

**Community of St Francis  
Society of St. Francis**

**24th February**

**The Vocation of Saint Francis**

**Day of Prayer for Vocations to the  
Franciscan Life**



**Texts for a Eucharistic Celebration**

*On the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 1208, two months before his first brothers joined him, Francis was living alone, wearing the habit and leather belt of a hermit. It was on this day, the former feast of Saint Matthias, that he heard the gospel read in which Christ sends out his apostles to preach without money, footwear, spare tunic or staff. "This is what I want," he exclaimed. "This is what I long for with all my heart." From then on, Bonaventure tells us, he conceived a horror of money or wealth and wore only one tunic, changing his leather belt for a rope. So it was that on this day both the Franciscan vocation and habit were conceived. Therefore it is highly appropriate to use this day as a day of prayer for vocations to the Franciscan life as expressed in the three orders.*

**Further information can be found at:**  
<http://www.franciscans.org.uk>

### **Communion Sentence.**

Jesus said, "If any serves me, they must follow me: where I am, there my servant will be".

Or

Jesus said: "I solemnly tell you: those who have left everything and followed me will be repaid a hundredfold and will gain eternal life".

### **Post Communion Prayer.**

All-powerful God,  
may we who are strengthened by the power  
of this sacrament  
learn from the example of Saint Francis  
and to live in this world as your new creation. **Amen**

Or

May Jesus our Brother, whom we have received in this  
Eucharistic mystery,  
continually inspire others through their  
Baptismal commitment  
to consecrate their lives union with Francis  
in the way of poverty, chastity and obedience. **Amen.**

ever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgement than for that town.

'See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves'.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**(Prayer over the gifts.**

God of all mercy,  
you transformed Saint Francis and made him a new creature in your image.  
Renew us in the same way by making our gifts of peace acceptable to you.)

**Preface.**

And now we give you thanks  
because you called your servant Francis  
to embrace a life of poverty, chastity and obedience  
for the sake of the Gospel.  
From age to age you call others to follow in his steps  
and seek with their inmost hearts the Kingdom Of Heaven.  
May their voices blend with ours  
as we join with angels and archangels and all the company  
of heaven  
in their unending hymn of praise: **Holy, holy, holy...**

**Propers for a Eucharistic Celebration for  
The Vocation of Saint Francis**

**Entrance sentence.**

May I never boast of anything but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ! Through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.

Or

Blessed is the one who puts his trust in the Lord; he is like a tree planted by the waterside, and never ceases to bear fruit.

**Collect.**

God of mercy,  
your word gave blessed Francis liberty to become your servant and to reflect the image of Christ through a life of poverty and humility, peace and prayer, so may the power of your Spirit move the hearts of all to respond to your call.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord who,  
with you and the Holy Spirit,  
give freedom through forgiveness and new life in your love.  
**Amen.**

**First Reading:**

A reading from the letter to the Galatians

*Galatians 6: 14-18*

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—

peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.  
From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks  
of Jesus branded on my body.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers  
and sisters. Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

Or

### **A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians**

*Philippians 3: 7-14*

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

### **Responsorial Psalm.**

**Response:**     **You will show me the path of life,  
                          the fullness of joy in your presence.**

Preserve me, O God, I take refuge in you  
I say to the Lord 'You are my God,  
my happiness lies in you alone'.  
O lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;  
It is you who are my prize. **R**

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,  
who even at night directs my heart,  
I Keep the Lord ever in my sight;  
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **R**

You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of life in your presence,  
at your right hand happiness for ever. **R**

### **Gospel Acclamation.**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
You received without charge, give without charge.  
Be cunning as serpents and yet as harmless as doves.  
Alleluia.

### **Gospel:**

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

*Matthew 10: 5-16*

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for labourers deserve their food. What-