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With wishes that the promises of the Resurrection will brighten your life with hope and bless your days with peace.

Have a Wonderful Easter.

Francis of Assisi wanted nothing more than to uncover what it truly means to be a follower of Jesus. He imitated Jesus at every turn. Sometimes, this struck his contemporaries as odd, or out of step with reality, but Francis has energized millions of others to do similar things over the last eight centuries. He conversed with both the Pope and the sultan. He transformed a taste for fine things and troubadour poetry into greater loves for poverty and joyful devotion to God. He never intended to found a traditional religious "movement," but nevertheless, he did. As he died, his brothers had to guard him closely in fear that someone would try to snatch the body of this living saint. Who was Francis of Assisi? Where did he come from and what can we learn from his life?



Happy Easter

#### Contact Us

Franciscan Vocation  
Ministry  
3320 Meramec St.  
St. Louis, MO 63118  
Phone:  
+1 (314) 353-8088

Jack Carnaghi, OFM:  
[briack@befranciscan.com](mailto:briack@befranciscan.com)

Fernand Cheri III, OFM:  
[frferd@befranciscan.com](mailto:frferd@befranciscan.com)

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

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#### The St. Francis Prayer Book: A Guide to Deepen Your Spiritual Life

This warm-hearted little book is a window into the soul of St. Francis, one of the most passionate and inspiring followers of Jesus. "Prayer was to Francis as play is to a child: natural, easy, creative, and joyful," author Jon Sweeney tells us. "Before it became common to speak in personal terms of a relationship with God, Francis did so and made it seem natural." With this guide, readers will:

- Pray the words that Francis taught his spiritual brothers and sisters to pray.
- Explore Francis's time and place and feel the joy and earnestness of the first Franciscans.
- Experience how it is possible to live a contemplative and active life, at the same time

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.



After listening and readiness to observe the Word, Francis joins a decisive and indispensable element: put into practice that which has been received. "Meditation, as a matter of fact, aims at living and incarnating the Word.<sup>26</sup> Without this operative element, without the incarnation of the Word, there is no true gospel understanding. Knowing detached from life will lead to death" those religious - Saint Francis admonishes - who do not wish to follow the spirit of Sacred Scripture" (cf Adm 7: cf. Adm 5).

For Francis and the Franciscan school, indeed, the only true way to know and incarnate the Word is implementing what it says. It treats of experiential knowledge, in which we involve ourselves with the Word in an interior climate where there is constantly present the question "**Lord, what do you wish that I do**" and the answer is "Willingly I will do so, Lord" (3Comp 6,13).

The Holy Father, on the day he opened the Synod on the Word of God, said of the Church: "If to announce the Gospel constitutes its reason for existence and mission, it is indispensable that the Church know and live that which it announces, so that its preaching be credible, not withstanding the weakness and poverty of the men proposing it.<sup>27</sup> Our Franciscan tradition to promote in the parish is, therefore, a basic appreciation of experience and concreteness of the Word which continually makes itself incarnate in such disparate daily situations.

*excerpts from SENT TO EVANGELIZE IN FRATERNITY AND MINORITY IN THE PARISH*

We Welcome You



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.

