glorious crown of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

HE: Gal. 6:14-18

MP: Psalms 71, 84

Psalm 37: 24-33

Ecclesiasticus 39: 5-11

Matthew 16: 24-27

Luke 10: 1-16

1st EP: Psalms 27, 42

2nd EP: Psalms 121, 124, 142

Exodus 24: 12-28

Isaiah 6: 1-8

Matthew 5: 1-12

John 11: 20-41

SEPTEMBER 5

JOHN BRADBURNE OF MUTEMWA (1979)

Third Order

John Bradburne, the son of an Anglican priest, was born in England in 1921. In 1947 he was received into the Roman Catholic Church and shortly afterwards joined the Third Order of St. Francis. In 1969 he became warden of the Leprosy Settlement at Mutemwa. With great joy he loved and cared for the patients and lifted them out of their state of squalor and neglect. However the war in Zimbabwe made his work increasingly difficult. One night he was abducted by a guerrilla band.

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It was said that their commander set him free, but on the way home he was shot in the back by those who wanted him out of the way. His memorial at Silviera House near Harrare describes him as a poet, mystic, music maker, and God's jester.

Collect: Heavenly Father, you inspired Francis to write, "Blessed are those who endure to the end, for you, Most High Father, they shall be crowned. Praised are you, my Lord, through Sister Death, who dwells even now within our bodies, and whose final loving embrace no one can avoid. There will be great sorrow and anguish for those who die in mortal sin. But full of joy are those found to be in your will at their death. For the second death cannot harm them." Grant that we may be inspired by his example just as John Bradburne was; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (*Canticle of the Sun*, excerpt)

SEPTEMBER 7

BROTHER DOUGLAS (1957)

First Order Friar

Brother Douglas, founder of the Society of St. Francis, joined a mission to tramps while still a student at Oxford, and his ministry to vagrants continued for a lifetime. After ordination he served as a curate in a London parish where he could extend hospitality to homeless men. After six years of teaching in India and stints as army and university chaplain, he founded a Home for Vagrants at Bacombe in Dorset while serving the parishes of St. Ebbe's and St. Aldate's. For twenty years he modeled ministry to wayfarers. The Order of the Brotherhood of St. Francis was the result of this ministry, which attracted young men seeking the revival of Franciscan life in the Church of England.

Collect: Lord God, you came among us as a servant. Fill us with your humility that we may, like Francis our brother and Douglas our founder, forget ourselves in love for you and in compassion for others; and in the lonely, the rejected, the deprived and the imprisoned, find Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 11

MYCHAL JUDGE (2001)

Friar and Chaplain

Mychal Judge was born Robert Emmett Judge on May 11, 1933 in Brooklyn, New York. As a child, to earn income following his father's death, he shined shoes at Penn Station from where he would visit St. Francis of Assisi Church, located across the street. Seeing the Franciscan friars there he determined he wanted to be a friar. He made his first vows in 1955. He served in various parishes and was finally assigned to St. Francis Church back in Manhattan in 1986. In 1992 he was appointed a chaplain to the New York City Fire Department. On September 11, upon learning that the World Trade Center had been hit by the first of two jetliners, he rushed to the site. He administered Last Rites and offered prayer and aid to rescuers, the injured and the dead. When the South Tower collapsed at 9:49, Judge was killed from flying debris.

Collect: Loving Father, whose son Jesus, said that the sign of love, was to lay down one's life for a friend; we give you thanks for the life and witness of Mychal Judge. We pray that we, being inspired by his witness, will serve you in the lives of those you place before us. We pray in Jesus name. Amen.

SEPTEMBER 17

THE STIGMATA OF ST. FRANCIS (1224)

The Stigmata: From the beginning, Francis had a great devotion and veneration for Christ crucified and never ceased to preach this devotion till his death. In the year 1224, two years before his death, as he was rapt in deep prayer and fasting on Mt. Alverna, Christ the Lord by a stupendous miracle imprinted the marks of the five wounds of his passion on Francis's body (for more detail see "Part Two" of *The Little Flowers of St. Francis*).

Collect: O Lord Jesus Christ, when the world was growing cold you raised up blessed Francis bearing in his body the marks of your passion, to enflame our hearts with the fire of your love: Mercifully grant us your people true repentance and the grace to bear your Cross for love of you, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

HE: Galatians 6:14-18	MP: Psalms 71, 150
Psalm 37: 24-33	1 Kings 19: 1-12
Matthew 16: 24-27	Luke 10: 1-16
1st EP: Psalm 42	2nd EP: Psalms 27, 121
Exodus 24: 12-28	Isaiah 6: 1-8
Matthew 5:1-12	John 12: 20-41

SEPTEMBER 23

EMILY GARDNER NEAL (1989)

Tertiary

Emily had a successful career as a journalist publishing over 50 articles in popular magazines. However, Emily's life was changed dramatically after attending a healing service – an event that she described in her first book, *A Reporter Finds God through Spiritual Healing* (1956). From then on, she became a lecturer and counselor on the subject of spiritual healing. In 1961 she was appointed to the Joint Commission on the Ministry of Healing, and she wrote the commission's report to the 1964 General Convention. She always resisted the label of "healer" in reference to her work and preferred to say that she was simply an "enabler of healing" or "an instrument that is used for God's healing." The Episcopal Healing Ministry Foundation was founded in her honor in 1987, and she was its first president.

Collect: Almighty God, who led Emily Gardner Neal from skepticism to a ministry of spiritual healing, we ask that you graciously continue in your Church this love and power to heal, through Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

OCTOBER 3

EVE OF THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS

The Transitus – see on page 76 or 77

OCTOBER 4

FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS (1226)

Founder of the First Order

Feast of St. Francis: “At the time of St. Francis’ death, when it was already dusk, a great flock of larks gathered over the building, although they normally prefer the light of day and avoid the shades of night. There they remained, flying about and singing with unusual joy, clearly testifying by the sweetness of their song to the glory of the saint who had so often called upon them to praise God.” (from *Major Life of St. Francis*, by St. Bonaventure)

Collect: O God, you ever delight to reveal yourself to the childlike and lowly of heart: Grant that, following the example of the blessed Francis, we may count the wisdom of this world as foolishness and know only Jesus Christ and him crucified; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HE: Galatians 6:14-18

Psalm 148: 7-14 or 121

Matthew 11: 25-30

1st EP: Psalms 42

Exodus 24: 12-28

Matthew 5:1-12

MP: Psalms 71, 150

1 Kings 19: 1-12

Luke 10: 1-16

2nd EP: Psalms 27, 121

Isaiah 6: 1-8

John 12: 20-41

NOVEMBER 3

HUGO MULLER (1985)

Third Order

The Rev. Hugo Muller was a tertiary serving in the far north of Quebec among the Cree People. He wrote three books about his experience including books of songs and poems celebrating the inland Cree people and culture. He advocated on behalf of the people, especially in opposing the James Bay Project, a multi-billion dollar hydroelectric development, which threatened Cree land and culture.

Collect: Great Spirit, you are the creator of all peoples and nations. We give thanks for the witness and ministry of Hugo Muller, servant of the Cree people. We pray that we may see all people of infinite value and preciousness in your sight, and that we would speak the Good News of Jesus in the language of God's love, in Christ's Name. Amen.

NOVEMBER 8

JOHN DUNS SCOTUS (1308)

First Order

John Duns Scotus has been one of the most influential Franciscans through the centuries. In 1280 he received the habit of the Friars Minor and studied at Oxford and Paris until he was ordained in 1291. In 1297 he returned to Oxford and Cambridge to lecture. John pointed out the richness of the Augustinian-Franciscan tradition, appreciated the wisdom of Aquinas, Aristotle, and the Moslem philosophers, and still managed to be an independent thinker. In 1304 he was awarded his doctorate. Soon the fame of his genius and learning spread abroad, and students came in great numbers.

Father Charles Balic, O.F.M., the foremost 20th-century authority on Duns Scotus, has written: "The whole of Scotus's theology is dominated by the notion of love. The characteristic note of this love is its absolute freedom. As love becomes more perfect and intense, freedom becomes more noble and integral in God and in man."

Collect: Dear Lord Jesus, let us never deny any of the gifts and talents you have bequeathed us. For just as surely as you led Francis to burn books to humble those who rested only on human intellect, let us profit by the example of John Duns Scotus who used his intellect and books to serve, praise, and explore the relationship we have with you. Amen.

NOVEMBER 19

ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY (1231)

Patron of the Third Order

Elizabeth of Hungary, daughter of the King of Hungary, married a German prince at the age of 14. Though a politically arranged marriage, it was one of loving contentment, but her husband died six years later. During the marriage, Elizabeth gave much of her time and her kingdom's money to charity and hospital work. While in deep grief, she was driven from her home by relatives fearful she would further deplete the kingdom's treasury by her charity work. She settled with her children in very tough circumstances in Marburg. She was determined to devote the remainder of her life to God, and so she renounced her wealth, joined the Third Order, corresponded copiously with Clare, and gave herself to the care of the poor and sick. She is remembered as the princess who made garments for those in need and went fishing to get them food.

Collect: Merciful God, who helped Elizabeth of Hungary recognize and honor Jesus in the poor: Grant that we may use the prosperity of this present world for the glory of your eternal Kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HE: Tobit 12: 6b-9 EP Psalm 122, 127
Psalm 146: 4-9 or 112: 1-9 Philippians 4:6-13
Matthew 25: 31-40 Matthew 25:31-40

MP: Psalm 45
Proverbs 31: 10-31
Romans 12: 1-13

NOVEMBER 19

AGNES OF ASSISI (1253)

Poor Clare

Agnes was the sister of Clare and her first follower. Together they established the community at San Damiano, against the will of their family. Later a group of Benedictine nuns asked to become a community of their Order, and Agnes was sent to be their Abbess. She went on to establish other monasteries in northern Italy, returning to Assisi when Clare was dying. She herself followed Clare in death three months later.

Collect: O God, whose blessed Son became poor that we, through his poverty might become rich: we thank you for your servant Agnes, who was the first person to follow her sister Clare in a life of poverty and to later establish other monasteries through northern Italy; grant that all who continue in her footsteps may enjoy the riches of the age to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

NOVEMBER 21

H. BAXTER LIEBLER (1982)

Tertiary

H. Baxter Liebler was ordained to the priesthood on the Feast of St. Francis in 1914. He invited Fr. Joseph (founder of TSSF), a seminary classmate, to visit his parish in Riverside, Connecticut. During the visit, he was entered as a Novice and began his Franciscan journey. After a trip to Utah, he moved to Bluff, Utah in 1943, founding St. Christopher's mission to the Navajo. In a log-constructed cabin, the mission was the first medical facility to treat tuberculosis and trachoma among the Navajo in Utah. Fr. Liebler was known as *endeshoodit* to the Navajos –“one whose robe drags on the ground.” He wore his hair in the traditional Navajo bun and learned to pray and lead worship in Navajo. He served the mission for 40 years, after which he retired in nearby Oljeto, close to Monument Valley.

Collect: Holy God, you called your servant H. Baxter Liebler to walk among the Navajo people, to learn their ways, and to share with them the love of God in Jesus and the power of the Spirit; Grant us grace to be guided by his example of servanthood and openness, that we may walk in beauty with you, with all people and with creation. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our friend and brother. Amen

NOVEMBER 23

FATHER ALGY ROBERTSON (1955)

Founder of the Society of St. Francis

Father Algy Robertson went to India in 1927 to join Christa Seva Sangha, a Christian ashram. The goal of CSS was a “life of common service and equal fellowship for Indians and Europeans” and the development of Indian ways for expressing Christian life and worship. Ill health forced Algy to return to England in 1930. As vicar of St. Ives in Huntingdonshire, he started the Brotherhood of the Love of Christ, a community based on the rule of CSS. The Brotherhood was one of three communities that merged to become the Society of St. Francis. Algy succeeded Douglas as Father Minister of the Society.

Collect: Maker of all, you helped the blessed Francis to reflect the image of Christ through a life of poverty and humility. By walking in his footsteps, and imitating his joyful love, may we, with Brother Algy founder of the Society of St. Francis, follow faithfully the pattern of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

NOVEMBER 29

ALL FRANCISCAN SAINTS

Collect: Everlasting God, you have adorned your Church with the splendors of the saintly followers of our holy father Francis: Grant that as we commemorate their holiness we may come at last with all the pure of heart to share the vision of your eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All Franciscan Saints

Eucharist: Ecclesiasticus 44: 1, 10-15

Psalm 149

Mark 10: 17-21

MP: Psalms 33, 117

Ecclesiasticus 2: 10-7

Luke 9: 18-27

EP: Psalm 145

Wisdom 3:1-9

Rev. 21:1-4, 22:1-5

DECEMBER 1

REQUIEM FOR ALL DEPARTED FRANCISCANS

Collect: O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered, accept our prayers on behalf of all the sons and daughters of St. Francis now departed this life, and grant them an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Requiem for All Departed Franciscans

Eucharist: Isaiah 61: 1-3

Psalm 130

John 6: 37-40

MP: Psalms 42, 43

EP: Psalms 6, 47

Isaiah 10: 33- 11:9

Isaiah 2:1-5

Ephesians 2: 13-18

John 16:23-33

DECEMBER 15

MARY FRANCES SCHERVIER (1876)

Tertiary

Mary Frances Schervier became a Third Order Franciscan in 1844, and the following year she and four companions established a Religious community. Their work was to care for the poor, particularly in hospitals and homes for the aged. The community became known as the 'Franciscan Sisters of the Poor,' and spread beyond France to the rest of Europe, the US, and throughout the world.

Collect: Loving God, who through Mary Frances Schervier and the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor, spread that love by caring for those in hospitals and homes for the aged, help us, we pray, to follow her example through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

DECEMBER 24

JACOPONE DA TODI (1306)

Friar, Poet

Jacopone was born in the 1230's, became a successful lawyer and married the beautiful and noble Vanna di Berardino di Guidone. She was tragically killed when, at a party, the balcony on which she and others were dancing collapsed. Driven nearly out of his mind by grief, Jacopone became a homeless penitent, eventually ending up as a Friar Minor. His support for the Franciscan Spirituals and their rigorous interpretation of the Rule, led to his imprisonment by Pope Boniface VIII. He died three years after his release, on Christmas Eve, at a monastery of Poor Clares.

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, whose care for our well-being enabled Jacopone da Todi to use his grief as the motivation to become a Franciscan spiritual and to bear resentment help us as well to seek your help no matter what difficulties we might face, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE SOCIETY OF SAINT FRANCIS



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For the Society

O God, who has joined in the Society of St. Francis three Orders dedicated to your service: Grant, we pray, that being knit together in the spirit of love and unity, we your servants may glorify your holy Name after the example of our patrons and win others to your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God, your love led Francis and Clare to establish our three Orders. Draw us into your love, that, in its perfection, we may grow in love toward all with whom we have to do; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who gives himself in love to all. Amen.

For the First Order

Grant, O God, that as your servant Francis carried the love and peace of Christ into the hearts of all who knew him, so may those who seek to follow his example shower abroad that same love and peace in the minds of all and in all places on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord Jesus, you were lifted up upon the Cross to be the Savior of sinners: We ask that you bless the friars and sisters of our time. Grant that they may serve you in humility, love, and joy and draw many souls to know and follow you, who now lives and reigns, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

For the Second Order

Lord God, pour your abundant blessing on those who, after the pattern of blessed Clare, have left all to follow you in a life of poverty, prayer, and penance; assist them with your grace that they may persevere in their vocation to the end and that all their needs may be supplied; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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For the Third Order

Lord God, who opened the eyes of blessed Francis to the vocation of those you call to serve you in the world; grant such grace to the members of the Third Order that, being crucified with Christ, we may show forth all the radiance of his risen life; who with you and the Holy Spirit is alive and reigns, one God, now and forever. Amen.

O God, we ask your blessing on the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis. Endue the Sisters and Brothers of Penitence with apostolic might, that, loving Jesus with all our hearts, and faithfully following his holy gospel, we may persevere in devotion and good works until we are gathered together at your right hand; through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, you have joined to the Society of St. Francis a Third Order, dedicated to your service: Grant, we pray, that being knit together in the spirit of love and unity, we your servants may glorify your holy Name after the example of St. Francis and win others to your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Third Order Litany

Thanksgiving

(Response: We thank you, O God.)

For the Incarnation, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ:

For our membership in Christ's Church:

For the Eucharist, in which we receive the life of the Risen Christ:

For the inspiration of the life of St. Francis:

For our calling as followers of Christ in the way of St. Francis:

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For life shared in the Franciscan family:

For the love and caring of our fellow tertiaries:

For the spread of the Third Order throughout the world:

For growth in understanding and companionship with
Secular Franciscans and Ecumenical Franciscans:

For the beautiful and life-sustaining world in which we
live:

For opportunities to serve you in our sisters and brothers,
to share their pain and suffering in union with Christ's
passion:

Penitence:

(Response: O Lord, forgive.)

For our insensitivity to the needs of others:

For our prejudice and fear that hinder love in our hearts:

For our narrowness of vision and our shrinking from
your demands upon us:

For our failure to accept change and risk:

For our desire to do your work in our own way:

For our lack of respect for those who differ from us:

For our clinging to the past and fear of the future:

For our unwillingness to follow in the footsteps of St.
Francis by embracing poverty in relationships, with our
possessions, and with our time:

For our looking to this world for security:

Intercession:

(Response: Lord, hear our prayer.)

For all tertiaries who face hostility because of their
Christian commitment:

For all aged, sick, and house-bound tertiaries:

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For those who work without the companionship of other tertiaries, especially expatriate workers in the worldwide Church:

For tertiaries working among the lonely, the dispossessed, the destitute, and the mentally ill:

For *N*, Minister General of the Society, and for *N*, Minister General of the Third Order:

For all members of Provincial Chapters and all pastoral officers:

For the Province of the Americas, especially for *N*, our Minister Provincial; *N*, our Chaplain; *N*, our Formation Director (s); *N* our Fellowship Coordinator; *N*, our Secretary; and their assistants:

For all area chaplains, counselors, and fellowship conveners; for our bursar and our librarian; and for all other Leaders of our Community:

For all postulants and novices:

For our directors:

For those who doubt their Franciscan calling:

For those tempted to faithlessness or to despair:

For those lacking the opportunity of frequent Communion:

For ourselves and all our brothers and sisters that we may be granted the grace of perseverance.

Eternal God, by whose power we are created and by whose love we are redeemed; guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service and live this day in love of one another and of you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

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Collects

Lord Jesus, in your servant Francis, you displayed the wonderful power of the Cross: Help us always to follow you in the way of the holy Cross, and give us strength to resist all temptation; to you with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be all glory for ever. Amen.

Father in Heaven, your servant Francis found perfect joy in being rejected. Help us also to draw near to our crucified Lord, that the joy of his triumph may shine in us to your glory and the healing of your world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, when the world was growing cold you raised up blessed Francis, bearing in his body the marks of your suffering to warm our hearts with the fire of your love. Help us always to turn to you with true hearts and for love of you to bear the Cross; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Blessed Lord, as Francis found joy in creation, in beauty, and in simplicity, but perfect joy in sharing the sufferings of the world; so may we, abiding in your love, receive your gift of perfect joy, and by the power of your Spirit, radiate your peace, and find, even in suffering, the glory of God. Amen.

Merciful God, you made your Church rich through the poverty of blessed Francis. Help us, like him, not to trust in earthly things, but to seek your heavenly gifts; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

O God, by the life of blessed Francis, you moved your people to a love of simple things. May we, after his example, hold lightly to the things of this world and store up for ourselves treasures in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Maker of all, you helped blessed Francis to reflect the image of Christ through a life of poverty and humility. By walking in his footsteps, and imitating his joyful love, may we follow faithfully the pattern of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, you resist the proud and give grace to the humble. Help us not to think proudly but to serve with the humility that pleases you, so that we may walk in the footsteps of your servant Francis and receive the gift of your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, you came among us as a servant. Fill us with your humility that we may, like Francis our brother, forget ourselves in love for you and in compassion for others; and in the lonely, the rejected, the lost, the deprived, and the imprisoned, find Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, you gave us blessed Francis to be a teacher and a leader in following the ways of your only begotten Son. Grant, we pray, that we who honor his memory here on earth may share his glory in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Friend of the forsaken and Lover of the unloved, make us bearers of your presence to all. Teach us to walk in the poverty of your Son and to be among your people as those who serve; in the name of him who for our sakes became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, by whose inspiration Francis became a little brother to all and did not fear to take the message of peace and love even into the heart of the enemy; give us, who follow him, a like spirit of reconciliation and generosity in our own day; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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God our Creator, you always delight to reveal yourself to the childlike and lowly of heart: Grant that, following the example of blessed Francis and Clare, we may count the wisdom of this world as foolishness and know only Jesus Christ and him crucified; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

O God, by whose inspiration Francis became a little brother to all and did not shy away from taking the message of peace and love even into the heart of the enemy: give us, who follow him, a like spirit of reconciliation and generosity in our own day; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS ATTRIBUTED TO SAINT FRANCIS



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Prayers Attributed to St. Francis

My God and My All!

My God and My All, who are you, my sweetest Lord and God; and who am I, a poor little worm, your servant? Most holy Lord, I wish to love you. Most sweet Lord, I wish to love you.

O Lord, my God, I have given you my whole heart and my whole body; and I most earnestly desire, if I only knew how, to do still more for you. Amen.

THE ABSORBEAT

May the power of your love, Lord Christ, fiery and sweet as honey, wean my heart from all that is under heaven, so that I may die for love of your love, who were so good as to die for love of my love. Amen.

LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned. And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

THE PRAISES OF THE DIVINE TRINITY

(The praises before the Office)

(Response: We praise and glorify you forever.)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, who was and who is, and who is coming: *Response*

Worthy are you, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power: *Response*

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and divinity and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing: *Response*

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord. Praise our God, all you his servants, and you who fear him, the small and the great. Praise him in his glory, heaven and earth, and every creature that is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are on the seas, and all that are in them. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.

CANTICLE OF BROTHER SUN

Most High, all powerful, good Lord, to you be praise,
glory, honor, and all blessing.

Only to you, Most High, do they belong and no one is
worthy to call upon your name.

May you be praised, my Lord, with all your creatures,
especially brother sun, through whom you lighten the
day for us.

He is beautiful and radiant with great splendor, and he
signifies you, O Most High.

Be praised, my Lord, for sister moon and the stars: Clear
and precious and lovely, they are formed in heaven.

Be praised, My Lord, for brother wind and by air and
clouds, clear skies and all weathers, by which you
give sustenance to your creatures.

Be praised, my Lord, for sister water, who is very useful
and humble and precious and pure.

Be praised, my Lord, for brother fire, by whom the night
is illumined for us: he is beautiful and cheerful, full of
power and strength.

Be praised, my Lord, for sister, our mother earth, who
sustains and governs us and produces diverse fruits
and colored flowers and grass.

Be praised, my Lord, by all those who forgive for love of you
and who bear weakness and tribulation.

Blessed are those who endure in peace: for by you Most
High, they will be crowned.

Be praised, my Lord, for our sister, the death of the body,
from whom no one living is able to flee; woe to those
who are dying in mortal sin.

Blessed are those who are found doing your most holy
will, for the second death will do them no harm.

Praise and bless my Lord and give him thanks and serve
him with great humility.

TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Hail, holy Lady, most holy Queen, Mary, Mother of God, ever Virgin; chosen by the most Holy Father in heaven, consecrated by him, with his most holy beloved Son and the Holy Spirit, the Comforter: on you descended and in you still remains all the fullness of grace and every good. Hail, his Palace; hail, his Tabernacle; hail, his Robe; hail, his Handmaid; hail his Mother; and hail, all holy Virtues, who by the grace and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, are poured into the hearts of the faithful. So that, faithless no longer, they may be made faithful servants of God through you.

Holy Virgin Mary, among all women in the world there is none like you: daughter and handmaid of the Most High King and heavenly Father; mother of our most holy Lord Jesus Christ; spouse of the Holy Spirit; pray for us, with Michael the archangel and all the powers of heaven, and all the saints, to your most holy and beloved Son, our Lord and Master.

THE PRAISES OF GOD

You are holy, Lord, the only God, and your deeds are wonderful.

You are strong. You are great. You are the Most High.
You are the almighty. You, holy Father, are King of heaven and earth.

You are Three and One, Lord God, all good,
You are Good, all Good, supreme Good,
Lord God, living and true.

You are love. You are wisdom.
You are humility. You are endurance.
You are rest. You are peace.
You are joy and gladness.
You are justice and moderation.
You are all our riches. And you suffice for us.

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You are beauty. You are gentleness.

You are our protector. You are our guardian
and defender. You are courage.

You are our haven and our hope.

You are our faith, our great consolation.

You are our eternal life, Great and wonderful Lord,
God almighty, Merciful Savior.

THE PARAPHRASE OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father: Creator, Redeemer, Savior and Comforter.

In heaven: In the angels and the saints. You give them light
so that they may have knowledge because you are light.
You inflame them so that they may love, because you are
love. You live continually in them so that they may be
happy because you are the supreme good, the eternal
good, and it is from you all good comes, and without you
there is no good.

Hallowed be your name: May our knowledge of you become
ever clearer so that we may realize the breadth of your
blessings, the extent of your promises, the height of your
majesty and the depth of your judgment.

Your kingdom come: So that you may reign in us by your
grace and bring us to your kingdom, where we shall see
you clearly, love you perfectly, be happy in your
company, and enjoy you forever.

Your will be done on earth as in heaven: That we may love
you with our whole heart by always thinking of you;
with our whole mind by directing our whole intention
toward you and seeking your glory in everything; and
with all our strength by spending all our energies and
affections of soul and body in the service of your love
alone. And may we love our neighbor as ourselves,
encouraging them all to love you as best we can,
rejoicing at the good fortune of others, just as if it were
our own, and sympathizing with their misfortunes, while
giving offence to no one.

Give us today our daily bread: Your own beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to remind us of the love he showed for us and to help us to understand and appreciate it and everything that he did or said or suffered.

And forgive us our sins: In your infinite mercy, and by the power of the passion of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, together with the examples of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints.

As we forgive those who sin against us: And if we do not forgive perfectly, make us forgive perfectly, so that we may truly love our enemies for love of you and pray fervently to you for them, returning no one evil for evil, anxious only to serve everybody in you.

Lead us not into temptation: Hidden or obvious, sudden or unforeseen.

But deliver us from evil: Present, past or future.

Amen.

THE PRAISES OF THE VIRTUES

Hail, Queen Wisdom! The Lord save you,
with your sister, pure, holy Simplicity.

Lady Poverty, God keep you,
with your sister, holy Humility.

Lady Holy Love, God keep you,
with your sister, holy Obedience.

All holy virtues, God keep you.

God from whom you proceed and come.

In all the world there is not a man
who can possess any one of you
without first dying to himself.

The man who practices one and does not offend
against the others possesses all;

The man who offends against one,
possesses none and violates all.

Each and every one of you
puts vice and sin to shame.

Holy Wisdom puts Satan
and all his wiles to shame.

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Pure and holy Simplicity puts
all the learnings of this world to shame.
Holy Poverty puts to shame all greed,
avarice, and all the anxieties of this life.
Holy Humility puts pride to shame,
and all the inhabitants of this world
and all that is in the world.
Holy Love puts to shame all the temptations
of the devil and the flesh and all natural fear.
Holy Obedience puts to shame
all natural and selfish desires.
It mortifies our lower nature
and makes it obey the spirit and our fellow men.
Obedience subjects a man to everyone on earth,
and not only to men, but to all the beasts as well
and to the wild animals, so that they can do what
they like with him, as far as God allows them.

The Will of the Father was such that His blessed and glorious Son, Whom He gave to us and Who was born for us, should, through His own blood, offer Himself as a sacrifice and oblation on the altar of the cross: not for Himself through Whom all things were made, but for our sins, leaving us an example that we should follow in His footprints. And the Father wills that all of us should be saved through Him and that we receive Him with our pure heart and chaste body. But there are few who wish to receive Him and be saved by Him, although His yoke is sweet and His burden light.

St. Francis in The Second Version of the Letter to the Faithful

**PRAYERS FOR DAILY,
SEASONAL AND
OCCASIONAL USE**



ON ENTERING A CHURCH

Both here and in all your churches throughout the whole world, we adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

AFTER OFFICE OR EUCHARIST OR ANGELUS

St. Francis, pray for us.

St. Clare, pray for us.

St. Louis, pray for us.

St. Elizabeth, pray for us.

Both here and in all your churches throughout the whole world, we adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

BEFORE A CRUCIFIX

O good and most merciful Jesus, imprint on my heart a living sense of faith, hope, and charity, true repentance for my sins, and a steadfast purpose of amendment. I ponder in my heart and contemplate your five wounds with love and sorrow. O Jesus, have mercy on me. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE DAY

Jesus Lord, I offer you this new day because I believe in you, love you, hope all things in you, and thank you for your blessings. I am sorry for having offended you and forgive everyone who has offended me.

Look down on me and leave in me peace and courage and your humble wisdom that I may serve others with joy and be pleasing to you all day. Amen.

We give thanks for this life, which is such a surprise to us, and for this new day which is full of discovery, and for a new chance to become and be born anew. We are born into this life to consume, but let us consume gently, and let us taste and slowly sip, and allow this life around us to become part of us. Life is a gift, and we are its grace. Amen.

PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION

O Bread, holy, pure, and living, who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world, come into my heart and cleanse me from all defilement both of flesh and of spirit. Enter into my person, and heal and cleanse me both inwardly and outwardly. Be the protection and health of my body as well as my soul. Drive far from me all the enemies that lie in wait for me. Grant that they may fly far off from the presence of your power. Grant that being in all things defended by you, I may walk in a straight way into your kingdom. From there we shall no more behold you in a mystery as in this present time. Rather, we shall see you face to face, when you shall deliver up the kingdom to God the father, and God shall be all in all. For on that day you shall satisfy me with a wonderful fullness, so that I shall no more hunger or thirst forever, O Jesus, who with the same God the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign, world without end. Amen.

(adapted from a prayer by St. Ambrose the Bishop)

THANKSGIVING FOR COMMUNION

Most loving Jesus, my Redeemer and my God: I adore you who are present within me under the veils of bread and wine, wherein you become the meat and drink of my soul. O my God, I pray that your coming to my soul may be ever blessed. And for this great benefit I give you thanks from the depths of my heart.

My God and my all! You alone from henceforth shall be my best good and my chief love. By the love of this your Son, whom I have this day offered to you and received into my heart, grant me, I pray, holy perseverance in your grace and the gift of holy love. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.

(adapted from a prayer by St. Alphonsus the Bishop)

LORD BE KNOWN TO ME

Lord be known to me in the breaking of the bread. Lord be known to me in the words that you have said. You are my peace; You are my light.

It is my desire to walk the path you walked; To be as you would have me and not just talk the talk. You are my peace; You are my light.

I feel your Holy Presence in times when I am alone. I pray that I'll be worthy when you come to take me home. You are my peace; You are my light; You are my life.

(Hilary Burwell)

CROSS PRAYERS

(Having in mind Saint Francis' devotion to the passion of Christ and looking upon the figure of the Crucified, with arms outstretched, let us pray to the Lord.)

A short silence may be observed

V. You have sealed, O Lord, your servant Francis,

R. With the signs of our redemption.

Lord Jesus Christ, who when the world was growing cold, to the inflaming of our hearts by the fire of your love raised up blessed Francis bearing in his body the marks of your passion, mercifully grant to us, your people, true penitence and grace to bear the Cross for love of you, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(OR THE PRAYER OF FRANCIS BEFORE THE CRUCIFIX)

Most High and glorious God, enlighten the darkness of our hearts and give us a true faith, a certain hope, and a perfect love and a profound humility. Give us a sense of the divine and knowledge of yourself, so that we may do everything in fulfillment of your holy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May the life-giving cross be the source of all our joy and peace. Amen.

BLESSING OF A PROFESSION CROSS

We beseech you, Almighty and Everlasting God, to bless this sign of the Cross to be a comfort, defense, and shield for who wears it as a token of his (her) life-long part and place in the family of St. Francis. + May this sign of the Cross be hallowed in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

PRAYER WHILE PUTTING ON PROFESSION CROSS

God forbid that I should glory save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world. O God, you have given me the grace to wear the Holy Cross of St. Francis; give me the grace to walk worthy of my vocation.

The individual may wish to recite the profession vow when putting on the profession cross.

HOLY MARY

Most blessed mother, My light, my sweetness, my hope. Let me be as you. Let me carry Christ inside me, under my heart. Let me bring him to birth that he may touch others through me. Let me follow him on all his dusty paths that I may learn from him. Let me watch him die. O God-I would die in his place. Let me hold him in my arms once more when they take him down. Let me live to be old-if it be God's will, and gather the children around me in a circle at my feet. So I may tell stories of Him.

Holy Mary, mother of our Lord,

Pray always for me. Amen

(Kathy Clare Tripses, TSSF)

WORLD PRAYER FOR PEACE

O God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe. Amen

PRAYERS FROM THE WRITINGS OF ST. CLARE

Because one thing alone is necessary, I bear witness to that one thing and encourage you, for love of Him, to Whom you have offered yourself as a holy and pleasing sacrifice that...you always remember your resolution and be conscious of how you began.

What you hold, may you always hold.
What you do, may you always do and never abandon.
But with swift pace, light step, and unswerving feet,
so that even your steps stir up no dust,
go forward securely, joyfully, and swiftly,
on the path of prudent happiness,
believing nothing—agreeing with nothing
which would dissuade you from this resolution
or which place a stumbling block for you on the way,
so that you may offer your vows to the Most High
in the pursuit of that perfection
to which the Spirit of the Lord has called you.

St. Clare, 2nd Letter to Blessed Agnes of Prague

Eternal God, source of all mercies and consolation: may we live to praise you; make the homage we pay you be reasonable; season our sacrifices with the salt of your wisdom, that our entire being may be transformed into your image; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

TRADITIONAL PRAYERS

VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire.

Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost they sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above
Is comfort, life, and fire of love.

Enable with perpetual light
The dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
With the abundance of thy grace.

Keep far our foes, give peace at home;
Where thou art Guide, no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And thee, of both, to be but One;

That through the ages all along,
This may be our endless song;

Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

JESUS PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.

HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

THE ANGELUS

V. The angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary;
R. And she conceived by the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary,...

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord;
R. Be it unto me according, to your word. Hail Mary,...

V. And the Word was made flesh;
R. And dwelt among us. Hail Mary,...

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God;
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

ANIMA CHRISTI

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, exhilarate me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O God Jesu, hear me.
Within your wounds hide me.
Suffer me not to be separated from you.
From the malicious enemy defend me.
In the hour of my death call me, and bid me come to you,
That with your saints I may praise you For ever and ever.
Amen.

O Lord, my God, I have given you my whole heart and my whole body; and I most earnestly desire, if I only knew how, to do still more for you. Amen.

SEASONAL PRAYERS

ADVENT PRAYERS

Refrains on the Magnificat

(These seven refrains or antiphons may be said before and after the Magnificat at Evening Prayer from December 17 through December 23)

- Dec .17 O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, and reaching mightily from one end of the earth to the other, ordering all things well: Come teach us the way of prudence.
- Dec. 18 O Adonai, and leader of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.
- Dec. 19 O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign to the people, before whom kings shall shut their mouths and nations shall seek:
Come and deliver us and do not delay.
- Dec. 20 O Key of David, and scepter of the house of Israel, who opens and no one can shut, who shuts and no one can open:
Come and bring the prisoners from the prison house, those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.
- Dec. 21 O Dayspring, splendor of light eternal and sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.
- Dec. 22 O King of the nations, and their desire, the corner-stone making both one: Come and save us, whom you formed from the dust.
- Dec. 23 O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the desire of all nations and their Savior:
Come and save us, O Lord our God.

COME LORD JESUS

Come Lord Jesus
Arc-lamp of the Eternal Deity
Mantled in human flesh
Light my mind with your clarity
Melt my soul in your charity
Make my heart your crèche
Come Lord Jesus come
(Marie Webner, Associate SSF)

CHRISTMAS PRAYERS

A CRECHE PRAYER

Eternal God, as we celebrate again the birth of our Savior, may this crèche be to us a sign of your love and self-giving, and through it may we draw nearer to the mystery of the Word made flesh; To you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be all praise and glory, now and for ever. Amen

TO THE INFANT JESUS

Come to me, O Divine Savior, deign to take birth in my heart. Grant that, instructed by your example and aided by your grace, I may be poor in spirit, humble in heart, like a stranger on earth, mortified and obedient, as you were in the manger.

You became a child, O Divine Jesus, that I may become a perfect human being. You suffered to be wrapped in swaddling clothes to free my soul from all the bonds of sin. You chose to be born in a stable, in order to admit me to your altar on earth and to your glory in eternity. You descended to earth, to exalt me to Heaven. You permitted yourself to be rejected by the Bethlehemites to secure me a welcome reception to your kingdom. You did not disdain the company of dumb animals to merit for me the company of the saints and the angels in Heaven.

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You became weak to make me strong, poor to enrich me, humble to exalt me, subject to all sufferings in order to free me from all evils and procure me all blessings.

Grant, O Lord, these great graces become not, by my failure to correspond with them, so many grounds of condemnation; but that, by profiting faithfully of them, I may secure for myself the possession of that glory which was the aim not only of your incarnation, but also of your suffering and death. Amen

MAGNIFICAT OF THE STABLE

My soul rests confidently in the animal warmth and the lantern light of this simple place, Yahweh, and my spirit rejoices in the privacy of this time of birthing we share with you,

O God of Creation, for you come alive again tonight in the blood and water of your people.

Yes this is the time for which we have waited. This is the moment of blessing.

Holy is birth, and you shall show yourself from age to age in those who enter into creation with you.

You have pulled down all our strivings and lifted up this simple, common moment.

The stable is filled with good things, new life and happy people. Are those in the inn rooms as satisfied?

You have come to Israel, mindful of our shared nature, ...according to the promise of Eden... mindful of our nature to seek the wisdom of new life together, as long as we walk the earth.

(Anonymous, TSSF)

LENT

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

1. Jesus is condemned to death.

If we are to journey with Jesus as he is condemned to death we shall do so, not because we have earned that privilege, for if we demand what we deserve then the verdict upon us is condemnation, and death and we are of all people most miserable; but in and through Jesus Christ, the sinless one who stands condemned, we are offered the infinitely costly, utterly free gift of grace mediated through forgiveness.

2. Jesus receives the cross.

If we are to journey with Jesus as he takes up his Cross, it will be by accepting his invitation to take up our cross. Jesus did not say, "If anyone would be my disciple, throw away your cross and follow me" (even if we may sometimes wish that he had). Louis Evely remarks that God always seems to give us the wrong crosses; any other cross than that particular one would have been more bearable. But Jesus took up his Cross; so must we.

3. Jesus falls for the first time.

If we are to journey with Jesus as he falls the first time, it will not be without a heavy burden, nor without stumbling. How wonderful that already, when we fall as we all do, Jesus has identified with us in our weakness.

4. Jesus meets his mother.

If we are to journey with Jesus as he meets his mother, that journey will have impact upon, and cost and challenge to our most precious relationships.

5. Simon of Cyrene carries the cross.

If we are to journey with Jesus as the Cross is laid upon Simon of Cyrene, we must be alert to those along the way who, often unrecognized, carry our cross for us.

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6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

If we are to journey with Jesus as a woman wipes his face, we must not be too proud to accept another's gift of love and compassion, for that may bear the imprint of the face of Jesus.

7. Jesus falls for the second time.

If we are to journey with Jesus as he falls the second time, we must not expect that the road will grow easier along the way. We remain so frail and fragile, even when we have been on the Christian pilgrimage a long time.

8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.

If we are to journey with Jesus as he meets the women of Jerusalem, it will be as those who weep for themselves; for we always remain sinners in process of salvation, growing in grateful contrition, more aware of our sins as we grow ever more aware of our forgiveness.

9. Jesus falls for the third time.

If we are to journey with Jesus as he falls for the third time, we must beware of losing heart when we fall for the umpteenth time to the same dreary old temptations. There is no limit to Jesus' love for me: may I never allow my false pride to set limits to my willingness to accept his love and forgiveness.

10. Jesus is stripped of his garments.

If we are to journey with Jesus as he is stripped of his garments, we shall find ourselves progressively stripped of all the things we have relied upon to cloak our frailty and to give us the illusion of security.

11. Jesus is nailed to the Cross.

If we are to journey with Jesus as he is nailed to the Cross, we shall learn the glorious liberty of the children of God precisely as we risk and entrust ourselves into the embrace of Him who bears the marks of the nails. St. Catherine of Siena said: "Nails could not have held God-made-Man fastened to a tree, had not love held him there." The arms of Jesus nailed to the Cross reached out freely to invite us into true freedom.

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12. Jesus dies on the Cross.

If we are to journey with Jesus as he dies on the Cross, it will be a lifelong journey in which each step of the way leads to a profounder step of faith, until we experience our own death as our response to His invitation to entrust back to Him not less than everything.

13. Jesus is placed in the arms of his mother. If we are to journey with Jesus as he is placed in the arms of his mother, we shall experience the depths of the true exchange of love, not only in ministering to others out of our strength, but also in accepting the ministry of others in our weakness and helplessness.

14. Jesus is laid in the tomb. If we are to journey with Jesus as he is laid in the tomb, we shall experience the Resurrection Life as a reality. Without a real death there can be no real resurrection; but through a daily dying to self we grow daily in the discovery of what it is to live in Christ, our Risen and Crucified Lord. From the foot of the Cross, and before a stone rolled away from an empty tomb, we behold a single Glory.

FRANCISTIDE

THE TRANSITUS

(said on the evening of October 3)

V: Francis, poor and lowly enters heaven rich

R: While saints and angels sing their songs of praise.

Psalm 142 is then recited.

V: With arms outstretched, let us say the prayer of our Lord.

(The Lord's Prayer is said silently)

Let us pray. O God, you made your Church rich through the poverty of blessed Francis. Help us, who remember his death, not to trust in earthly things but to seek your heavenly gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(then the solemn blessing is given, and the bell is tolled forty-four times)

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To the prayers of the saints I commend you.

May the most pure Virgin, Mother of God, Patron of all Franciscans, pray for you.

May Saint Francis, our father, who bore the marks of the Lord Jesus, pray for you.

May Saint Anthony, illustrious preacher, pray for you.

May Saint Bonaventure, seraphic doctor, pray for you.

May Saint Clare, firstborn of the Second Order, pray for you.

May Saint Louis, Saint Elizabeth, and the illustrious saints of the Third Order, pray for you.

May all the saints of God, pray for you.

May the holy angels befriend you and watch you to protect you.

And I will pronounce upon you the blessing, which our holy father, Francis, gave to Brother Leo, his companion:

The Lord + bless you and keep you;

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace.

May the Lord give you his holy benediction.

Amen.

AN ALTERNATIVE VERSION OF THE TRANSITUS

Introduction

Leader: Each year on the third evening of October, we ritually remember the passing of St. Francis of Assisi from this life into God. To ritually revisit the story of Francis' passing is vital; without it something significant is missing. It specifies the living memory of Francis; it intensifies our commitment to follow Christ in the way of the poor man of Assisi.

Before beginning the ritual, let us meditate upon the following readings and scripture, describing the last days and hours of our Father Francis:

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First Reader: A reading from Thomas of Celano and St. Bonaventure

St. Francis spent the last days before his death in praising the Lord and teaching his companions, whom he loved so much, to praise Christ with him. He himself, in as far as he was able, broke out with the Psalm: I cry to the Lord with my voice; to the Lord I make loud supplication. He likewise invited all creatures to praise God and, with the words he had composed earlier, he exhorted them to love God. Even death itself, considered by all to be so terrible and hateful, was exhorted to give praise, while he himself, going joyfully to meet it, invited it to make its abode with him. “Welcome,” he said, “my sister death.”

When the hour of his death approached, Francis asked that all of the brothers living with him be called to his death bed and, softening his departure with consoling words, he encouraged them with fatherly affection to love God. He spoke of patience and poverty and of being faithful to the Church, giving precedence to the Holy Gospels before all else. He then stretched his hands over the brothers in the form of a cross, a symbol that he loved so much, and gave his blessings to all followers, both present and absent, in the power and in the name of the Crucified. Then he added: “Remain, my sons, in the fear of the Lord and be with him always. And as temptations and trials beset you, blessed are those who persevere to the end in the life they have chosen. I am on my way to God and I commend you all to His favor.” With this sweet admonition, this dearly beloved to God, asked that the book of the Gospels be brought to him and that the passage in the Gospel of St. John, which begins before the Feast of the Passover be read. Finally, when all God’s mysteries had been accomplished in him, his holy soul was freed from his body and assumed into the abyss of God’s glory, and Francis fell asleep in God.

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Second Reader: A reading from John 13:1-17

Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. And during supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper, laid aside his garments, and girded himself with a towel. Then he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel, with which he was girded. He came to Simon Peter; and Peter said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not know now, but afterward you will understand." Peter said to him, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part in me" Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but he is clean all over; and you are clean, but not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "You are not all clean."

When he had washed their feet, and taken his garments, and resumed his place, he said to them, do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, our Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."

O santissima anima

All: O most holy soul, at your departure the heavenly host comes to meet you, the angelic choir rejoices, and the glorious Trinity welcomes you, saying: remain with us forever.

Third Reader: Psalm 142

- 1 I cry to the Lord with my voice;*
to the Lord I make loud supplication.
- 2 I pour out my complaint before him*
and tell him all my trouble.
- 3 When my spirit languishes within me, you know my path;*
in the way wherein I walk they have hidden a trap for me.
- 4 I look to my right hand and find no one who knows me;*
I have no place to flee to, and no one cares for me.
- 5 I cry out to you, O Lord;*
I say, "You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the living."
- 6 Listen to my cry for help, for I have been brought very
low;*
save me from those who pursue me,
for they are too strong for me.
- 7 Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your
Name;*
when you have dealt bountifully with me,
the righteous will gather around me.

O santissima anima

All: O most holy soul, at your departure the heavenly host comes to meet you, the angelic choir rejoices and the glorious Trinity welcomes you, saying: remain with us forever.

The Lord's Prayer, Ave Maria and Gloria Patri

Leader: Let us all kneel and repeat the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be five times, in honor of the five wounds of St. Francis.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name: Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread: and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation: but deliver us from evil. Amen.

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Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Leader: Francis, poor and humble, enters heaven as a rich man.

All: He is honored with the hymns of the blessed.

Leader: O God, on this day you granted the reward of blessed eternity to our blessed Father Francis; mercifully grant that we who celebrate with tender devotion the memory of his death may have the joy of sharing in his blessed regard. Through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Let There be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our Creator children all are we,
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now;
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace
eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

PRAYERS THAT EXPRESS FRANCISCAN CONCERNS

FOR FAITH, HOPE, AND CHARITY

Most high and glorious God, lighten the darkness of my heart and give me sound faith, firm hope, and perfect love. Let me have the right feelings and knowledge, so that I can carry out the task you have given me in truth. Amen.

FOR THE VISION OF CHRIST'S BEING AND BEAUTY

Bless us, O Lord, with the vision of your Being and Beauty: that, in the light of your Love and the power of your Passion, we may walk in the way of Eternal Life. Amen.

FOR A GREATER SENSE OF BEAUTY

Open my eyes and my ears, O Lord my God, that I may see and hear more clearly the loveliness you have put into the world, and give me grace, I pray, to show in my turn some of your gifts in my life, to your glory. Amen.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE THE CARE OF ANIMALS

To those who have animals in their care, O Lord, give patience and gentleness; and help us all to remember that you have created these, our little brothers and sisters, and to treat them accordingly. Amen.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NONE TO PRAY FOR THEM

Accept my prayers, dear Father, for those who have no one to love them enough to pray for them. Wherever and whoever they are, give them a share of my blessings, and in your love let them know that they are not forgotten. Amen.

FOR MAKING A BETTER USE OF TIME

O my God, all my life is yours; help me so to plan and arrange the hours of this day that I may serve you in them all, for they are yours. Amen.

FOR THE HOMELESS AND THE HUNGRY

Lord Jesus, I ask you to help all those who have nowhere to go; no bed, no comfort, and no food. Stir us all to do for them what we profess to be willing to do for you, and give them speedy relief. Amen.

FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

O God, I pray for all who have no regular work. Give them grace to hope again, and put into the hearts of employers the will and the ability to provide honest and decent work, that the bitterness of idleness may be taken away forever. Amen.

MEDITATION AND MEDITATING



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A SIMPLE WAY TO BE WITH GOD

(A form of Centering Prayer)

Sit comfortably in a quiet place.

Let your body relax.

Let everything in your mind go.

Read, breathe deeply, or do anything else that helps you to center.

Call on God with your favorite name for God, your prayer word.

Just be with God in silence and love. Don't think or imagine or expect anything. Desire only God, however God will be to you.

Let thoughts or distractions go, without effort. Think of your prayer word and return to God.

When you are finished, say aloud a favorite prayer of yours.

Move peacefully from contemplation to activity, in God.

Be aware of God throughout your day as you are able.

Contemplate faithfully every day..

Let God love you as you are.

Let God make of you what God wills.

THE DOMINICAN ROSARY

The rosary is a form of meditative prayer, usually said while keeping track of prayers in prescribed order on a chain of beads. The Our Father and the Hail Mary are used as mantras in this form of meditation. The object is to concentrate wholly on a mystery in the life of our Lord Jesus while the lips are occupied with familiar forms of prayer and the hands are occupied with the beads.

The Our Father should always be used at the times prescribed, but the "Jesus Prayer" or "My God and My All" may be substituted for the Hail Mary.

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Order of Prayers

Apostles' Creed (while holding the Cross)

Glory Be (on first large bead)

Hail Mary (on each of the three small beads – contemplating Faith, Hope, and Charity on each of these beads)

*Glory Be and Our Father (on second large bead)

**Hail Mary (on each of the next ten small beads – contemplating the first mystery)

Repeat the * and ** sequence for the next four groups of ten beads plus large separating beads.

Traditional Order of Contemplative Mysteries:

Joyful Mysteries

Annunciation
Visitation
Nativity
Presentation
Finding in the Temple

Sorrowful Mysteries

Agony in the Garden
Scourging
Crowning with Thorns
Carrying the Cross to Calvary
Crucifixion

Glorious Mysteries

Resurrection
Ascension
Pentecost
Assumption of Mary
Crowning of Mary in Heaven

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Mysteries of Light

- The Baptism in the Jordan
- The Wedding at Cana
- The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God
- The Transfiguration
- Institution of the Eucharist

(Since there are not enough mysteries for a full week, feel free to invent your own mysteries that bring you closer to the life of Our Lord. For example The Mysteries of Christ's Life Leading to His Ministry: Learning from his Father Joseph, Learning from his Mother Mary, Learning from his Childhood Friends, Being Baptized by John in the Jordan, Experiencing the three temptations in the Desert.)

THE CHILDREN'S CHAPLET

(For the simple of all ages)

The following prayers may also be substituted for the Hail Marys in the Dominican Rosary

Joyful Mysteries:

1. By the Annunciation, dear Jesus, grant us humility.
2. By the Visitation, dear Jesus, grant us love.
3. By the Nativity, dear Jesus, grant us poverty.
4. By the Presentation, dear Jesus, grant us obedience.
5. By the Finding in the Temple, dear Jesus, grant us devotion.

Sorrowful Mysteries

1. By the Agony in the garden, dear Jesus, grant us the gift of prayer.
2. By the Scourging at the pillar, dear Jesus, grant us mortification.
3. By the Crowning with thorns, dear Jesus, grant us fortitude
4. By the Carrying of the Cross, dear Jesus, grant us patience.
5. By the Crucifixion, dear Jesus, grant us faith.

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Glorious Mysteries:

1. By the Resurrection, dear Jesus, grant us faith.
2. By the Ascension, dear Jesus, grant us hope.
3. By the Descent of the Holy Spirit, dear Jesus, grant us love.
4. By the Assumption, dear Jesus, grant us a good death.
5. By the Crown of Everlasting Life, dear Jesus, grant us eternal rewards.

THE FRANCISCAN CROWN OF OUR LADY'S JOYS

According to legend, a young man who, before entering the First Order, had delighted in decorating shrines with flowers, was grieved that his new life of obedience did not permit this practice. He therefore invented the Franciscan Rosary as a better form of devotion than an offering of flowers. There are seven decades in this rosary, the mysteries being the seven joys of our Lady:

- The Annunciation
- The Visitation
- The Nativity
- The Adoration of the Magi
- The Finding in the Temple
- The Resurrection
- The Crowning of our Lady in heaven

After the seventh decade, two Hail Marys are added to make seventy-two in all, the number of our Lady's years on earth, according to tradition. Then are added an Our Father and a Hail Mary for the intentions of all Bishops and those in authority over us.

THE INCARNATION

In the beginning, the word of creation, ordering, summoning beauty from chaos; The word of the prophets proclaiming through history

'Prepare! O prepare! and listen! listen!'

Alleluia! The Word made flesh!

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The Light has come from the blackness of the womb, The
Light of the world now shines in the straw,
The Light of salvation has pierced the gloom,
The Light of life has overcome darkness

Alleluia! The Light is born.

From the fullness of Godhead, the communion of love,
From kingly glory, from the riches of heaven,
From infinity to time, the Lord of eternity clothes himself in
the garb of humanity

Alleluia! Emmanuel! God with us.

PRAYER

In the dusk of morning, Lord, before Your dazzling daystar
dons his vestments of blue, I send my simple love to You.

May it rise to you like the graceful smoke of incense that
mounts steadily, unwaveringly to disappear finally into
unknown realms where saints adore You.

Perhaps it is more like the skylark singing as it soars, singing
sweetly its joyful praises of You. But be it like vapor of
incense or song of bird You know, oh God, my heart.

Thanks for my life; for life but commences a pathway to Your
kingdom. To suffer pain and heartaches is surely better than to
feel nothing at all.

Thanks for my friends, my family; they're more than life
alone.

Thanks for this earth, resplendent with beauty. May I nurture
it.

Thanks for my dreams: and give me courage to make them
real.

Thanks for my eagerness and let it not die out.

And thanks, oh God, for You. You are the One who restores
sight, speech and hearing that all might become aware of Your
presence.

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You, oh blessed God, have made me feel, and I, humbled by this agitation of awe within, I kneel to spread the contents of my soul upon the hallowed earth at Your feet.

Bless me, Father, that I may grow into that Christian that is worthy of your sight.

Amen.

(Barbara Mandigo Kelly, TSSF)

ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE TERTIARY'S VOCATION

(Something to consider when making your annual report – from the European Province)

You are invited to use the following form around the time suggested for the Renewal of Pledge, i.e., normally at St. Francistide, to help you review your response to God's call within the Third Order. There is no obligation to use this form or, having used it, to show it to anyone. However, you may find it helpful to share it in confidence with your spiritual director, novice counselor, or another tertiary.

Personal Growth and Development

Do I recognize any changes in my personal situation? If so, are these for growth or for its hindrance?

Are there new areas into which I believe I am being called?

Have I shared this with anyone?

Spirituality – Awareness of God.

Can I perceive any deepening in my life?

Am I stuck?

Am I receiving help and guidance?

Have I shared this with anyone?

Community Life

Am I content with the quality of my life in my home?

- With my family
- At work?
- In leisure?
- In my local church?
- In the Third Order

Do I feel involved?

Are there difficult areas for me, e.g., relationships, authority, environment, etc.?

Have I shared this with anyone?

Mission and Ministry

Do I feel fulfilled in my work/task/job?

Do I see it as having a part to play in the work of the Kingdom of God?

Am I being called into new areas of work/ministry?

Do I need further training?

Have I shared this with anyone?

Are there specific steps I need to take as a result of this review?

INSTRUMENTS OF PEACE

St. Francis used the greeting "God give you Peace." Does God give me peace in my heart? Is there some part of my life that most needs reconciliation and forgiveness by being acknowledged in my prayer? If so, what first step can I take today?

Is there a personal relationship in my life that stands unreconciled? Does it wait for my willingness (a) to be forgiven by God, (b) to forgive myself, (c) to be forgiven by someone else, (d) to forgive someone else, (e) to be willing to be the first one to take the first step. If so, what first step can I take today?

Is there a relationship or situation close to me that is unreconciled for lack of a peacemaker? Does it wait for me to take the risk of getting caught in the middle? And if so, what first step can I take today?

Are there any people of peace whose courageous stand on a vital issue I admire? Am I praying for them? Have I let them know they have my support? By a letter? A phone call? A gift? And if not, what first step can I take today?

Are there any who claim to be people of peace with whose stand on vital issues I strongly disagree? Am I praying for them? Have I let them know, in truth and love, my own concern in the issue? And if not, what first step can I take today?

Devotional Companion 2015

Are there whole categories of people by nation, color, class, political stance, etc., toward whom I feel fear (out of ignorance), anger, resentment, or indignation? And if not, what first step toward understanding can I take today?

Is there someone representing me, my locality, or my country in the political process? Am I praying for him or her? How can I express my concerns? How can I become involved? What first step can I take today?

AWARENESS EXAMEN

(received from Br. Chad, S.S.F., 1946-1990)

A. Thanksgiving: I come before God as one who has been gifted by God. I owe him everything. I begin my examen by bringing gratitude to my consciousness. I want to know that ALL is gift:

- What has happened today that I should be thankful for?
- Do I take his gifts for granted?
- Is my whole life becoming a "thank-you" response to God?
- What do I find most difficult to be thankful for?

B. Prayer for the light of the Holy Spirit: Seeing clearly in spiritual matters is not simply a matter of using reason and common sense. Only God knows me fully and knows what I can become: he alone can give me "insight." I need to ask the Holy Spirit to give me a growing insight into the mystery of who I truly am.

- Am I becoming more and more Spirit directed?
- Am I open to all the channels by which the Holy Spirit speaks to me?
- Did I allow the Spirit to direct me in the immediate past events? (this morning? today?)
- Do I experience God's gifts anew: peace, love, kindness, gentleness, patience, joy, fidelity, self-control?
- Am I in touch with my feelings, desires, impulses, inspirations?

This is not a question of counting up our failures and victories. Our concern here is faith and what has happened to us and in us.

Devotional Companion 2015

- Did I feel drawn to the Lord today through: a companion, an event, a book, nature, etc.?
- What have I learned about him and his ways in both the ordinary occasions and in the stray moments?
- How did I meet him in fears, joys, work, misunderstandings, suffering?
- How did his word (work) come alive to me today in my prayer, Scripture, other readings, liturgy?
- How has the Lord moved me today: from excessive self-confidence to greater trust in him; from a lack of self-confidence to a greater acceptance of myself as he accepts me; from feelings of remorse and guilt to real repentance and turning toward him; from my plans, my programs, my ways, to his ways, his desires, etc.; from inordinate tendencies to an ordering and peace?
- In what ways have I been a sign of God's presence and love: to my brothers and sisters; to my friends; to my family; to the poor; to others?
- Have I felt moved to go out of myself in concern for the lonely, the discouraged, the sad, the needy, the stranger?
- Have I been faithful in my prayer, my waiting upon the Lord, his influence?
- How am I becoming more conscious of God's work in the larger Church, in my country, in other countries (especially in the Third World)? How am I affected?

Only secondarily are we concerned about actions insofar as they are responses to his calling. And, only God can reveal my sinfulness to me and he does so only out of love.

C. Contrition and Sorrow: A growing awareness of sinfulness, my lack of response to love should arouse in me: sorrow and wonder at being constantly brought back to newness; a sense of deep joy and gratitude because I have been guaranteed the victory through Jesus; a growing mistrust of self and a firm trust in God; a humble awareness of my weakness; a strong faith that I am gradually being converted from a sinner to a son/daughter of God.

Here I can express sorrow over specific actions that were inadequate responses to his love at work in my heart.

Devotional Companion 2015

D. Hopeful resolutions for the future: What I do here flows from the previous points and therefore will differ each day. How do I look toward the future: despondent, fearful, discouraged? If so, why?

There should be a great desire to face the future with renewed vision and sensitivity as I pray, to recognize the ways in which the Lord calls me each day and in each situation, and to respond to his call with more faith, humility, courage, especially as I hear him calling for painful conversions in some area of my heart. However, I should be filled with hope, knowing that he never calls for conversion unless he gives the grace to be "converted."

THE ORDER OF ADMISSIONS



I

Incorporates

THE RULE OF THE THIRD ORDER OF THE SOCIETY OF SAINT FRANCIS

iii) The Form of Profession and Renewal

As enacted by the Interprovincial Third Order
Chapter in the Constitutional Revision of 1993,
and subsequently ratified by the
Five Provincial Chapters

1997

This Order for Admissions shall be carried out after the Gospel at a celebration of Holy Eucharist. When this is not possible, it may be used alone. The Officiant is a lay person or cleric who has received a mandate(s) to perform the admission(s) from the Provincial Chaplain (for profession) or Assistant Formation Director (for novicing).

I. THE INVITATION

All those to be admitted stand before the Officiant.

OFFICIANT: My brothers and sisters, what do you desire?

Each to be ADMITTED TO PROFESSION replies:

I, (*Name*), desire to serve our Lord Jesus Christ by Profession in the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis, for the rest of my life, in company with my brothers and sisters.

Each of those RENEWING PROFESSION replies:

I, (*Name*), desire to renew my promise to serve our Lord Jesus Christ for the rest of my life in company with my brothers and sisters of the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis.

Each to be ADMITTED TO THE NOVITIATE replies:

I, (*Name*), desire to serve our Lord Jesus Christ as a Novice in the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis, in company with my brothers and sisters.

Each RENEWING THE NOVICE PLEDGE replies:

I, (*Name*), desire to renew my pledge to our Lord Jesus Christ as a Novice in the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis, in company with my brothers and sisters.

II. THE QUESTION

OFFICIANT: Do you accept *The Principles* as the vision of the Community for the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis?

The candidates reply:

We do.

III. THE EXHORTATION

The Officiant delivers either “A” or “B”

A.

My brothers and sisters, you must always seek to be conformed to the image of our Lord Jesus Christ in the life you would embrace. Continue to serve him by prayer, study and active work for his Dominion. Be ready to endure hardness, calling to mind how our Savior has said that if we would serve him, then we must also follow him; that if we would come after him, we must deny self, take up our cross every day and follow him.

As you embrace this life of living sacrifice, call to mind the example of Saint Francis, the Poverello of Assisi. Let your life in his spirit of holy poverty make our Lord known and loved everywhere, and promote the spirit of love and unity within the family of God. And so observe your personal rule of life that you, like him, manifest humility, love, and joy in the Lord.

The Gospel life in the spirit of Saint Francis cannot be pursued but by the grace of him who said: “My yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Let us therefore pray to the Lord that you may have grace to persevere in your chosen way.

B.

My sisters and brothers, as baptized Christians you have given your lives to the Lord Jesus Christ, and are members of his Body. You must always seek to be conformed to his image in the life you would embrace. You seek Christ’s image in a community of Christians who live after the example of Saint Francis, the Poor Man of Assisi. Let your life in the spirit of Francis’ holy poverty make our Blessed Lord known and loved everywhere, and promote the spirit of love and unity within the family of God. Continue to serve the Lord by prayer, study, and active work for his Dominion. And so observe your personal rule of life that you, like Francis, might be free to manifest humility, love and joy in the Lord.

My brothers and sisters, in the life you seek, be ready to endure hardness. Calling to mind how our Savior has said to us that if we would serve him, then we must follow him; that if we would come after him, we must deny self and take up our cross every day and follow him. Let us, therefore, pray to the Lord that you may have the grace to persevere in your chosen way.

IV. THE LITANY

LITANIST: God the Father,

PEOPLE: Have mercy on us.

LITANIST: God the Son,

PEOPLE: Have mercy on us.

LITANIST: God the Holy Spirit,

PEOPLE: Have mercy on us.

LITANIST: Holy Trinity, One God,

PEOPLE: Have mercy on us.

LITANIST: We humbly pray that you will hear us, O Lord, and that you will send peace to the whole world which you have reconciled to yourself by the ministry of your Son, Jesus.

PEOPLE: Lord, hear our prayer.

LITANIST: That you will guide all in civil authority to establish justice and maintain it for all people.

PEOPLE: Lord, hear our prayer.

LITANIST: That you will heal the divisions of your visible Church, that all may be one.

PEOPLE: Lord, hear our prayer.

LITANIST: That you will grant to our people forgiveness of sins, and give us grace to amend our lives.

PEOPLE: Lord, hear our prayer.

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LITANIST: That you will lead all members of your Church in their vocations and ministries to serve you in a true and Godly life.

PEOPLE: Lord, hear our prayer.

LITANIST: That you will raise up able ministers for your Church that the Gospel may be known to all people.

PEOPLE: Lord, hear our prayer.

LITANIST: That you will inspire all bishops, priests, and deacons with your love, that they may hunger for truth and thirst after righteousness; that you will fill them with compassion and move them to care for your people.

PEOPLE: Lord, hear our prayer.

LITANIST: That you will bless our brothers and sisters who seek to serve you in the Third Order, Society of Saint Francis, and will give them grace to persevere.

PEOPLE: Lord, hear our prayer.

LITANIST: That you will bless their families (*or households or communities*) and adorn them with all Christian virtue.

PEOPLE: Lord, hear our prayer.

LITANIST: That by the indwelling of your Holy Spirit you will sustain those you have called to the life of the Gospels in the way of Saint Francis, and encourage them to persevere to the end.

PEOPLE: Lord, hear our prayer.

LITANIST: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Intercessions may be offered here.

LITANIST: Lord, in your mercy,

PEOPLE: Lord, hear our prayer.

Devotional Companion 2015

LITANIST: That we, with the Blessed Virgin, Saints Francis and Clare, Saints Louis and Elizabeth, our patrons, Saint _____, and all the saints who have served you in the past, may be gathered into your unending Dominion.

PEOPLE: Lord, hear our prayer.

OFFICIANT: Lord, have mercy.

PEOPLE: Christ, have mercy.

OFFICIANT: Lord, have mercy.

OFFICIANT: Let us pray.

Lord God, you are always pleased to show yourself to those who are childlike and humble of heart; help us to follow the example of blessed Father Francis, to look upon the wisdom of this world as foolishness, and to set our minds only on Jesus Christ, and him crucified, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all praise forever. AMEN.

V. UBI CARITAS

**The hymn is sung by all
in preparation for the Pledges
and Renewals**



We have been gathered together by the love of | Christ.
Let us rejoice now and be glad in | Christ our Lord.
Let us fear and let us all love the living | God.
And let us love one another with | sincere hearts.

Refrain: Where charity and love prevail
There our God is found.

Devotional Companion 2015

Therefore, when we are assembled, let us be as | one.
Not to be divided in mind, let | us take care.
Let there be an end to quarrels, an end to | strife.
And may he appear in our midst, our | Christ and God.
Refrain.

And together with the blessed may we be | hold
The glory of your countenance, O | Christ our God,
Which shall be for us our chief joy, pure un | bounded,
Forever and forevermore, world | without end.
Refrain.

Or HYMNS 606, 576,577, or 581 to the tune of Saint Columba (645), or any other musical setting of Ubi Caritas.

VI. THE PLEDGE

ADMISSION TO PROFESSION

OFFICIANT: Let him/her/those who seek(s) admission to Profession come forward and make a vow and pledge.

Each candidate to be ADMITTED TO PROFESSION says:

I, (*Name*), give myself to our Lord Jesus Christ, to serve him for the rest of my life in company with my brothers and sisters in the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis, according to the Principles of the Order, seeking to spread the knowledge and love of Christ, to promote the spirit of love and harmony as the family of God, and to live joyfully a life of simplicity and humble service after the example of Saint Francis.

Officiant presents the Third Order Cross to the Candidate.

OFFICIANT: Take this cross in token that you, (*Name*), are crucified with Christ yet live by faith in the Son of God who loved you and gave himself for the life of the world. Wear it as a sign that you are a professed member of the Third Order.

Devotional Companion 2015

CANDIDATE: I, *(Name)*, undertake by God's grace to keep for one year my personal rule of life which I now place on the altar.

OFFICIANT: May the Lord accept your offering and give you grace to persevere with joy.

RENEWAL OF PROFESSION

OFFICIANT: Let those who are Professed come forward and renew their vow and pledge.

PROFESSED: I, *(Name)*, renew my pledge to serve our Lord Jesus Christ in the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis, according to the Principles of the Order, for the rest of my life; seeking to spread the knowledge and love of Christ, to promote the spirit of love and harmony as the family of God, and to live joyfully a life of simplicity and humble service after the example of Saint Francis. I undertake by God's grace to keep for one year my personal rule of life which I now place on the altar.

OFFICIANT: May the Lord accept your offering and give you grace to persevere with joy.

ADMISSION OF NOVICES

OFFICIANT: Let those to be admitted as Novices come forward.

CANDIDATE: I, *(Name)*, wish to serve our Lord Jesus Christ as a Novice in the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis, and I undertake to keep for one year my personal rule of life which I now present upon the altar.

OFFICIANT: *(Name)*, I admit you as a Novice in the Third Order, Society of Saint Francis. May the Lord give you grace to persevere with joy.

RENEWAL OF NOVICES

OFFICIANT: Let those who are to renew their pledge as Novices come forward.

NOVICE: I, (*Name*), renew my pledge to serve our Lord Jesus Christ as a Novice in the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis, and I undertake by God's grace to keep my personal rule of life which I now present upon the altar.

OFFICIANT: May the Lord accept your offering and give you grace to persevere with joy.

VI. THE BLESSING

When all admissions and renewals have been completed, the Officiant says;

To the prayers of the Saints I commend you.

May our Blessed Lady pray for you.

May Saint Francis, who bore the marks of the Crucified
pray for you.

May Saint Clare pray for you.

May Saints Louis and Elizabeth, illustrious saints of the
Third Order, pray for you.

And I shall pronounce upon you the blessing, which blessed Francis gave to Brother Leo, his companion:

The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord show his face to you and have mercy upon you;

The Lord turn his countenance toward you and give you
peace;

My brothers and sisters, the Lord bless you.

VII. THE PEACE

The Officiant (or at a Eucharist, the Celebrant) proclaims the Peace.

All those present may then exchange the Peace.

If there is to be a Eucharist, the service continues with the Offertory.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST



**With the Eucharistic Prayer of Saints Francis
and Clare**

For use at gathering of
The Third Order, Province of the Americas,
Society of Saint Francis
2000

and

**An Informal Service of Holy Eucharist
for Franciscan Gatherings**
approved Chapter 2014

Eucharistic Prayer of Saints Francis and Clare

The Word of God

A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.

The people standing, the Celebrant and People say an acclamation.

Celebrant: Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.**

or

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

During Advent

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living one.

People: **You come to your people and set them free.**

During Lent

Celebrant: Blessed be the God of our salvation.

People: **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

During Easter

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ is risen.

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The Celebrant may say

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

When appointed, the following hymn or some other song of praise is sung or said, all standing

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant continues with one of the following salutations

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

or

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

or

Celebrant: The Lord is here.

People: **God's Spirit is with us.**

After the salutation the celebrant continues with the Collect, first saying

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Lessons

One or more readings from the Old Testament, New Testament or Psalms.

After the readings, the Reader may say one of the following:

Reader: The Word of the Lord

or

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

or

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God**

The Gospel (read by the Deacon if available, otherwise by the Celebrant)

The Sermon or other time of reflection may follow

Devotional Companion 2015

On the occasion of admissions or renewals, the Order of Admissions (pg. 95) follows here. When there are no admissions or renewals this Litany follows.

Litanist: God the Father,
People: **Have mercy on us.**

Litanist: God the Son,
People: **Have mercy on us.**

Litanist: God the Holy Spirit,
People: **Have mercy on us.**

Litanist: Holy Trinity, One God.
People: **Have mercy on us.**

Litanist: We humbly pray that you will hear us, O Lord, and that you will send peace to the whole world which you have reconciled to yourself by the ministry of your Son, Jesus.

Litanist: That you will guide all in civil authority to establish justice and maintain it for all people.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist: That you will heal the divisions of your visible Church, that all may be one.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist: That you will grant to your people forgiveness of our sins, and give us grace to amend our lives.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist: That you will lead all members of your Church in their vocations and ministries to serve you in a true and Godly life.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist: That you will raise up able ministers for your Church, that the Gospel may be known to all people.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist: That you will inspire all bishops, priests, and deacons with your love, that they may hunger for truth and thirst after righteousness; that you will fill them with compassion and move them to care for your people.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Devotional Companion 2015

Litanist: That you will bless our brothers and sisters who seek to serve you in the Third Order, Society of Saint Francis, and will give them grace to persevere.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist: That you will bless their families (*or households or communities*) and adorn them with all Christian virtue.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist: That by the indwelling of your Holy Spirit you will sustain those you have called to the life of the Gospels in the way of Saint Francis, and encourage them to persevere to the end.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litanist: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
(*Intercessions may be offered here*)

Litanist: Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer**

Litanist: That we, with the blessed Virgin, Saints Francis and Clare, Saints Louis and Elizabeth, our patrons, (Saint _____) and all the saints who have served you in the past, may be gathered into your unending Dominion.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Officiant: Lord have mercy.

People: **Christ have mercy.**

Officiant: Lord have mercy.

Officiant: Let us pray.

Lord God, you are always pleased to show yourself to those who are childlike and humble of heart; help us to follow the example of blessed Father Francis, to look upon the wisdom of this world as foolishness, and to set our minds only on Jesus Christ, and him crucified, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all praise forever.

People: **Amen.**

The Confession

Deacon or other Leader:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept

Devotional Companion 2015

Leader and people:

Most loving and merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you and your creation.

We confess our false claim to wealth and power and wisdom.

We confess our shame of the Gospel

and of our dependence upon you.

Help us to know ourselves as neither more nor less than we are in your sight.

Enlighten the darkness of our hearts,

and give us, O Lord,

true faith, certain hope, and perfect charity. Amen.

The Bishop when present, or the Celebrant, stands and says

The God of infinite love have mercy on you,

by the humble passion of our Lord Jesus Christ

forgive you all your sins,

and by the power of the Holy Spirit

lead you into all grace and truth. **Amen.**

The Peace

All Stand

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

or

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

All may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Communion

The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with the exhortation of St.

Francis in the "Letter to the Whole Order" or some other offertory sentence.

Prepare to look upon the humility of God. Pour out your hearts before the Lord of the Universe. Humble yourselves that God might exalt you. Hold back nothing of yourselves for yourselves, that the Lord may receive your all who gave his all to you.

Representatives of the congregation bring the peoples' offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

The Eucharistic Prayer of Saints Francis and Clare

The people remain standing. The Sursum Corda begins with either Salutation.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

or

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

or

Celebrant: The Lord is here

People: **God's Spirit is with us**

After the Salutation, the Sursum Corda continues

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant proceeds

All Powerful, Most High, Supreme Good Lord, we praise and thank you for bringing light to the darkness of our lives. By your Word at creation you brought forth our brother sun and sister moon, and your loving gaze looked upon all that you had made to find it very good. But by sin the world was blinded; by sin we lost our way. Then through your Son you revealed the light of your love. As one of us, you walked among us. Unite us this day to your Son, that we may shine with your glory to the world; by your light help us see and become the light.

Rejoicing in the splendor of your radiance, countless throngs of angels and archangels give you unceasing praise. Joining with them and giving voice to every creature under heaven, (we break forth in song to sing your joyous praise:)
(*or if the Sanctus is said: we praise your name saying:*)

Celebrant and People

**Holy, Holy, Holy, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant proceeds

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You are worthy, O God, to be worshipped and praised by all that you have made. For you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son, so that all might find new life in him. By your Holy Spirit, you anointed Jesus to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim freedom for prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, and to release those who are oppressed. Healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and feasting with sinners your Son proclaimed the Kingdom of God was at hand. Living among us Jesus revealed your glory, full of grace and truth. Yet the world rejected him, opposing his mission and witness.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

In all humility, Christ then accepted betrayal and death upon a cross for our redemption. Therefore, O Lord, you raised him from the dead and gave to Jesus the name above all other names, so that all might be humbled to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord of all.

Almighty God, as we celebrate this memorial of our redemption, we praise you for your love and mercy revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Remembering his death, rejoicing in his resurrection, we offer all we have and all we are to you.

As we await the return of Christ in glory, let your Holy Spirit come upon this bread and wine and upon us, that we may be filled with your power and grace through the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

Devotional Companion 2015

People and Celebrant

**Unite us to your Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
who brings us out of darkness
into the wonderful light.**

The Celebrant continues

All this we ask through our Savior Jesus Christ, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

AMEN.

And now, as our Savior	As our Savior Christ
Christ has taught us	has taught us
we are bold to say,	we now pray,

All:

Our Father, who art in heaven	Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,	hallowed be your Name,
thy kingdom come,	your kingdom come,
thy will be done,	your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.	on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread	Give us today our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses,	Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who	as we forgive those who sin
trespass against us.	against us.
And lead us not into temptation,	Save us from the time of trial,
but deliver us from evil.	and deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom	For the kingdom, the power
and the power, and the glory	and the glory are yours,
for ever and ever. Amen.	now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung or said a fraction anthem such as one of the following:

Celebrant: [Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]**

or

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People: **We who are many are one body
for we all share in the one bread.**

Devotional Companion 2015

The Celebrant says the following or some other Invitation

Arise shine for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

After Communion the Post Communion Prayer is said.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Most High and Supreme Eternal God,
through the mystery of your presence you give us joy.**

We thank you

**for giving us a taste of your heavenly kingdom,
in the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**And now, O Lord, make us instruments of your peace;
as we make our way in the world,
help us sow your pardon, love and renewal.**

**Empower us by your Holy Spirit
to love mercy, to do justice,
and to walk humbly with our God,
following the examples of Francis,**

Clare,

Louis,

and Elizabeth,

**who with all your saints magnify your holy Name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

A Hymn may be sung

The Celebrant may bless the people; the Deacon dismisses them.

The people respond: Thanks be to God.

**An Informal Service of Holy Eucharist
for Franciscan Gatherings**

Gather in the Lord's Name

*(The people are invited to a few moments of prayerful silence
as they prepare to receive Christ in the Eucharist)*

A Song may be sung

Opening - Collect of the Day and/or the following

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, when the world was growing cold you raised up blessed Francis, who bore in his body the marks of your suffering, to warm our hearts with the fire of your love. Help us always to turn to you with true hearts, and to bear the Cross for love of you; who lives and reigns with the Creator and Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Song of Praise “Canticle of the Creatures”

(To be read responsively or antiphonally.)

*Another Song of Praise such as the Gloria in Excelsis,
Pascha Nostrum or Te Deum or a Hymn or Song may be used)*

Most High, all powerful, good Lord,
to you be praise, glory, honor and all blessing.

*Only to you, Most High, do they belong
and no one is worthy to call upon your name.*

May you be praised, my Lord, with all your creatures,
especially brother sun,
through whom you lighten the day for us.

*He is beautiful and radiant with great splendor;
he signifies you, O Most High.*

Devotional Companion 2015

Be praised, my Lord, for sister moon and the stars:
clear and precious and lovely, they are formed in
heaven.

*Be praised, my Lord, for brother wind
and by air and clouds, clear skies and all weathers,
by which you give sustenance to your creatures.*

Be praised, my Lord, for sister water,
who is very useful and humble and precious and pure.

*Be praised, my Lord, for brother fire,
by whom the night is illumined for us:
he is beautiful and cheerful, full of power and strength.*

Be praised, my Lord, for sister, our mother earth,
who sustains and governs us
and produces diverse fruits
and colored flowers and grass.

*Be praised, my Lord
by all those who forgive for love of you
and who bear weakness and tribulation.*

Blessed are those who bear them in peace:
for you, Most High, they will be crowned.

*Be praised, my Lord, for our sister,
the death of the body,
from which no one living is able to flee;
woe to those who are dying in [mortal] sin.*

Blessed are those who are found doing your most holy will,
for the second death will do them no harm.

*Praise and bless my Lord and give him thanks
and serve him with great humility.*

Readings of the Day. *(The Gospel must be read - other lessons and psalms may be read. A response to the Gospel may be offered, such as a reflection, meditation, song, story, poem, or group sharing.)*

Prayers of the People

The people are invited to offer their concerns, prayer requests, and thanksgivings at the appropriate time during the prayers.

Devotional Companion 2015

Worship Leader: We are the Body of Christ. We are the church. I ask your prayers for God's people all over the world and for us who are gathered here. Voice your prayers for the church...God, in your mercy,

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Leader: I ask your prayers for peace. Pray for the end of fighting and war and violence. Pray that all people may be well and at peace.

God, in your mercy,

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Leader: I ask your prayers for those who are sick and suffering. Whose name do you hold up in prayer? *(The people may add their prayer request)*

God, in your mercy,

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Leader: I ask your prayers for people who are poor, hungry, homeless. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

God, in your mercy,

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Leader: I ask your prayers for all instances of oppression and injustice and for the will to intervene.

God, in your mercy,

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Leader: I ask your prayers for those who have died and for those who grieve.

God, in your mercy,

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Leader: I ask your prayers for our sisters and brothers in the Franciscan community *(intercessions from the TSSF Directory can be read).*

God, in your mercy,

People: *Hear our prayer.*

Devotional Companion 2015

Leader: We close our prayers by naming our thanksgivings and blessings before God... God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Exchange the Peace

Prepare the Table

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift your hearts to heaven.

Where Christ in glory reigns.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is right to give thanks to you, the true and living God.

You are the source of all life.

We offer thanks for revealing yourself to us in the beauty of your creation, Brother Son and Sister Moon, and all that sustains life.

We offer thanks for your body, the Church, and especially for the community called together by our Brother Francis and Sister Clare.

We offer thanks for revealing yourself in Jesus who showed us your sacrificial love but was given new life to bring us together as your children.

And so we join with Francis, Clare, Louis and Elizabeth and all the Saints and angels in proclaiming your glory,
as we say (*sing*),

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Devotional Companion 2015

Creator, we bring before you these gifts of the creation, bread and wine. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends and said, "Take eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood shed for you. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

All honor and glory belong to you, Loving God, through Jesus, your Son, with the Holy Spirit: one God for ever and ever. Amen.

As our Savior Christ has taught us we now pray:

Our Father in heaven

hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today your daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Breaking and Sharing

(The Celebrant now administers the Bread and Wine to the People in the customary way, or the Sacrament may be shared among the People, each one passing it to their neighbor -- first the Bread then the Wine.)

Post Communion Prayer

We thank you, God, for bringing us together around this table and feeding us with the food of your Life. Through Christ and with Saints Francis and Clare, we offer ourselves and our lives to your service. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to stand with you in your world. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the servant, our friend and brother. Amen

Blessing and Dismissal

Look for the face of the Lord Jesus in everyone you meet,
And may everyone you meet see the face of the Lord Jesus in you.

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord show his face to you and have mercy upon you;

The Lord turn his countenance toward you and give you peace,

My brothers and sisters, the Lord bless you.

The Deacon or Celebrant dismisses the gathering.

People: Thanks be to God

A Closing Song may be sung

BURIAL OFFICE FOR A DEPARTED THIRD ORDER FRANCISCAN



It is customary for religious communities to have liturgies and ceremonies that are specific to the life of the community and the spirituality of its charism.

The Third Order, Society of St. Francis, as a religious community in the world wide Anglican community, has prescribed rites and ceremonies to mark its members' transition through the cycle of life: Postulancy, Novitiate, Life Profession, Renewal of Vows and various devotions specific to the Franciscan heritage to which it belongs.

The liturgy for the Burial of a Tertiary is meant to be a supplement to the standard Burial Office in the Book of Common Prayer for the various Provinces of the Order, and may be adapted for use at the graveside rather than in the full service at the Church.

The Officiant for these additions would generally be the Area Chaplain, Fellowship Convener, or another Professed Tertiary, and need not be an ordained member of the Clergy. Pastoral consideration of the family is of utmost importance and should be the first consideration in the selection of all or part of these suggested additions.

Devotional Companion 2015

Following the Death:

- The family should be contacted by the Area Chaplain and/or the Fellowship Convener to offer support and provide a copy of these options to the family and their Pastor who will be planning the service
- Contact the Clergy person responsible for the development of the service

Prior to the Service:

- When possible, either the night before the funeral or the morning of the funeral, it is desirable for members of the Tertiary's Fellowship to "Sit in Watch" with the body or ashes.
- Candles or torches in stands should be placed around the coffin or container of ashes.
- Readings from the "Transitus of St. Francis", selections from the Psalter, and other appropriate Franciscan readings may be used.

At the Funeral Service:

- Members of the Fellowship and other Franciscans may be part of the procession, or may have designated seating together.
- The Fellowship Convener or other selected Tertiary may lead this "Franciscan option" addition to the Burial Office.
- A Tertiary may lead the Prayers of the People.
- At the time of the Commendation, the Tertiaries present may gather around the coffin or container of ashes as a sign of the Franciscan Community presence. They may process out following the family of the deceased tertiary.
- A table may be placed in front of the coffin or container of ashes and set with symbols of the deceased Franciscan journey: Profession Cross, Icon or statue of St. Francis, symbol of his/her ministry, rosary or other devotional items.

The Burial Office

The following anthem is said during the procession or following the entrance hymn

Most High, omnipotent, good Lord, to you be ceaseless praise outpoured, and blessing without measure. From you alone all creatures came; no one is worthy to call your name.

My Lord be praised by brother sun, through whom you lighten the day. He shines in brilliant splendor.

Be praised, my Lord, by sister moon and all the stars, that with her soon will point the glittering heavens.

By sister water, my Lord, be blessed; most humble, useful and chaste.

Be praised, my Lord, by brother fire; robust and bright is he, and strong to lighten the night.

By mother earth my Lord be praised, whatever we need she has upraised. Sustained by her through every hour, she brings forth fruit, herb, and flower.

My Lord be praised by those who forgive for love of you, and who bear weakness and tribulation.

Blessed are those who peaceably endure, with you, O Lord, their reward is sure.

Be praised, my Lord, for sister death, from whom no one can flee. Blessed are those who do your will and follow your commandments still.

Most High, omnipotent, good Lord, to you be ceaseless praise outpoured, and blessings without measure.

The Presider then says

The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

Silence may be kept; after which the following collect is said by the

Presider: O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death, and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that your servant *N.*, being raised with him, may know the strength of Christ's presence, the joy of St. Francis's companionship, and rejoice in God's eternal glory; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Litany for a Departed Franciscan

(These prayers could also be used at a Fellowship meeting or privately to memorialize a departed Tertiary. A period of silence may be kept in which participants could commemorate the person who has died.)

Officiant: Lord, *N.* was washed in the waters of baptism, strengthened by Christ's body and blood in the Eucharist, and united with us in the Franciscan Family. Hear our prayers for him/her whom you have called to yourself.

V. Most High, omnipotent, good Lord, in the beginning you created brother sun to give light to all creation.

R. Bring him/her through the darkness of death to the light of everlasting light.

V. By the light of sister star, the wise men were led to Bethlehem.

R. Lead him/her to the welcoming embrace of the Holy Family in heaven.

V. By the force of brother wind, you held back the waters of the Red Sea.

R. Make a pathway for him/her into the freedom of your kingdom.

V. Your Son Jesus used our sister water to wash his disciples' feet.

R. May he/she be cleansed from sin and enter the communion of saints.

V. By the night you led the Israelites by a pillar of our brother fire.

R. Be his/her companion into the promised land.

V. You nourish all creatures with the fruits of our mother earth.

R. Make a place for him/her at your feast in paradise.

V. As the father ran to embrace the prodigal child, as Jesus forgave those who crucified him,

R. Pour out upon him/her the grace of your forgiveness.

V. As our Father Francis sang to us the praises of Sister Death,

R. May he/she come into the glory of Resurrection life.

Devotional Companion 2015

At the Eucharist

The Eucharistic rite may be the Eucharistic Prayer of Saints Francis and Clare (Devotional Companion) or the selected BCP rite.

The Committal

The Prayer of St. Francis may be used after the Lord's Prayer

The following blessing may be used at the conclusion of the Committal:

All: May the Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord show his face to you and have mercy upon you.
The Lord turn his countenance toward you and give you
peace.
My brother/sister, the Lord bless you.

Officiant: Let us now go, and until that time when the Lord shall gather us into his dwelling place, let us live in his peace.

Response: Thanks be to God.

A FORM OF BLESSING OF ANIMALS



A Form of Blessing of Animals

Song of Praise (verses 1-3)

Hymn 400

Psalm 148

1. Hallelujah!
Praise the LORD from the heavens;*
praise him in the heights.
2. Praise him, all you angels of his;*
praise him all his host.
3. Praise him, sun and moon;*
praise him, all you shining stars.
4. Praise him, heaven of heavens,*
and you waters above the heavens.
5. Let them praise the Name of the LORD;*
for he commanded, and they were created.
6. He made them stand fast for ever and ever;*
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.
7. Praise the LORD from the earth,*
you sea-monsters and all deeps;
8. Fire and hail, snow and fog,*
tempestuous wind, doing his will;
9. Mountains and all hills,*
fruit trees and all cedars;
10. Wild beasts and all cattle,*
creeping things and winged birds;
11. Kings of the earth and all peoples,*
princes and all rulers of the world;
12. Young men and maidens,*
old and young together.
13. Let them praise the Name of the LORD,*
for his Name only is exalted,
his splendor is over earth and heaven.
14. He has raised up strength for his people
and praise for all his loyal servants,*
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Hallelujah!

A Reading from Matthew 6:25-34

PRAYERS FOR ANIMALS AND THE CARE OF CREATION

Leader: Let us give thanks to God for all God's gifts so freely bestowed upon us, for the beauty and wonder of Creation in the earth, sky, and sea, and for the animals, birds, fish, and plants that fill this world;

All: **We thank you, God.**

Leader: For your mercy and comfort to all animals who are suffering, including those that are abused, hunted, lost, deserted, frightened, hungry, and dying;

All: **We thank you, God.**

Leader: For entrusting us with the care of our pets, and for gifting us with compassionate hearts, gentle hands, and kind words so that we may make you known to our pets;

All: **We thank you, God.**

Leader: For blessing us with the unconditional love of our pets, so that our pets may make you better known to us;

All: **We thank you, God.**

Leader: To your honor and glory, now and forever, we pray to you, God. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Blessing of Animals

Please bring your pets one by one to be blessed.

After all the pets have been blessed, the Leader continues:

Lord, bless all creatures of your creation. May their faithfulness and affection toward us never go unnoticed. Surround and comfort them with your gracious love and nurturing care. Let your gentle touch always be upon them. **Amen.**

Devotional Companion 2015

A Prayer Attributed to St. Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

where there is hatred, let us sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is discord, union;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness light;

where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much

seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

Song of Praise (verses 4-7)

Hymn 400

Dismissal

January 7 – Angela of Foligno
16 – 1st Franciscan Martyrs
18-25 Christian Unity
23 -Yona Kanamuyei
28 – Br. Juniper
February 5 – Martyrs of Japan
7 – Colette
8 – Jacoba of Settesoli
15 – George Potter
19 – Conrad
25 – Founding CSF
March 4 – Sylvester
7 – Fr. Joseph
28 – William Sirr
March or April – Friday before Palm Sunday – Day of Penitence
April 3 – Benedict the Black
8 – Amer Sts and Mtyrs
10 – William of Ockham
16 – Founding of PCR
23 – Giles
28 – Luchesio & Buonadonna
May 9 – Catherine
10 – Yves
16 – Margaret
17 – Paschal
28 – Mariana
30 – Joan of Arc
Thurs after Trinity Sunday
Corpus Christi
June 3 – Pope John 23rd
13 – Anthony
19 – Matt Talbot
22 – Thomas More
July 3 – Ramon
7 – Mary Christine
8 – Elizabeth
15 – Bonaventure
19 – Founding of TSSF – America
23 – Bridget
August 2 - Our Lady of the Angels
4 – John Vianney
9 – Marianne Cope
9 – Desmond Lionel Morse-Boycott
11 – Clare
14 – Maximilian Kolbe
17 – Roch of Montpellier

August 25 – Louis IX
September 5 John Bradburne
7 – Br. Douglas
11 – Mychal Judge
17 – Stigmata
23 – Emily Gardner Neal
October 4 - Francis
November 3 – Hugo Muller
8- Duns Scotus
19 – Elizabeth of Hungary
19 – Agnes of Assisi
21 – H. Baxter Liebler
23 - Fr. Algy Robertson
29 – All Fran Sts
December 1 - Requiem
15 – Mary Frances Schervier
24 – Jacopone da Todi