

Why Choose Saint Francis Today?

In a world that spins ever faster and where material wealth is often the benchmark of success, Saint Francis of Assisi offers a timeless alternative. His life and message call us to simplicity, connection, and respect for all creatures. But why is he, now more than ever, a figure to look up to?

Today's society is marked by a culture of excess and waste. We consume more than we need, while the gap between rich and poor continues to grow. Francis deliberately chose to renounce his wealth and live a life of simplicity and service.

His choice for simplicity was not a sacrifice, but a conscious path to inner freedom. He understood that happiness does not lie in material possessions, but in connection with others and with nature. At a time when minimalism and sustainability are increasingly seen as solutions to ecological and social problems, Francis' lifestyle remains a source of inspiration.

Francis also had a deep reverence for nature and saw the hand of the Creator in everything. He called the sun his brother, water his sister, and the earth his mother. In an age of climate change and ecological exhaustion, his message resounds louder than ever.

He was not only a friend of nature but also an advocate for care and compassion for all people, regardless of status or origin. He chose to live among the poor and help them with what he had.

Francis was not a man of power or authority, but a brother among people. Unlike many religious leaders of his time, he did not place himself above others, but lived among them, in humility and equality.

Moreover, he was a peacemaker. During a time of war and religious tension, he even traveled to Egypt to engage in dialogue with the Sultan—an extraordinary act of courage and openness.

His famous prayer begins with the words: *"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace."* This is a call that we cannot ignore today, in a time of division.

Simple Prayer of Saint Francis *(original in Italian)*

Signore, fa' di me uno strumento della tua pace:

Dove è odio, fa' che io porti l'amore.

Dove è offesa, ch'io porti il perdono.

Dove è discordia, ch'io porti l'unione.

Dove è dubbio, ch'io porti la fede.

Dove è errore, ch'io porti la verità.

Dove è disperazione, ch'io porti la speranza.

Dove è tristezza, ch'io porti la gioia.

Dove sono le tenebre, ch'io porti la luce.

O Maestro, fa' che io non cerchi tanto:

Ad essere consolato, quanto a consolare.

Ad essere compreso, quanto a comprendere.

Ad essere amato, quanto ad amare.
Poiché è dando, che si riceve.
Perdonando, che si è perdonati.
Morendo, che si risuscita a Vita Eterna.

Simple Prayer of Saint Francis *(English translation)*

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
Where there is hatred, let me bring love.
Where there is injury, let me bring pardon.
Where there is discord, let me bring unity.
Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.
Where there is error, let me bring truth.
Where there is despair, let me bring hope.
Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.
Where there is darkness, let me bring light.
O Master, let me 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 forgiving that we are forgiven.
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

The choice for Saint Francis is not only inspired by the fact that our new parish community bears his name. In him, we also see a symbol of hope and renewal in a time when Christianity faces many challenges.

By choosing Francis, we remind ourselves that faith is not about power or structures, but about humility, service, and love. His message offers an encouraging vision of the future and a call to rediscover our spiritual roots.

Saint Francis of Assisi is not a figure of the distant past, but a timeless example of how to live consciously, respectfully, and with love. His values—simplicity, care for nature, compassion for people and animals, equality, peacemaking, and renewal of faith—are more relevant than ever and offer guidance for a better world.

His prayer, both in Italian and in translation, reminds us of his call to spread peace, love, and forgiveness, even in the most difficult times. The question is: are we brave enough to put his message into action? 🌱✨

Canticle of the Creatures *(Italian original – “Cantico delle Creature”)*

Altissimu, onnipotente buon Signore,
Tuo è il laudato,
Sia lodato, mio Signore, con tutte le tue creature,
Specialmente per il signore frate sole,
Che è il giorno, e che ci illumina.
Egli è bello e radiante con grande splendore,
Di te, Altissimo, porta significazione.

Laudato si', mi' Signore, per sorella luna e le stelle;
Nel cielo l'hai formate chiare e preziose e belle.

Laudato si', mi' Signore, per fratello vento,
Per aria e nuvole, e sereno e ogni tempo,
Per il quale alle tue creature dai sostentamento.

Laudato si', mi' Signore, per sorella acqua,
La quale è molto utile e umile e preziosa e pura.

Laudato si', mi' Signore, per fratello fuoco,
Per il quale illuminasti la notte, e è bello, e allegro, e robusto e forte.

Laudato si', mi' Signore, per nostra madre terra,
Che ci sostiene e ci governa, e produce vari frutti con fiori colorati e erba.

Laudato si', mi' Signore, per quelli che perdonano per il tuo amore
E sopportano infermità e tribolazioni.
Beati quelli che le sopportano in pace,
Perché da te, Altissimo, saranno coronati.

Laudato si', mi' Signore, per nostra sorella morte corporale,
Da la quale nulla uomo vivente può scampare.
Guai a quelli che moriranno nei peccati mortali!
Beati quelli che troverà nelle tue santissime volontà,
Perché la morte seconda non farà loro male.

Lode e benedizione, e grazie e onore
A te, Signore, per tutti i secoli.

Canticle of the Creatures (*English translation – “The Canticle of the Sun”*)

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,
Yours is the praise...
Praise be to You, my Lord, with all Your creatures,

Especially Brother Sun,
Who is the day and through whom You give us light.
He is beautiful and radiant with great splendor;
And bears Your likeness, O Most High.
Praise be to You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars;
You have formed them in the heavens, bright, precious, and fair.
Praise be to You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
And through the air, cloudy and clear, and every kind of weather
By which You sustain Your creatures.
Praise be to You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
Who is very useful, humble, precious, and pure.
Praise be to You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
Through whom You light the night.
He is beautiful, cheerful, robust, and strong.
Praise be to You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,
Who sustains and governs us,
And who produces various fruits, with colored flowers and herbs.
Praise be to You, my Lord, through those who forgive for love of You
And bear infirmity and tribulation.
Blessed are those who endure in peace,
For by You, Most High, they shall be crowned.
Praise be to You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death,
From whom no living being can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin!
Blessed are those whom death finds in Your most holy will,
For the second death shall do them no harm.
Praise and bless my Lord, and give Him thanks
And serve Him with great humility.