



St. Francis of Assisi

On Tuesday, October 4, we celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. He was born around 1181 in Assisi, Italy and died in 1226. This extraordinary man led a life of humility, simplicity and prayer. He came from a very wealthy family and after a serious illness in his youth which caused him to spend much time in prayer and reflection, decided to empty himself of worldly cares and wealth. He gave himself completely to Jesus.

From the cross in a neglected chapel of San Damiano, Jesus told Francis, "Go out and build up my house, for it is nearly falling down." He understood that to mean more than just physically restoring church buildings. He felt the call to be totally Christ-like. He believed in what Jesus said, "Announce the Kingdom! Possess no gold or silver or copper in your purses, no traveling bag, no sandals, no staff." (Luke 9:1-3)

He also attracted a number of followers, and found himself torn between a life devoted to prayer and a life of active preaching the Gospel. He decided upon the latter, but returned to solitude and prayer whenever he could. He was faithful to the Church and worked with the structures needed to support the Franciscan Order. Two years before his death, he received the stigmata, the real as well as painful wounds of Christ in his hands, feet and side.

He saw God's beauty in creation, nature and his brothers and sisters. On his deathbed, he was heard to be praising God in Psalm 141. One of his famous quotes was, "We adore you and we bless you, Lord Jesus Christ, here and in all the churches which are in the whole world, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world." Let us thank God for giving us this saint and ask that we too might live humbly and simply. May we be Christ-like and see in St. Francis a model of discipleship. St. Francis of Assisi, pray for us!

(Biographical information on St. Francis of Assisi came from "Saint of the Day", Leonard Foley, O.F.M., editor)

Father David

Update on Our Capital Campaign

As of September 24, we have collected \$166,141 for our Capital Campaign. Our goal is \$250,000. I thank all those who have supported the campaign thus far and ask those who have not yet responded to prayerfully consider what you are able to give to this important campaign to ensure that our buildings are beautiful and worthy of the many things we do in the parish complex. Thank you!

Father David