

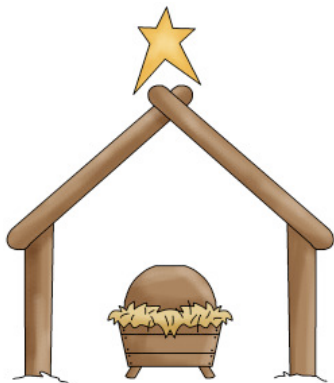


Footsteps

January 2011

CALENDAR

- Jan 2 The Epiphany of the Lord
- Jan 3 Holy Name of Jesus
- Jan 7 Angela of Foligno, SFO
- Jan 9 The Baptism of the Lord
- Jan 16 Fraternity Meeting
- Feb 2 The Presentation of the Lord
- Feb 8 Jacoba of Settesoli, SFO
- Feb 11 Our Lady of Lourdes
- Feb 20 Fraternity Meeting



Fraternity Council

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Minister | Maribeth Lambert |
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| Treasurer | Alice Sousa |
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THE “EPIPHANY” OF ST. FRANCIS

To celebrate the birth of Christ, St. Francis recreated the manger scene in a cave in the hills above Greccio, Italy. The real miracle was not, as some people say, that the figure of the infant came to life—but that there St. Francis first understood the humility of the Incarnation.



The simple celebration was not the first time the birth of Jesus was celebrated in a dramatic way. But Francis brought to the scene a vision, his *Epiphany* that saw more than the pleasant scene we now have.

As quoted above, he wanted to show the hardships Jesus suffered already as an infant. In the daring phrase of St. Paul, he saw the emptying of the glory of the Son of God, born of a gentle mother but still thrown upon a stony and resisting world.

Francis wanted to help people realize exactly what God had done for his people, and “how poor he chose to be for our sakes.” Francis himself had chosen the bitter poverty of being on the margin of society, with no resources or security. He saw the Son of God placing himself, as it were, on the margin of divinity.

He saw a truly human Jesus, not a divine being hiding behind a deceptive physical facade. The humility of the Incarnation and of the Cross was his constant preoccupation. He wanted to think of nothing else but Bethlehem and Calvary.

His life centered, then, around poverty and humility, sister virtues. He told his friars not to be ashamed to beg, “since God himself became poor for our sakes....Poverty is the heritage which our Lord Jesus Christ has acquired for us.”

Thomas of Celano says, “He would often meditate on the desolation of Christ and his holy mother with tears, and he maintained that poverty was ‘the queen’ of the virtues.”

Francis’ love and compassion for the suffering and Passion of Christ were so deep that he no longer cared about his own pain. In the year after this celebration, he would be so identified with the suffering Christ that the five wounds appeared in his body.

—Leonard Foley, O.F.M.

Birthdays

Jan 14 Sheila De Luca
Jan 24 Anne Peloquin
Feb 16 Betty Leaver



Professions

Jan 16 Maribeth Lambert
Jan 16 Rheta Giles
Jan 21 Geraldine Windt
Jan 25 Betty Riedinger
Jan 31 Sara Solario
Jan 31 Aurora Haro
Feb 15 Melva Simmons
Feb 15 Brian Simmons

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Franciscan Traditions

BLESSED JACOBA OF SETTESOLI, SFO (1190 - 1273)



St. Francis of Assisi asked that a letter be sent to "the beloved Lady Jacoba of Settesoli," informing her of his impending death and asking her to bring "a shroud of hair-cloth in which to wrap my body, and wax for the burial. I pray thee, likewise, that thou bring to me some of that food which thou wast wont to give me when I was in Rome."

But God had already revealed to Jacoba that Francis was dying, and now God revealed to Francis that Jacoba knew. "Do not write more, for it is not necessary...And after a little while at the door of the house there was a loud knocking, and Saint Francis sent the porter to open it; and when it was opened, there was the Lady Jacoba, the most noble lady of Rome, with her two sons, who were senators, and with a large escort of other knights."

She gave Francis the food, and he ate it. Who was "Brother Jacoba", as he called his beloved friend and benefactor? Francis and Jacoba met when she went to hear him preach in Rome. She asked him how to be charitable, and he told her to stay with her family. She joined his Third Order. (Some say he founded the Third Order for her.)

Francis stayed at Jacoba's house when he was in Rome. It is said that he gave her a pet lamb he had saved from slaughter, and that she made his shroud with wool sheared from the lamb.

The above image from a Simone Martini fresco in the Lower Basilica at Assisi is supposed to represent St. Clare, but there are those who think it is actually Jacoba de Settesoli. For one thing, there are seven suns in the halo -- sette soli. And Clare is ordinarily shown in a religious habit.

--National Catholic Reporter, Feb 8, 2010

FRANCISCANS IN ACTION



JUSTICE

Workers' Rights

Our country has long been built on the labor of immigrant workers. Currently, 15% of the U.S. workforce is immigrant workers; 5% of the workforce is undocumented. These workers make positive contributions to our economy and society, but too often they are treated poorly and exploited at the work- place. Nationally, nonpayment of earned wages, unsafe and unhealthy work conditions, and poor quality jobs with no benefits are commonplace. Immigrant workers—both with and without legal status—are often unaware of their rights under U.S. law, are too afraid to complain lest they lose their jobs (and thus, in many cases, their immigration status), and have limited English proficiency that deters them from seeking recourse.

Equal rights and equal treatment under the law, the inability of employers to threaten workers with deportation, and strengthened enforcement of labor standards will promote humane treatment and allow immigrant workers to stand up for their rights. All workers benefit from the enforcement of health, safety, wage, and hour laws, as well as the right to peacefully organize.

--Pax Christi

PEACE



John Paul II on War

“Humanity should question itself, once more, about the absurd and always unfair phenomenon of war, on whose stage of death and pain only remain standing the negotiating table that could and should have prevented it.”

--Pope John Paul II



INTEGRITY OF CREATION

Call to Communion with Creation

We must confess that, compared with our efforts to achieve greater justice and peace among our brothers and sisters in the human family, we have tended to give less attention to our brothers and sisters in creation. They, too, are suffering; and their disease, wrought by our actions and neglect, is now our own.

- ❖ Our pollution of the air has made Brother Wind's breath toxic, particularly for children.
- ❖ Our treatment of our lakes, rivers, streams and oceans has made Sister Water sick.
- ❖ Our voracious appetite for fossil fuels has made Brother Fire the carrier of not only warmth and light but also destruction and war.

We have ruptured our communion—with our God, with creation, and with ourselves. We have traded the truth of our interdependence for an illusion of independence, our call to stewardship on behalf of our fellow creatures for a rusting crown of domination. We confess that we sinned through our own fault, from what we have done and from what we have failed to do. We firmly resolve, with the help of God's abundant grace, to do penance and to amend our lives in part by reclaiming the wisdom of our own Franciscan life and history. *--First Order Franciscan JPIC Ministers, USA*

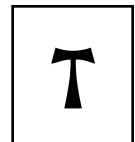
St. Francis and the Sow

The bud stands for all things,
 even for those things that don't flower,
 for everything flowers, from within, of self-blessing;
 though sometimes it is necessary
 to reteach a think its loveliness,
 to put a hand on its brow
 of the flower
 and retell it in words and in touch
 it is lovely
 until it flowers again from within,
 of self-blessing;
 as Saint Francis
 put his hand on the creased forehead
 of the sow, and told her in words and in touch
 blessings of earth on the sow, and the sow
 began remembering all down her thick length,
 from the earthen snout all the way
 through the fodder and stops to the spiritual curl of the tail,
 from the hard spininess spiked out from the spine
 down through the great broken heart
 to the blue milken dreaminess spurting and shuddering
 from the fourteen teats into the fourteen mouths sucking and
 blowing beneath them;
 the long, perfect loveliness of sow.



Galway Kinnell - ©1980

Junipero Serra of Carmel Secular Franciscan Fraternity



"When we attend to the needs of those in
 want, we give them what is theirs, not
 ours. More than performing works of
 mercy, we are paying a debt of justice."
 ~ **St. Gregory the Great**