

OCTOBER 4, ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, CONFESSOR

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St. Francis of Assisi, born in 1182, was the founder of the Order of Friars Minor. Chosen by God to be a living manifestation to the world of Christ's poor and suffering life on earth, he was early inspired with a burning love of poverty and humiliation. Divine desire burned in him so mightily as to kindle a like desire in other hearts. Many joined him, and were constituted by Pope Innocent III into a Religious Order.

He lived at the time when the feudal system was disappearing, and Christian democracy was dawning. St. Francis undertook to teach to this generation a spiritual language suited to its new aspirations. He led the people to devotion towards the sacred humanity and the person of the Redeemer, a devotion which has continued to increase. He set the example for clergy and people of detachment from worldly wealth and worldly honors. His reform was carried out not by rebellion, but in accord with the head of the Church. It was the papal authority, which from the first directed that overwhelming current of new life and evangelical mysticism loosed by the saint, and incorporated it in the service of the Church.

Francis died at sunset on Saturday, October 3, 1226, at Assisi, his birthplace. Gregory IX, his friend and director during life, raised him to the altars three years later, and built the marvelous church of Assisi over his tomb.

INTROIT Galatians 6: 14

Mihi autem absit gloriári, nisi in Cruce Dómini nostri Jesu Christi: per quem mihi mundus crucifixus est, et ego mundo. (Ps. 141: 2) Voce mea ad Dóminum clamávi: voce mea ad Dóminum deprecátus sum. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Mihi autem absit gloriári, nisi in Cruce Dómini nostri Jesu Christi: per quem mihi mundus crucifixus est, et ego mundo.

COLLECT

Deus, qui Ecclésiám tuam, beáti Francisci méritis foetu novæ prolis amplíficas: tríbue nobis; ex ejus imitatióne, terréna despícere et cæléstium donórum semper participatióne gaudére. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

EPISTLE Galatians 6: 14-18

Fratres: Mihi autem absit gloriári, nisi in Cruce Dómini nostri Jesu Christi: per quem mihi mundus crucifixus est, et ego mundo. In Christo enim Jesu neque circumcisio áliquid valet neque præpútium, sed nova creatúra. Et quicúmque hanc régulam secúti fúerint, pax super illos et misericórdia, et super Israél Dei. De cetero nemo mihi moléstus sit: ego enim stigmata Dómini Jesu in córpore meo porto. Grátia Dómini nostri Jesu Christi cum spíritu vestro, fratres. Amen.

GRADUAL Psalms 36: 30-31

Os justí meditábitur sapiéntiam, et lingua ejus loquétur júdícium. Lex Dei ejus in corde ipsíus: et non supplantabúntur gressus ejus.

LESSER ALLELUIA

Allelúja, allelúja. Franciscus pauper et húmilis cælum dives ingréditur, hymnis cæléstibus honorátur. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Matthew 11: 25-30

In illo témpore: Respóndens Jesus, dixit: Confíteor tibi, Pater, Dómine coeli et terræ, quia abscondísti hæc a sapiéntibus ei prudéntibus, et revelásti ea párvulis. Ita, Pater: quóniam sic fuit plácitum ante te. Omnia mihi tráditá sunt a Patre meo. Et nemo novit Fílium nisi Pater: neque Patrem quis novit nisi Fílius, et cui volúerit Fílius reveláre. Veníte ad me, omnes, qui laborátis et oneráti estis, et ego reficiam vos. Tóllite jugum meum super vos, et discite a me, quia mitis sum et húmilis corde: et inveniétis réquiem animábus vestris. Jugum enim meum suáve est et onus meum leve.

OFFERTORY Psalms 88: 25

VÉRITAS mea et misericórdia mea cum ipso: et in nómine meo exaltábitur cornu ejus.

SECRET

Múnera tibi, Dómine, dicáta sanctífica: et, intercedénte beáto Francíscio, ab omni nos culpárum labe purífica. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

COMMUNION Luke 12: 42

Fidélis servus et prudens, quem constitúit dóminus super familiám suam: ut det illis in témpore trítici mensúram.

POSTCOMMUNION

Ecclésiám tuam, quæsumus, Dómine, grátia cæléstis amplíficet: quam beáti Francisci Confessóris tui illumináre voluísti gloriósis méritis et exémpis. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ: by Whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. (Ps. 141: 2) I cried to the Lord with my voice: with my voice I made supplication to the Lord. 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. But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ: by Whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world.

O God, Who, by the merits of blessed Francis, didst increase Thy Church by bringing forth a new progeny, grant us to imitate him in despising earthly things and ever to rejoice in partaking of heavenly gifts. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Brethren: But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; by whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And whosoever shall follow this rule, peace on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From henceforth let no man be troublesome to me; for I bear the marks of the Lord Jesus in my body. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

The mouth of the just shall meditate wisdom: and his tongue shall speak judgment. The law of his God is in his heart, and his steps shall not be supplanted.

Alleluia, alleluia. The poor and lowly Francis entereth heaven abounding in riches; he is acclaimed with celestial hymns. Alleluia.

At that time, Jesus spoke and said, I praise Thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and revealed them to little ones. Yea, Father, for so it hath seemed good in Thy sight. All things have been delivered to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and him to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him. Come to Me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden light.

My truth and My mercy shall be with him: and in My name shall his horn be exalted.

Sanctify the gifts dedicated to Thee, O Lord, and by the intercession of blessed Francis, purify us from every stain of sin. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

A faithful and wise steward, whom the Lord set over His family: to give them their measure of wheat in due season.

May heavenly grace, we beseech Thee, O Lord. enlarge Thy Church which Thou wast pleased to enlighten by the glorious merits and examples of blessed Francis, Thy confessor. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.