



***The Stations of the Cross
Inspired by Saint Francis of Assisi
Living a Different Way***

Praying the Stations of the Cross

Walking the Way of Christ

The Stations of the Cross are a prayerful way of walking with Jesus on the road to Calvary. Through fourteen moments from His Passion, we reflect on His suffering, His love, and the path He chose for our salvation.

This devotion began as Christians made pilgrimage to Jerusalem, tracing the places where Jesus carried His cross and was crucified. Over time, the Church brought this pilgrimage into every parish, allowing believers everywhere to spiritually walk that same road. For centuries, the Franciscan family helped spread and preserve this prayer throughout the Church.

Why Do We Pray the Stations?

We pray the Stations to remember that Christ's Passion is the fullest expression of God's love.

As we move from station to station, we learn how Jesus responds to injustice, carries suffering, forgives injury, and trusts the Father. The Stations invite us not only to observe, but to ask: How will we live in light of the Cross?

Why During Lent?

Lent prepares us for Easter through repentance, renewal, and deeper prayer.

By praying the Stations, we slow down. We allow Christ's mercy to examine our hearts and reshape them. The Cross teaches us that peace does not come through power or control, but through humility, forgiveness, and trust.

Why Through Saint Francis This Year?

In this Jubilee Year marking the 800th anniversary of Saint Francis' death, we look to him as a witness of Christ's peace.

Francis encountered the Crucified Lord and allowed that encounter to change his life. He chose simplicity over status and reconciliation over retaliation. He greeted the world with the words, "May the Lord give you peace."

In a time marked by division, we pray these Stations through his example, asking for the grace to become unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that flows from the Cross.

Stations of the Cross

Living a Different Way

Introduction

Leader:

Eight hundred years ago, Saint Francis of Assisi went to meet “Sister Death” as a man at peace. His life had been transformed by gazing upon the Crucified Christ. Before the Cross of San Damiano, he heard the Lord say, “Rebuild my Church.” And Francis discovered that the rebuilding would not happen through power, argument, or force — but through living the Gospel in a different way.

We gather in a world marked by division, mistrust, conflict, and fear. We see walls raised between nations, communities, families, and even within our own hearts. It can feel easier to choose anger than understanding, suspicion rather than trust.

Yet from the Cross, Jesus speaks another word: peace.

On the evening of Easter, the Risen Lord would say to frightened disciples, “Peace be with you.” That peace is not weakness. It is love’s victory over hatred, mercy over revenge, reconciliation over violence.

As we walk these Stations of the Cross, we will see moments of decision. Some choose fear. Some choose self-protection. Some choose compassion. And Jesus chooses love — again and again.

Saint Francis learned his way of peace by contemplating these moments. In this Jubilee Year, we ask for the grace to do the same.

At each station, we will listen to the story, reflect on how Christ invites us to live differently in our own time, and ask for the courage to become unarmed and disarming witnesses of His peace.

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray.

All:

***Lord Jesus,
as we walk with you on the way of the
Cross, open our hearts to your peace.
In a world divided by fear and anger,
teach us to live a different way —
the way of mercy, humility, and courage.***

***As Saint Francis found his joy
in gazing upon your Crucified love,
help us to see in your Cross
the path to reconciliation and new life.***

***Give us the grace
to become unarmed and disarming
witnesses of the peace that comes from
you. Amen.***

First Station

Jesus Is Condemned to Death

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: *Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

The Story

Jesus stands before Pilate. Accusations fill the air. The crowd grows louder. Pilate senses the injustice, yet he feels the pressure. He fears unrest. He fears losing control. So he washes his hands and chooses safety over truth.

And Jesus — innocent, silent, unarmed — is condemned.

Living a Different Way

This first station confronts us with a question:
When truth is costly, what do we choose?

Pilate chooses self-preservation. The crowd chooses outrage. Both are swept up in fear.

Jesus chooses integrity.

He does not mirror hostility. He does not inflame the moment. He stands steady in the Father's will. His strength is not loud, but faithful.

Saint Francis once stood in the public square of Assisi and stripped off the fine clothes of his wealthy family. Before the bishop and townspeople, he renounced status and security. It looked like foolishness. It looked like loss. But Francis chose the freedom of the Gospel over the approval of the crowd.



We live in an age of raised voices and hardened positions. It is easy to condemn. Easy to shame. Easy to retreat into our own camps. Harder to listen. Harder to stand calmly in truth without attacking another.

Peace begins when someone refuses to join the shouting. Peace begins when someone chooses integrity over image.

Shared Prayer

Lord Jesus,
when fear tempts us to protect ourselves at the expense of truth or compassion, give us the courage to stand firm in love.

Saint Francis, who chose poverty over power and peace over privilege, pray for us.

All: Lord, teach us your way of peace.

Second Station

Jesus Takes Up His Cross

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: *Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

The Story

The sentence has been passed.
The cross is placed upon Jesus' shoulders.

He does not resist.
He does not run.
He takes the wood of suffering into his own hands and begins the long walk to Calvary.

Living a Different Way

Jesus does not pretend the cross is light.
He does not deny the pain that awaits Him.
Yet He accepts it freely.

This is not resignation.
It is trust.

He trusts the Father's love more than He fears the suffering.

Saint Francis once wrote that what had seemed bitter to him — especially embracing the leper — became sweetness of soul and body. When he stopped running from what frightened him and instead embraced it in Christ's name, his heart was transformed.

We spend much of our lives trying to avoid crosses — conflict, misunderstanding, sacrifice, inconvenience. We protect comfort. Guard our schedules. Defend our preferences.

Yet peace is not built by avoidance.
Reconciliation is not born from comfort.



Sometimes living a different way means taking up the small, daily crosses that love requires — choosing patience instead of irritation, listening instead of reacting, serving instead of demanding to be served.

When we take up our cross with Christ, we discover that love is stronger than fear.

Shared Prayer

Lord Jesus,
when we are tempted to avoid sacrifice or cling to comfort,
give us the courage to carry what love requires.

Saint Francis,
who embraced what once frightened him and found joy in following Christ, pray for us.

All: *Lord, teach us your way of peace.*

Third Station

Jesus Falls the First Time

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: *Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

The Story

The cross is heavy.
The road is uneven.
Jesus stumbles and falls to the ground.

The crowd watches. Some mock.
Some turn away.
The Son of God lies in the dust.

Then, slowly, He rises and continues the journey.

Living a Different Way

We are often uncomfortable with weakness.

We admire strength, success, control.
We hide our failures. We pretend we are fine.
Falling feels like defeat.

But Jesus does not abandon the road when He falls.
He does not curse the weight of the cross.
He rises — not with dramatic display, but with quiet resolve.

Saint Francis knew what it meant to fall.
In his early years, he chased glory and

wealth. Later, as he began to follow Christ, he faced misunderstanding and ridicule — even from those closest to him. Rebuilding the small chapel of San Damiano was slow, unnoticed work. The Church was not restored in a day.

Living a different way does not mean never stumbling.

It means rising with trust.

In our daily lives, we will fail at times to be patient. We will speak too quickly. We will retreat into pride. But peace is built when we choose to begin again — when we admit our weakness and ask for grace

to stand.

Holiness is not perfection.
It is perseverance in love.

Shared Prayer

Lord Jesus,
when we fall into discouragement or pride,
lift us up and steady our steps.

Saint Francis,
who learned humility through weakness and joy through perseverance, pray for us.

All: *Lord, teach us your way of peace.*



Fourth Station

Jesus Meets His Mother

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: *Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

The Story

As Jesus carries the cross, He meets His mother.

No words are recorded.
No speeches are made.
Only a look passes between them — a look of sorrow, love, and trust.

Mary cannot take the cross away.
She cannot stop what is unfolding.
But she remains.

Living a Different Way

In moments of suffering, we often want solutions.
We want answers. We want control.

Mary offers something different: presence.

She does not protest. She does not collapse in despair. She stands with her Son in faithful love. Her strength is quiet, but unshakable.

Saint Francis had a tender devotion to Mary, honoring her as the Mother of the Lord and the Mother of the Church. At the

little chapel of the Portiuncula — Our Lady of the Angels — he learned that humility and trust are stronger than fear. Francis understood that rebuilding the Church would not begin with force, but with faithful hearts.

In our time, relationships are strained. Families carry wounds. Friendships fracture. Communities grow distant. It is tempting to withdraw, to protect ourselves, to stop showing up.

But peace often begins with presence — with staying when it would be easier to leave, with listening when words fail, with loving even when we cannot fix what is broken.

To live a different way is to remain in love.

Shared Prayer

*Lord Jesus,
when those we love are suffering
and we feel helpless,
teach us the strength of faithful
presence.*

*Mary, Mother of Sorrows, pray for us.
Saint Francis, who trusted in God's gentle
providence, pray for us.*

All: *Lord, teach us your way of peace.*



Fifth Station

Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry the Cross

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: *Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

The Story

As Jesus struggles beneath the weight of the cross, the soldiers seize a bystander — Simon of Cyrene.

He did not volunteer.
He was pulled from the crowd.
He shoulders the wood and walks beside Jesus.

What begins as a burden becomes a shared journey.

Living a Different Way

Simon likely had plans for that day. He did not expect to be drawn into someone else's suffering.

Yet peace is often born when we allow another's burden to interrupt our routine.

Jesus permits Simon to help. The Son of God chooses not to carry the cross alone. In doing so, He reveals something essential: love is shared.

Saint Francis did not rebuild the Church by himself. What began as a solitary call

became a fraternity — brothers walking together in simplicity and service. They begged together, prayed together, and carried one another's weaknesses.

Ours is a culture that prizes independence. We are taught to handle our own problems, protect our time, and avoid inconvenience. But reconciliation requires participation. Community requires sacrifice.



Living a different way means allowing ourselves to be interrupted — and allowing others to help us when we are the ones who are weary.

Peace grows when burdens are shared.

Shared Prayer

*Lord Jesus,
when we are reluctant to serve
or slow to notice another's need,
open our hearts to generous love.*

*Saint Francis,
who walked in fraternity and humble
service, pray for us.*

All: *Lord, teach us your way of peace.*

Sixth Station

Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: *Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

The Story

As Jesus moves through the jeering crowd, a woman steps forward.

She does not carry a weapon.
She does not shout.
She carries only a cloth.



With quiet courage, Veronica wipes the blood and dust from His face.
For a moment, compassion breaks through the chaos.

Living a Different Way

Veronica could have stayed hidden. The crowd was loud. The soldiers were near. Compassion carried risk.

Yet she steps forward.

Her gesture does not stop the crucifixion. It does not change the sentence. But it restores dignity. It honors the suffering face before her.

Saint Francis once crossed the lines of war to meet the Sultan during the Crusades. He went unarmed, not to conquer but to encounter. In a world divided by fear and

suspicion, he chose presence over hostility.

We too live among raised voices and hardened opinions. It is easy to stay silent when kindness might cost us something -- to scroll past suffering, to protect ourselves from discomfort.

Living a different way means daring to see the face of Christ in the wounded, the overlooked, the misunderstood. It means responding not with arguments, but with mercy.

Compassion may seem small. But it leaves an imprint.

Shared Prayer

*Lord Jesus,
when fear keeps us at a distance
from the suffering around us,
give us the courage to draw near.*

*Saint Francis,
who crossed boundaries in peace, pray
for us.*

All: *Lord, teach us your way of peace.*

Seventh Station

Jesus Falls the Second Time

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: *Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

The Story

The road stretches on.
The weight has not grown lighter.
Again, Jesus stumbles.

The dust clings to His wounds.
The journey feels longer than before.
And once more, He falls.

Yet once more, He rises.

Living a Different Way

The second fall feels different from the first.

This is not surprise.
This is exhaustion.

There are moments when the effort to forgive feels heavy. When trying to understand one another feels pointless. When rebuilding what is broken seems painfully slow.

Discouragement whispers: *Why continue?*

Saint Francis knew seasons of weariness. In his later years, illness weakened his body. Tensions arose within the very

community he had begun. The dream of simple Gospel living was harder to sustain than to imagine. Yet he did not abandon the path. Even in suffering, he sang of “Brother Sun” and “Sister Moon,” trusting that God’s work was larger than his strength.

To follow Christ here is to choose faithfulness even when enthusiasm fades.



Peace is not built in a single act.
Reconciliation is not achieved in a moment.
It grows through patient endurance.

When we fall into discouragement, Christ invites us to rise again — not by our own power, but by trusting that God is still at work.

Shared Prayer

Lord Jesus,
*when we grow tired of doing good
or weary of seeking peace,
strengthen us to rise and continue.*

Saint Francis,
*who trusted God through weakness and
uncertainty, pray for us.*

All: Lord, teach us your way of peace.

Eighth Station

Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: *Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

The Story

As Jesus walks toward Calvary, a group of women weep for Him.

Seeing their sorrow, He turns to them and says, “Do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children.”



Even in His suffering, Jesus speaks a word that invites reflection.

Living a Different Way

The women are moved. They grieve what they see.

But Jesus gently redirects their tears.

Compassion is not meant to stop at emotion. It is meant to awaken conversion.

It is possible to feel sad about suffering and yet remain unchanged. It is possible to shake our heads at the brokenness of the world and never examine our own hearts.

Saint Francis did not simply admire the Gospel. He allowed it to transform him. When he heard Christ say, “Rebuild my Church,” he began not with criticism of others, but with repentance and simplicity in his own life.

Living a different way requires vision — the willingness to ask hard questions of ourselves. Where do we contribute to division? Where do we cling to resentment? Where do we ignore the needs of the next generation?

Jesus’ words to the women are not harsh. They are loving. He desires not only sympathy, but renewal.

The Cross does not only reveal suffering. It reveals the path to change.

Shared Prayer

*Lord Jesus,
when we are tempted to remain
comfortable
in sorrow without conversion,
open our eyes and renew our hearts.*

*Saint Francis,
who allowed the Gospel to reshape his
life, pray for us.*

All: *Lord, teach us your way of peace.*

Ninth Station

Jesus Falls the Third Time

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: *Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

The Story

The hill is near.
Calvary is in sight.
Yet before reaching the summit, Jesus falls again.

His strength is nearly spent.
The weight presses down.
The earth receives Him once more.

For a third time, He rises.

Living a Different Way

There comes a point when effort alone is not enough.

The third fall is not simply weakness or fatigue. It is the moment when we reach the limits of our own strength.

We do not like limits. We resist them. We measure our worth by productivity, by success, by how much we can carry. When we can no longer manage everything, we feel diminished.

But Jesus shows us another way.

He does not cling to control. He entrusts Himself completely to the Father. His rising is no longer about proving endurance. It is surrender in love.

In his final years, Saint Francis grew blind and frail. His body bore illness and pain. Yet he spoke of “Sister Death” not as an enemy to be feared, but as a sister to be welcomed in trust. He had learned that peace does not come from strength alone, but from belonging entirely to God.



Living a different way means accepting our limits with humility. It means trusting that God’s work continues even when ours feels

unfinished.

Sometimes peace begins not in striving — but in surrender.

Shared Prayer

Lord Jesus,
when we reach the limits of our strength and fear what we cannot control, teach us to trust the Father as you did.

Saint Francis,
who embraced frailty with hope, pray for us.

All: Lord, teach us your way of peace.

Tenth Station

Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: *Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

The Story

At the top of Calvary, the soldiers strip Jesus of His garments.

The little dignity that remained is taken.
His wounds are exposed.
The crowd looks on.

The One through whom all things were made stands with nothing.

Living a Different Way

To be stripped is to be vulnerable.

We spend much of our lives clothing ourselves — not only with fabric, but with reputation, achievement, possessions, and carefully managed images. These coverings give us a sense of control. They protect us from being fully seen.

Jesus is left with nothing but love.

He does not cling to what is taken. He does not defend His status. He entrusts even His dignity to the Father.

Saint Francis once removed his own fine garments before the bishop of Assisi and returned them to his earthly father. In that act, he renounced not only wealth, but the identity that wealth had given him. Stripped of status, he discovered a deeper freedom — belonging entirely to God.

Living a different way means allowing false securities to fall away. It means letting go of the need to impress, to dominate, to win every argument. It means choosing authenticity over image.

There is peace in poverty of spirit.
There is freedom in being known — and loved — without disguise.



Shared Prayer

*Lord Jesus,
when we cling to image, status, or control,
strip away what keeps us from trusting you completely.*

*Saint Francis,
who found freedom in holy poverty, pray for us.*

All: *Lord, teach us your way of peace.*

Eleventh Station

Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: *Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

The Story

The cross is laid upon the ground.

Jesus is stretched out upon the wood He has carried. Nails pierce His hands and His feet.

The blows echo in the air.

He is fastened in place.
Unable to withdraw.
Unable to escape.

The cross is lifted high.

Living a Different Way

This is the moment of deepest injury.

When we are hurt, something in us cries out for defense. We replay the wound. We gather our arguments. We imagine what we would say if given the chance.

Jesus does not curse His executioners. He does not threaten revenge. From the cross, He prays: "Father, forgive them."

Forgiveness is not denial of pain. It is a refusal to let hatred take root.

Saint Francis bore wounds in his own body — the stigmata marking his deep union with the Crucified. Yet he did not allow suffering to harden him. His life remained marked by gentleness and peace.



Living a different way means choosing forgiveness even when it feels undeserved. It means refusing to pass along the injury we have received. It means believing that mercy is stronger than resentment.

The world may tell us that power proves strength.

The Cross reveals that forgiveness does.

Shared Prayer

*Lord Jesus,
when we are wounded in body or in heart,
guard us from bitterness and teach us to forgive.*

*Saint Francis,
who bore the marks of Christ with humility and peace, pray for us.*

All: *Lord, teach us your way of peace.*

Twelfth Station

Jesus Dies on the Cross

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: *Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

The Story

Darkness covers the land.

Jesus hangs upon the cross.
His strength is gone.
His breathing grows faint.

He entrusts His spirit into
the Father's hands.

And He bows His head.

The earth grows still.

Living a Different Way

This is love poured out completely.

No defense.
No retaliation.
No final argument.

Only trust.

The peace that Francis proclaimed —
“May the Lord give you peace” — flows
from this moment. Not from victory in
battle. Not from control or dominance.
But from self-giving love that holds
nothing back.

At the end of his own life, Francis welcomed “Sister Death” as a brother at peace. He had learned from the Crucified that nothing — not suffering, not loss, not even death — can separate us from the love of God.

The Cross stands in the center of every conflict, every wound, every division. It does not deny the pain. It enters it. It transforms it from within.

Living a different way means trusting that love is stronger than death.

Peace is not the absence of suffering.

It is the presence of Christ within it.

All kneel and observe a moment of silence.

Shared Prayer

*Lord Jesus,
in the silence of your dying love,
teach us to trust completely in the
Father.*

*Saint Francis,
who found perfect joy in the Crucified
Christ, pray for us.*

All: Lord, teach us your way of peace.



Thirteenth Station

Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: *Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

The Story

The cross is lowered.

The lifeless body of Jesus is placed into the arms of His mother.

The wounds remain.
The silence deepens.
Those who love Him gather close.

There is no miracle in this moment — only grief and tenderness.

Living a Different Way

After conflict, after suffering, after harsh words — someone must gather the broken pieces.

Mary receives her Son with sorrow, but without hatred. She does not turn her grief into blame. She holds Him in love.

Saint Francis learned to embrace the suffering Christ not only in prayer, but in those who were wounded and forgotten. What had once repelled him — the leper, the poor, the outcast — became the place where he met the Crucified Lord.

Living a different way means refusing to let pain harden us. It means tending to wounds rather than reopening them. It means choosing tenderness when anger would be easier.

Our world carries many wounds. Families do. Communities do. The Church does. Healing begins when someone is willing to hold what has been broken — gently, patiently, without accusation.

Love does not disappear at the end of suffering. It remains.

Shared Prayer

Lord Jesus, when we encounter sorrow and loss, teach us to respond with tenderness and mercy.

*Mary, Mother of Compassion, pray for us.
Saint Francis, who embraced the wounded Christ, pray for us.*

All: Lord, teach us your way of peace.



Fourteenth Station

Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: *Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.*

The Story

Jesus is wrapped in linen and placed in a borrowed tomb.

A stone is rolled across the entrance.

The voices fade.

The day comes to an end.

It seems finished.

It seems silent.

It seems like loss.

Living a Different Way

The tomb is the place where hope feels hidden.

There are moments in our lives when reconciliation seems impossible. When efforts toward peace appear unanswered. When love feels buried beneath misunderstanding and fear.

The disciples walk away in sorrow. Yet God is still at work in the silence.

Saint Francis died on the bare earth, laid upon the ground he called brother. To many, his life may have seemed small — a poor man from Assisi. Yet the seed

planted in humility would bear fruit far beyond his lifetime.

Living a different way means trusting that God works in hidden places. It means believing that what is surrendered in love is never lost.

The stone does not have the final word. Silence does not cancel promise.

Peace often begins quietly — like a seed beneath the soil, waiting for dawn.

Shared Prayer

Lord Jesus,
*when we cannot yet see the fruit of our efforts
or the healing we long for,
give us patience to trust your hidden work.*

Saint Francis,
*who entrusted his life to God in peace,
pray for us.*

All: Lord, teach us your way of peace.



Closing Reflection

With Mary in the Silence

Leader:

After the tomb was sealed, the world
grew quiet.

The disciples scattered.
The crowds returned home.
The cross stood against the darkened sky.

But Mary remained — holding in her
heart the promise spoken long ago.

She did not know how God would act.
She did not see the dawn yet.
But she trusted.

In every age, the Church stands in
moments— when peace feels fragile,
divisions deep, hope buried.

Mary teaches us how to wait.

Saint Francis learned this patient trust
from the Mother of the Lord. In simplicity
and surrender, he entrusted the future to
God's mercy. He believed that what is
given in love is never wasted.

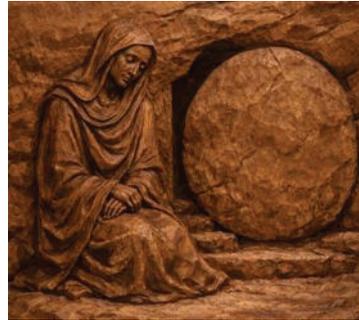
As we leave this place tonight, we do not
leave with all problems solved. We leave
with a Cross that has shown us another
way.

A way of integrity.
A way of forgiveness.
A way of humble peace.

May we carry that peace into our homes,
our conversations, our communities.

And with Saint Francis and with Mary,
may we learn to say with our lives:

All:
Lord, teach us your way of peace.



Saint Francis of Assisi

A Witness of Christ's Peace

Saint Francis of Assisi (1181–1226) was born into a wealthy merchant family in Italy. As a young man, he dreamed of honor and success. But after experiencing illness, disappointment, and a growing restlessness of heart, he began to seek something more.

While praying before the Crucifix in the small chapel of San Damiano, Francis heard the Lord say, “Rebuild my Church.” At first, he thought this meant repairing a crumbling building. In time, he realized that Christ was calling him to rebuild the Church through a life shaped entirely by the Gospel.

Francis renounced wealth and status, choosing poverty and simplicity. He embraced lepers, reconciled enemies, and formed a community of brothers committed to prayer, humility, and fraternity. He greeted others with the words, “May the Lord give you peace,” believing that true peace comes from Christ alone.

Near the end of his life, weakened by illness and bearing the wounds of Christ in his own body, Francis composed the *Canticle of the Creatures*, praising God for “Brother Sun” and “Sister Moon.” He even welcomed “Sister Death” as a sign of trust in God’s mercy.

Eight hundred years after his death, the Church continues to look to Saint Francis as a model of Gospel peace — a man who

chose reconciliation over retaliation, humility over power, and love over fear.

At the opening of the Jubilee Year marking the 800th anniversary of Saint Francis’ death, Pope Leo XIV offered the following prayer:

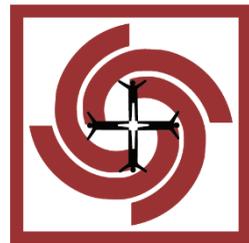
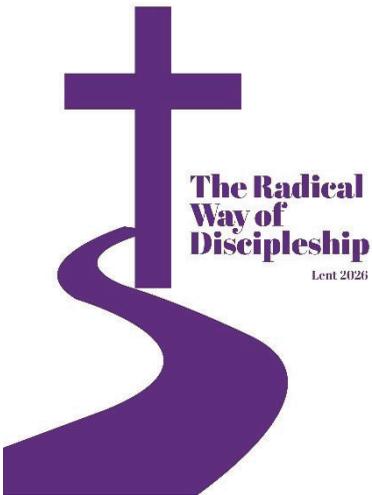
**Saint Francis, our brother,
you who eight hundred years ago
went to meet Sister Death as a man
at peace,
intercede for us before the Lord.**

**You recognized true peace in the
Crucifix of San Damiano,
teach us to seek in Him the source of
all reconciliation
that breaks down every wall.**

**You who, unarmed, crossed the lines
of war
and misunderstanding,
give us the courage to build bridges
where the world raises up
boundaries.**

**In this time afflicted by conflict and
division,
intercede for us so that we may
become peacemakers:
unarmed and disarming witnesses
of the peace that comes from Christ.**

Amen.



St Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
1500 Brookdale Road
Naperville, IL 60563
630-355-8980
stapostle.org