



### **Saint Francis of Assisi**

Born at Assisi in Umbria in 1181

Dedicated his life to expressing God's "brotherhood"  
through his relationship with all of creation

Francis died on October 3, 1226

He was declared a saint in July, 1228

(A prayer for a faculty meeting in October)

**Let us remember...**

**All: that we are in the holy presence of God.**

#### **Reader One**

Francis felt a disdain for lepers and avoided them at all costs. One day Francis was riding his horse in the countryside and he caught sight of a leper walking toward him. His instinct was to turn back or move off to the side to avoid contact with the poor wretch. But instead Francis rode directly toward this man who had parts of his face and hands eaten away by this dreaded disease.

Francis dismounted and warmly embraced and kissed the leper tenderly on his lips. In his Testament, Francis writes, "When I was in sin, the sight of lepers nauseated me beyond measure; but then God himself led me into their company. When I had once become acquainted with them, what had previously nauseated me became a source of physical consolation for me." Francis eventually came to realize that he had actually embraced none other than his Lord, Jesus Christ. (*Franciscan Media: 7 Key Moments in the Life of St. Francis*)

**ALL: Lord make me an instrument of your peace  
Where there is hatred let me sow love  
Where there is injury, pardon  
Where there is doubt, faith  
Where there is despair, hope  
Where there is darkness, light  
And where there is sadness, joy**

#### **Reader Two**

Recognize Jesus beneath the poor rags of the children whom you have to instruct. Adore him in them. Love poverty, and honor the poor, following the example of the Magi, for poverty ought to be dear to you, responsible as you are for the instruction of the poor. May faith lead you to do this with affection and zeal because these children are members of Jesus Christ. In this way this divine Savior will be

pleased with you and you will find him because he always loved the poor and poverty. (*DLS Meditations for Principal Feasts 96.3*)

**ALL:** O divine master grant that I 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's in dying that we are born to eternal life  
Amen

Let us pause to reflect on the way we view our students. Do we see them, figuratively, as lepers dressed in rags or are we able to see the divine light within each one through which we recognize the life of God present in our midst?

**ALL:** God, bless us and keep us.  
May we see your face in those we serve.  
Fill us with your compassionate love that we may be merciful.  
Look upon us and give us peace and freedom from all anxieties.  
Amen.

St. John Baptist de La Salle      **ALL:** Pray for us

Live Jesus in our hearts      **ALL:** Forever