



# FRANCISCAN VOCATION MINISTRY

## SACRED HEART PROVINCE

*A Gospel Movement*

September 2009

"I have done what is mine to do, may Christ teach you what is yours to do." *St. Francis of Assisi*

### Feast of St. Francis



Many Catholics worldwide celebrate the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on October 4 each year. The feast commemorates the life of St Francis and is the most important festival of the Franciscan calendar in Assisi, Italy. It commemorates the saint's transition from this life to the afterlife, according to the Catholic Church. For two days, starting on October 3, oil lamps burning consecrated oil brought from a different Italian town each year illuminate the town of Assisi. Solemn religious services are held in the Basilica of St Francis and in the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli.

Many children in countries such as the United States bring their pets to the church to be blessed on St Francis' feast day because of his love for animals as expressed in his Canticle of Creatures. People may also plan a nature walk and teachers, caregivers or parents may spend time helping children write about plants, insects and animals that they see. For many educators, caregivers and animal rights organizations, this day is an opportunity to teach children about endangered or abused animals and what can be done to help save these animals. This feast coincides with World Animal Day.

### Background

St Francis (1181 or 1182 – 1226), founder of the Franciscan order of the Catholic Church, lived during the late

### May the Lord give you Peace

Peace between peoples and countries, peace between different cultures and religions; peace which guarantees a dignified home and security, all that is needed to feed and clothe oneself, the respect and dignity of the person, harmony with the whole of creation, happiness of heart and with God, the giver of all life. The greeting of peace and the initiatives in favor of peace were an integral part of the self understanding, of the style of life and of the mission of the first Brothers and this led them to be recognized as a true peace movement, so much so that Thomas of Celano himself presented the early fraternity as a "Pacis legationem", a true message of peace (cf. 1Cel 24). In this way his very style of life became a true and proper way of reconciliation with God, with neighbor, with oneself and with the whole of creation.

Come join our movement of peace and reconciliation be a Franciscans find out how Attend our Come &See Retreat Nov, 6-8,2009

[Register for the Come and See Retreat!](#)

### Contact Us

Franciscan Vocation Ministry

12th and 13th centuries in Italy. He is remembered for his generosity to the poor and his willingness to minister to the lepers. However, what many people recall about him is his love for animals and nature. St Francis died at Portiuncula, Italy on October 4, 1226.

Pope Gregory IX pronounced St Francis a saint in 1228. The pope also laid the foundation stone for the Basilica of St Francis in Assisi, Italy. The church, also known as Basilica of San Francesco d'Assisi, is a UNESCO world heritage site. "His attitude towards creation was simple and direct, as simple as the gaze of a dove; as he considered the universe, in his pure, spiritual vision, he referred every created thing to the Creator of all. He saw God in everything, and loved and praised him in all creation. By God's generosity and goodness, he possessed God in everything and everything in God. The realization that everything comes from the same source made him call all created things -- no matter how insignificant -- his brothers and sisters, because they had the same origins as he."

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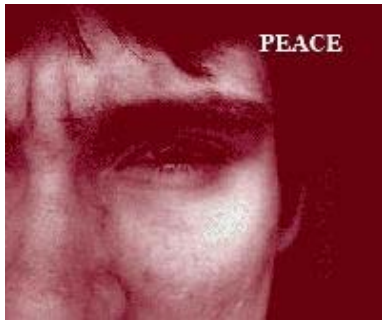
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[www.thefriars.org](http://www.thefriars.org)  
[www.ofm.org](http://www.ofm.org)

#### Come and See Retreat



Come and see what life is like as a Franciscan Friar.

Where: St. Louis, MO

When: November 6-8, 2009

Who: Catholic Men 18-40

How: Complete the below form to express your interest

[Register for Come and See!](#)

#### St. Francis' Canticle of All Creatures



Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord, All praise is Yours, all glory, all honour and all blessings. To you alone, Most High, do they belong, and no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your Name. Praised be You my Lord with all Your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, Who is the day through whom You give us light. And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour, Of You Most High, he bears the likeness. Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, In the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair. Praised be You, my Lord, through Brothers Wind

and Air, And fair and stormy, all weather's moods, by which You cherish all that You have made. Praised be You my Lord through Sister Water, So useful, humble, precious and pure. Praised be You my Lord through Brother Fire, through whom You light the night and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong. Praised be You my Lord through our Sister, Mother Earth who sustains and governs us, producing varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs. Praise be You my Lord through those who grant pardon for love of You and bear sickness and trial. Blessed are those who endure in peace, By You Most High, they will be crowned. Praised be You, my Lord through Sister Death, from whom no-one living can escape. Woe to those who die in mortal sin! Blessed are they She finds doing Your Will. No second death can do them harm. Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks, And serve Him with great humility. Heavenly Father, You gave Your servant Francis great love for each of Your creatures. Teach us to see Your design in all of creation. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

*We welcome you to the Franciscan vision of the world, a world where love is more powerful than hate, forgiveness more powerful than revenge, hope more powerful than despair, community more powerful than isolation and God is more powerful than all that mitigates against goodness and hope.*

*Become an instrument of change. Become a messenger of peace. Belong to something bigger than yourself...*



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