

*Saturday 16 May*

## OPENING LITURGY

*[All gather before the chapel of the Tranistus. After the greeting by the Bishop and the reading from the Franciscan sources, the Bishop lights the Paschal candle and from his candle all light their votive candles. All go in procession to the chapel of the Porziuncola in this order: First the Paschal candle, followed by the Gospel book, then all present with the Bishop processing last. At the Porziuncola, all bow to the altar and upon leaving place their votive candle on it. The Bishop with the ministers and the Gospel book remain inside the chapel.]*

### GREETING

V. In the name of the Lord, Father and Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

To all of you, Christians, religious, clerics and lay, women and men who have come from diverse parts of the world to the land of brother Francis, joyous greetings, the peace of heaven and sincere love in the Lord (FF 179).

### A. Blessed be God for ever.

A READING FROM THE LEGGENDA MAIOR OF ST. BONAVENTURE (prologue), FF 1021-1022

Shining with the splendor of his life and teaching, like the morning star in the midst of clouds, by his resplendent rays he guided into the light those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, and like the rainbow shining among clouds of glory he made manifest in himself the sign of the Lord's covenant. He preached to the people the Gospel of peace and salvation, being himself an angel of true peace. Like John the Baptist, he was destined by God to prepare in the desert a way of the highest poverty and to preach repentance by word and example. First endowed with the gifts of divine grace, he was then enriched by the merit of unshakable virtue; and filled with the spirit of prophecy, he was also assigned an angelic ministry and was totally aflame with a Seraphic fire. Like a hierarchic man, lifted up on a fiery chariot, it may be reasonably accepted as true that he came in the spirit and power of Elijah, as will appear quite clearly in the course of his life.

And so in the true prophecy of that other friend of the Bridegroom, John the Apostle and Evangelist, he is considered not without reason to be like the angel ascending from the rising of the sun bearing the seal of the living God. For "at the opening of the sixth seal," John says in the Apocalypse, "I saw another Angel ascending from the rising sun, having the sign of the living God." If we consider the height of his extraordinary sanctity we can come to the conclusion, without any doubt, that this messenger of God – worthy of love by Christ, imitation by us, and admiration by the world – was God's servant, Francis. In this, while living among humans, he was an imitator of angelic purity and was placed as an example for the perfect followers of Christ. This conviction should be faithfully and devotedly in the forefront of our minds: not only does this advance the mission he held of calling to weep and mourn, to shave one's head and wear sackcloth, and to sign the Tau on the foreheads of those moaning and grieving with a sign of a penitential cross, and of a habit conformed to the cross; even more, it confirms with the irrefutable testimony of truth that the seal of the likeness of the living God, that is of Christ crucified, was imprinted on his body, nor by natural forces or human skill, but by the wondrous power of the Spirit of the living God.

### LUCERNARIUM

*The Bishop lights the Paschal candle*

Let us pray

Almighty God, let the brilliance of Christ shine on us. He is light from light and splendor of your glory. Give us your Holy Spirit who filled your servant Francis and confirm in love your faithful, who have been born to new life. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, living and reigning with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

**A. Amen.**

*Procession of the Paschal candle and Book of the Gospels*

HYMN

SONG BEFORE THE GOSPEL

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

GOSPEL READING

*"You are the light of the world"*

A Reading of the Holy Gospel from Matthew (Mt 5:14-15)

**A. Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that time Jesus said: "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**A. Praise to your Lord Jesus Christ.**

HOMILY

OFFERING OF INCENSE

*The Bishop incenses the altar.*

**Let my prayer rise like incense  
and the lifting up of my hands  
as an evening sacrifice**

*Psalm 141*

I call upon you, O LORD;  
come quickly to me;  
give ear to my voice when I call to you.

Let my prayer be counted  
as incense before you,  
and the lifting up of my hands  
as an evening sacrifice.

Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD;  
keep watch over the door of my lips.

Do not turn my heart to any evil,  
to busy myself with wicked deeds  
in company with those  
who work iniquity

But my eyes are turned toward you,  
O GOD, my Lord;  
in you I seek refuge;  
do not leave me defenseless.

*Celebrant:*

Let us pray.

O God, Father of the universe and light that knows no setting,  
in your holy temple  
you made blessed Francis shine  
as the morning star in the midst of the clouds  
and as the full moon in his day,  
so that he would glorify You, the source of all good, by his works.  
Let the prayers of your servants  
rise as the sweet smell of incense  
and let the songs of all of your creatures  
be as the evening sacrifice.  
Thorough Christ our Lord.  
**A. Amen.**

PARAPHRASE ON THE OUR FATHER (FF 266-275, dialogued)

L1. O *Our Father* most holy: Our Creator, Redeemer, Consoler, and Saviour:

*Who are in heaven:* In the angels and the saints, enlightening them to know, for You, Lord, are light; inflaming them to love, for You, Lord, are love; dwelling in them and filling them with happiness, for You, Lord, are Supreme Good, the Eternal Good, from Whom all good comes without Whom there is no good.

**A. Our Father who art in heaven.**

L2 *Holy be Your Name:* May knowledge of You become clearer in us that we may know the breadth of Your blessings, the length of Your promises, the height of Your majesty, the depth of Your judgments.

**A. Our Father, hallowed by your name.**

L3. *Your kingdom come*: That You may rule in us through Your grace and enable us to come to Your kingdom where there is clear vision of You, perfect love of You, blessed companionship with You, eternal enjoyment of You.

**A. Our Father, may your kingdom come.**

L4. *Your will be done on earth as in heaven*: That we may love You with our whole heart by always thinking of You, with our whole soul by always desiring You, with our whole mind by always directing all our intentions to You, and by seeking Your glory in everything, with all our whole strength by exerting all our energies and affections of body and soul in the service of Your love and of nothing else; and we may love our neighbour as ourselves by drawing them all to Your love with our whole strength, by rejoicing in the good of others as in our own, by suffering with others at their misfortunes, and by giving offence to no one.

**A. Our Father, your will be done.**

L5. *Give us this day*: in remembrance, understanding, and reverence of that love which [our Lord Jesus Christ] had for us and of those things that He said and did and suffered for us. *Our daily Bread*: Your own beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

**A. Our Father, give us our daily bread.**

L1. *Forgive us our trespasses*: through Your ineffable mercy through the power of the passion of Your beloved Son and through the merits and intercession of the ever blessed Virgin and all Your elect.

**A. Our Father, forgive us our trespasses.**

L2. *As we forgive those who trespass against us*: And what we do not completely forgive, make us, Lord, forgive completely that we may truly love our enemies because of You and we may fervently intercede for them before You, returning no one evil for evil and we may strive to help everyone in You.

**A. Our Father, forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

L3. *And lead us not into temptation*: hidden or obvious, sudden or persistent.

**A. Our Father, lead us not into temptation.**

L4. *But deliver us from evil*: past, present, and to come. Amen.

**A. Our Father, deliver us from evil.**

**Our Father**, who art in heaven...

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever . Amen.

SIGN OF PEACE

V. The peace of the Lord be with you all.  
**A. And also with you.**

*All exchange a sign of peace.*

BLESSING OF SAINT FRANCIS

V. The Lord bless you and keep you.  
**A. Amen.**

V. May the Lord turn to you and be merciful.  
**A. Amen.**

V. May the Lord show his face to you and grant you peace.  
**A. Amen.**

V. May the blessing of almighty God, Father, Son andn Holy Spirit come upon you and remain forever.  
**A. Amen.**

*Sunday 17 May*

**VI SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR B**

**MORNING PRAYER**

OPENING HYMN

ORATION

Lord God, this is the day that you made so we may rejoice and exalt in you. At dawn you revealed to the women who came to the tomb the resplendent face of your risen Son: dispel our sadness in the face of death and grant us to recognize he who ascends to you his Father and our Father for ever and ever. **Amen.**

READING FROM FRANCISCAN SOURCES

*The dream of Spoleto and the encounter with the leper*

From the Life of St. Francis by St. Bonaventure (FF 1031-1034)

The following night, when he had fallen asleep, the divine kindness showed him a large and splendid palace with military arms emblazoned with the insignia of Christ's cross. Thus it vividly indicated that the mercy he had exhibited to a poor knight for love of the supreme King would be repaid with an incomparable reward. When he asked to whom these belonged, the response he received from on high was that all these things were for him and his knights. Therefore, on waking up in the morning, since he was not yet disciplined in penetrating the divine mysteries and did not know how to pass through the visible appearance to intuit the invisible truth, he assessed the unusual vision to be a judgment of great prosperity in the future. For this reason, still ignorant of the divine plan, he set out to join a generous count in Apulia, hoping in his service to obtain the glory of knighthood, as his vision had foreshadowed.

Shortly after he had embarked on his journey and had gone as far as the neighboring city, he heard the Lord speaking to him during the night in a familiar way: "Francis, who can do more for you, a lord or servant, a rich person or one who is poor?" When Francis had replied that a lord or a rich person could do more, he was at once asked: "Why, then, are you abandoning the Lord for a servant, and the rich God for a poor mortal?" And Francis replied: "Lord, what do you want me to do?" And the Lord answered him: "Go back to your own land, because the vision you have seen prefigures a spiritual outcome which will be accomplished in you not by a human but by a divine plan."

From that time on, as he was removing himself from the pressure of the public business, he would eagerly beg the divine kindness to show him what he should do. When the flame of heavenly desire intensified in him by the practice of frequent prayer, and already, out of his love for a heavenly home, he despised all earthly things as nothing; he realized that he had found a hidden treasure, and, like a wise merchant, planned to buy the pearl he had found by selling everything. Nevertheless, how he should do this, he did not yet know; except that it was suggested to his spirit that a spiritual merchant must begin with contempt for the world and a knight of Christ with victory over one's self.

One day, therefore, while he was riding his horse through the plain that lies below the city of Assisi, he met a leper. This unforeseen encounter struck him with not a little horror. Recalling the plan of perfect that he already had conceived in his mind, and remembering that he must first conquer himself if he wanted to become a knight of Christ, he dismounted from his horse and ran to kiss him. As the leper stretched out his hand as to receive something, he gave him money with a kiss. Immediately mounting his horse, however, and turning all around, even though the open plain stretched clear in all directions he could not

see the leper anywhere. He began, therefore, filled with wonder and joy, to sing praises to the Lord, while proposing, because of this, to embark always on the greater. He then began to seek out solitary places, favorable to grieving, where, with unutterable groans, he concentrated incessantly on meriting to be heard by the Lord after the long perseverance of his prayer.

#### MEDITATION

[A. in Italian, S. in different languages]

#### *Psalm 42-43*

*A. As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.*

*My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?*

1. My tears have been my food day and night while people say to me continually, “Where is your God?” These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.

*A. Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.*

2. My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar. Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts; all your waves and your billows have gone over me.

*A. Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.*

3. By day the LORD commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life. I say to God, my rock, “Why have you forgotten me? Why must I walk about mournfully because the enemy oppresses me?”

As with a deadly wound in my body, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me continually, “Where is your God?”

*A. Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.*

4. Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people; from those who are deceitful and unjust deliver me! For you are the God in whom I take refuge; why have you cast me off? Why must I walk about mournfully because of the oppression of the enemy?

*A. As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?*

5. O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling. Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy; and I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.

*A. Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.*

#### PSALM PRAYER

Lord, you see how earthly things sadly attract us without satisfying us: by your divine thirst that you imparted to us from the cross, grant us an unquenchable thirst for the face of God, the living God. Amen.

GOSPEL READING

*He regained life and followed him.*

The Gospel according to Mark (Mk 10:35-52)

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

*The Gospel book is enthroned while the Assembly sings*

Alleluia alleluia, alleluia

CONTEMPLATION

*Peace Prayer (with alternating choirs):*

Lord make me an instrument of your peace  
Where there is hatred,  
Let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is error, truth;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, Joy.

O Divine Master grant that I may 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 pardoning that we are pardoned,  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

OUR FATHER

Our Father...

For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER

*Absorbeat (FF 277):*

*All together:*

May the power of your love, O Lord,  
fiery and sweet as honey,  
wean my heart from all that is under heaven,  
so that I may die for love of your love,  
you who were so good  
as to die for love of my love.

CANTO (Taizé)

**Iubilate Deo** omnis terra,  
servite Domino in laetitia  
alleluia, alleluia, in laetitia.

*Monday 18 May*

**MORNING PRAYER**

HYMN

ORATION

Lord our God, you give us light on this new day for the joy of our eyes: the glory of your Risen Son illuminates our hearts and raises up in us the desire to do your will so that we may sing the praise of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

READING FROM THE FRANCISCAN SOURCES

*The encounter with the crucifix of St. Damiano*

From the Life of St. Francis by st. Bonaventure (FF 1038)

Because the servant of the Most High had no other teacher in these matters except Christ, His kindness visited him once more in the sweetness of grace. For one day when Francis went out to meditate in the fields, he walked near the church of San Damiano which was threatening to collapse because of age. Impelled by the Spirit, he went inside to pray. Prostrate before an image of the Crucified, he was filled with no little consolation as he prayed. While his tear-filled eyes were gazing at the Lord's cross, he heard with his bodily ears a voice coming from that cross, telling him three times: "Francis, go and repair my house which, as you see, is all being destroyed." Trembling, Francis was stunned at the sound of such an astonishing voice, since he was alone in the church; he fell into an ecstasy of mind. At last, coming back to himself, he prepared himself to obey and pulled himself together to carry out the command of repairing the material church, although the principal intention of the words referred to that which Christ purchased with his own blood, as the Holy Spirit taught him and as he himself later disclosed to the brothers.

MEDITATION

*Psalm 27*

*A. The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?*

*The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

1. When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall. Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

*A. One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the*

*LORD, and to inquire in his temple.*

2. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock. Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

*A. Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, LORD, do I seek.*

3. Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn

your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation! If my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me up.

*A. Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.*

4. Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence. I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

*A. Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!*

#### PSALM PRAYER

Lord, light and salvation of our souls, enliven in us the trust in your love: give us the strength to believe and hope until the day we will contemplate your goodness in the land of the living. Amen.

#### GOSPEL READING

*"If someone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself"*

From the Gospel according to Mark (Mk 8:27-38)

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

#### CONTEMPLATION

V. Let us contemplate the things of above. *R. Our life is hidden with Christ in God.*

*A. Blessed are you Lord our God*

L1. Lord, no one can know you unless you reveal yourself, only the one who recognizes your voice knows how to measure your love and only the one who bears his cross truly loves you.

*A. Blessed are you Lord our God*

L2. Infinitely great, you are not far from us, when we are in distress you refer us, not to your might but to your weakness in Jesus your Son.

*A. Blessed are you Lord our God*

L3. In him on the cross you are rejected by the world, through him you attract us to you in your love revealed not in your power, but in your suffering.

*A. Blessed are you Lord our God*

L4. We, just and unjust, ill and well, to live in the fulness of our humanity, we through ourselves into your arms in complete faith.

*A. Blessed are you Lord our God*

L5. In trials we are not lost and desperate, in success we do not become arrogant we always want to remain behind Jesus your Son.

*A. Blessed are you Lord our God*

L1. Jesus your Son is costly grace, he is the unexpected call but efficacious: to answer him we have abandoned all that we have.

*A. Blessed are you Lord our God*

L2. Jesus your Son is Lord, the risen one from the dead: in order to place our hope in him we are ready to be the poorest on earth.

*A. Blessed are you Lord our God.*

Our Father...

For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER

*Prayer before the Crucifix (FF 276)*

*Together:*

Most High, glorious God,  
enlighten the darkness of my heart  
and give me true faith,  
certain hope and perfect charity,  
sense and knowledge, Lord,  
that I may carry out  
Your holy and true command. Amen.

CANON (Taizé)

**Magnificat**, magnificat, magnificat anima mea Dominum.  
Magnificat, magnificat, magnificat anima mea Dominum.

*Tuesday 19 May*

**MORNING PRAYER**

OPENING SONG

ORATION

Lord of the world, on Easter morn, you have conquered all darkness in your Son: your light penetrates the hearts of all so that they may participate in your victory and become with him children of light for the eternal blessed kingdom for ever and ever. Amen.

READING FROM THE FRANCISCAN SOURCES

*Only the Gospel*

From the life of St. Francis by Thomas of Celano (FF 356-359)

One day the gospel was being read in that church about how the Lord sent out his disciples to preach. The holy man of God, who was attending there, in order to maintain better the words of the gospel, humbly begged the priest after celebrating the solemnities of the Mass to explain the gospel to him. The priest explained it all to him thoroughly line by line. When he heard Christ's disciples should not possess gold or silver or money, or carry on a journey a wallet or a sack, nor bread nor a staff, nor to have shoes nor two tunics, but that they should preach the kingdom of God and penance, the holy man Francis, exulted in the spirit of God. "This is what I want," he said, "this is what I seek, this is what I desire with all my heart."

The holy father, overflowing with joy, hastened to implement the words of salvation, and did not delay before he devoutly began to put into effect what he heard. Immediately, he took off his shoes from his feet, put down the staff from his hands, and, satisfied with one tunic, exchanged his leather belt for a cord. After this, he made for himself a tunic showing the image of the cross, so that in it he would drive off every fantasy of the demons. He made it very rough, so that in it he might crucify the flesh and its vices and sins. He made it very poor and plain, a thing that the world would never covet. As for the other things he heard, he set about doing them with great care and reverence. For he was no deaf hearer of the gospel; rather he committed everything he heard to his excellent memory and was careful to carry it out to the letter.

He then began to preach penance to all with a fervent spirit and joyful attitude. He inspired his listeners with words that were simple and a heart that was heroic. His word was like a blazing fire, reaching the deepest parts of the heart, and filling the souls of all with wonder. He seemed entirely different from what he had been, and looking up to heaven he refused to look down upon earth. It is truly amazing that he first began to preach where he had learned to read as a little boy, and where he was first reverently buried. Thus; a blessed beginning was confirmed by a more blessed end. Where he learned, there he also taught; and where he began, there he blessedly ended.

In all of his preaching, he prayed for peace saying, "May the Lord give you peace." He always proclaimed this to men and women, to those he met and to those who met him. Accordingly, many who hated peace along with salvation, with the Lord's help wholeheartedly embraced peace. They became themselves children of peace, now rivals for eternal salvation.

MEDITATION

*Psalm 19/B*

*R. Your word O Lord, is spirit and life.*

1. The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple.

*R. Your word O Lord, is spirit and life.*

2. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes.

*R. Your word O Lord, is spirit and life.*

3. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than

honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

*R. Your word O Lord, is spirit and life.*

4. But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

*R. Your word O Lord, is spirit and life.*

5. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

*R. Your word O Lord, is spirit and life.*

PSALM PRAYER

O heavenly Father, you have sent your divine Word to reveal the splendor of your glory to the universe, grant us that the law may illuminate our hearts, reassure our souls and give us the wisdom of the simple. Amen.

GOSPEL READING

*"You follow me!"*

From the Gospel according to Luke (Lk 9:57-62)

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

CONTEMPLATION

V. Let us contemplate the things of above. *R. Our life is hidden with Christ in God.*

*A. Glory to you, our God, glory to you*

1. In the luminous cloud you enlightened your people in the risen Jesus you have given us the Light of the world

*A. Glory to you, our God, glory to you*

2. In the voice of Moses you instituted Israel in the risen Jesus you have given us the Word of life

*A. Glory to you, our God, glory to you*

3. In the gift of manna you fed your people in the risen Jesus you have given us the Bread of life.

*A. Glory to you, our God, glory to you*

4. In the water springing from the rock you quenched Israel in the risen Jesus you have given us the Spirit of life.

*A. Glory to you, our God, glory to you*

5. In the prayer of Moses you made your people victorious in the risen Jesus you ave given us the Victory over hell.

*A. Glory to you, our God, glory to you.*

Our Father ...

For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER (FF 233)

*Together:*

Almighty, Eternal, Just and Merciful God, grant us in our misery that we may do for your sake alone what we know You want us to do, and always want what pleases You; so that, cleansed and enlightened interiorly and fired with the ardor of the Holy Spirit, we may be able to follow in the footsteps of you Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and so make our way to You, Most High, by your grace alone, who lives and reigns in perfect Trinity and simple Unity, and are glorified, God Omnipotent, for ever and ever. Amen.

CANON (Taizé)

**Cantate Domino** canticum novum, alleluia, alleluia.

Cantate Domino canticum novum, alleluia, alleluia.

*Wednesday 20 May*

**MORNING PRAYER**

OPENING SONG

ORATION

God of truth and of love, through the resurrection of your Son you revealed the meaning of every thing: increase our faith and we will know how to discover your presence in every encounter that we will make during this day. Blessed are you in this morning and for ever and ever. Amen.

READING FROM THE FRANCISCAN SOURCES

*Brother of the poor and of all of creation*

From the first life of St. Francis by Thomas of Celano (FF 453-455).

The father of the poor, the poor Francis, conforming himself to the poor in all things, was distressed to see anyone poorer than himself, not out of any desire for empty glory, but from a feeling of simple compassion. Though he was content with a ragged and rough tunic, he often wished to divide it with some poor person. This richest poor man, moved by a great feeling of pity, in order to help the poor in some way, used to approach the rich people of this world during the coldest times of the year, asking them to loan him their cloaks or furs. As they responded even more gladly than the blessed father asked, he used to say to them, "I shall accept this from you only on the condition that you never expect to have it returned." The first poor man who happened to meet him, he would then clothe with whatever he had received, exulting and rejoicing.

He was deeply troubled whenever he saw one of the poor insulted or heard a curse hurled at any creature. He happened that a certain brother insulted a poor man begging alms, saying: "Are you sure that you are not really rich and just pretending to be poor?" When Saint Francis, the father of the poor, heard this, he was deeply hurt and he severely rebuked the brother who had said these things. Then he ordered the brother to strip naked in front of the poor man and to kiss his feet, to beg his forgiveness. He used to say, "Anyone who curses the poor insults Christ whose noble banner the poor carry, since Christ made himself poor for us in this world. That is also why, when he met poor people burdened with wood or other heavy loads, he would offer his own weak shoulders to help them.

The holy man overflowed with a spirit of charity, bearing within himself a deep sense of concern not only toward other humans in need but also toward mute, brute animals: reptiles, birds, and all other creatures whether sensate or not. But among all the different types of creatures, he loved lambs with a special fondness and spontaneous affection, since in Sacred Scripture the humility of our Lord Jesus Christ is frequently and rightly compared to the lamb. He used to embrace more warmly and to observe more gladly anything in which he found an allegorical likeness to the Son of God.

## MEDITATION

### *Psalm 23*

*R. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.*

1. He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

*R. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.*

2. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

*R. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.*

3. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

*R. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.*

4. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

*R. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.*

## PSALM PRAYER

Lord Jesus, good shepherd, let us find your peace in the pastures of salvation of your Church: if you will guide us, nothing else will we desire except you. Amen.

## GOSPEL READING

*"Look at the birds of the air".*

From the Gospel according to Matthew (Mt 6:19-21.24-34)

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you-- you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

## CONTEMPLATION

### *Prayer of Thanksgiving (FF 63-67. 264)*

L. All-powerful, most holy, Almighty and supreme God, Holy and just Father, Lord King of heaven and earth we thank You for Yourself for through Your holy will and through Your only Son with the Holy Spirit You have created everything spiritual and corporal and, after making us in Your own image and likeness, You placed us in paradise. Through our own fault we fell.

*A. Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, Who is, and Who was, and Who is to corner. And let us praise and glorify Him forever.*

L. We thank You for as through Your Son You created us, so through Your holy love with which You loved us You brought about His birth as true God and true man by the glorious, ever-virgin, most blessed, holy Mary and You willed to redeem us captives through His cross and blood and death.

*A. O Lord our God, You are worthy to receive praise, glory and honour and blessing. And let us praise and glorify Him forever.*

L. We thank You for Your Son Himself will come again in the glory of His majesty to send into the eternal fire the wicked ones who have not done penance and have not known You and to say to all those who have known You, adored You and served You in penance: "Come, you blessed of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world."

*A. The Lamb Who was slain is worthy to receive power and divinity, wisdom and strength, honour and glory and blessing. And let us praise and glorify Him forever.*

L. Because all of us, wretches and sinners, are not worthy to pronounce Your name, we humbly ask our Lord Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, in Whom You were well pleased, together with the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, to give You thanks, for everything as it pleases You and Him, Who always satisfies You in everything, through Whom You have done so much for us. Alleluia!

*A. Let us bless the Father and the Son with the Holy Spirit: And let us praise and glorify Him forever.*

L. Because of Your love, we humbly beg the glorious Mother, the most blessed, ever-virgin Mary, Blessed Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, all the choirs of the blessed seraphim, cherubim, thrones, dominations, principalities, powers, virtues, angels, archangels, Blessed John the Baptist, John the Evangelist, Peter, Paul, the blessed patriarchs and prophets, the innocents, apostles, evangelists, disciples, the martyrs, confessors and virgins, the blessed Elijah and Henoch, all the saints who were, who will be, and who are to give You thanks for these things, as it pleases You, God true and supreme, eternal and living, with Your most beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, world without end. Amen. Alleluia!

*A. Sing praise to our God, all you His servants and you who fear God, the small and the great. And let us praise and glorify Him forever.*

*Together:*

Our Father...

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

CANTO (Taizé)

**Cantate Domino** canticum novum, alleluia, alleluia,

Cantate Domino omnis terra, alleluia, alleluia.

*Thursday 21 May*

**MORNING PRAYER**

OPENING SONG

ORATION

O Christ, radiant morning star, incarnation of infinite love, salvation always hoped for and always awaited, the whole Church now cries to you as the bride ready for the wedding: Come Lord Jesus, only hope of the world. You are God and live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

READING FROM THE FRANCISCAN SOURCES

*Clare: Christ at the center*

From the fourth letter of St. Clare to blessed Agnes of Prague (FF 2901-2906)

Certainly, she is happy, who has been given to drink deeply at this sacred banquet so that she might cleave with all her heart to him at whose beauty all the blessed hosts of heaven wonder unceasingly. It is he whose love stirs, whose contemplation remakes; whose kindness floods: whose sweetness fills whose memory glows gently; whose fragrance brings the dead to life again: the Jerusalem above most blessed. Since she is the splendour of eternal glory, the brightness of everlasting light and an unspotted mirror.

Gaze into this mirror daily, O Queen, Bride of Jesus Christ, and continually reflect your face in it, so that you may adorn your whole being, within and without, in robes set about with variety, adorned with virtues like flowers and with garments every bit as ornate as those of the daughter and dearly beloved Bride of the Most High King, for this is only fitting.

In that mirror, then, is reflected blessed poverty, holy humility, and love beyond words, as, by the grace of God, you can contemplate in the whole mirror. Turn your mind, I say, to the border of this mirror, the poverty of him who was placed in a manger and wrapped in tiny garments. O wonderful Humility! O astounding poverty!

The King of Angels, the Lord of heaven and earth, lay in a manger! Then, in the centre of the mirror, consider the humility, or at least the blessed poverty, the infinite and costly troubles which he took upon himself to redeem the human race. At the edges of that same mirror, contemplate the love beyond words through which he chose to suffer on the Tree of the cross and, on that same Tree, to die the most disgraceful death of any.

Therefore, when it was placed on the wood of the cross, that same mirror taught the one who passed by to consider all this, saying: "All you who pass by the way, look and see if there is any suffering like my suffering!". [She says] let us respond to him with one voice, one spirit, crying out and grieving: "I hold this memory in my mind and my spirit faints within me!". So may you always more and more strongly catch fire from this burning love, O Queen of the heavenly King!

Over and above this, contemplating his inexpressible delights, enrichments and everlasting honours, and sighing with the immense longing and love of your heart, may you cry out: O heavenly Bridegroom, draw me after you, we are running in the fragrance of your perfumes! I shall run nor shall I give up, until you lead me into the wine-cellar, until your left arm is under my head and your right will happily embrace me. Then you will kiss me with the most happy kiss of Your mouth.

## MEDITATION

*R. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God.*

1. For he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

*R. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God.*

2. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

*R. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God.*

3. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.

*R. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God.*

4. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.

## PSALM PRAYER

Holy Father, who calls all of your children to perfect charity, and who invites some to follow more closely in the footsteps of Christ your Son, allow those whom you have chosen to be entirely yours, to show themselves to the Church and to the world as a visible sign of your kingdom. Through Christ our Lord.

## GOSPEL READING

*The vine and the branches.*

From the Gospel of John (Jn 15:1-11)

At that time Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear

*R. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God.*

5. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate.

*R. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God.*

6. But you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married.

*R. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God.*

7. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

*R. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God.*

more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

#### CONTEMPLATION

V. Your name is great over all the earth. *R. More than the heavens, the earth sings your splendor*

*A. Glory to your, O lord, glory to you!*

1. Jesus source of divine light, image of the invisible Father messenger of the plan of salvation, you are God with us, the Prince of peace.

*A. Glory to your, O lord, glory to you!*

2. Father of the world to come, true and new Adam, who for us was made to be like a slave, you became man in the womb of the Virgin Mary.

*A. Glory to your, O lord, glory to you!*

3. For us you came as a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes you were laid in a manger glorified by the angles and shepherds, adored by the Magi of the peoples.

*A. Glory to your, O lord, glory to you!*

4. You were made poor, in solidarity with the poor you embraced the cross of all suffering, you are the way, the one Lord, of all that exists you are its sustenance.

*A. Glory to your, O lord, glory to you!*

5. You are the hand that gives confidence to man, you are the beauty that adorns the earth, the good that soaks up and consumes all evil, the

holiness that goes beyond all beauty and goodness.

*A. Glory to your, O lord, glory to you!*

*Together:*

Our Father...

For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER

*The Praises of the Most High God (FF 261):*

*by alternating choirs:*

You are the holy Lord God  
Who does wonderful things

You are strong. You are great. You are the most  
high.

You are the almighty king. You holy Father,  
King of heaven and earth.

You are three and one, the Lord God of gods.

You are the good, all good, the highest good,  
Lord God living and true.

You are love, charity; You are wisdom,  
You are humility, You are patience.

You are beauty, You are meekness, You are  
security,

You are rest, You are gladness and joy, You are  
our hope.

You are justice, You are moderation,  
You are all our riches to sufficiency.

You are beauty, You are meekness,  
You are the protector, You are our custodian and  
defender,

You are strength, You are refreshment.

You are our hope, You are our faith,  
You are our charity.

You are all our sweetness.

You are our eternal life:  
Great and wonderful Lord, Almighty God,  
Merciful Saviour.

CANTO (Taizé )

**Ubi caritas et amor**, ubi caritas Deus ibi est.

Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas Deus ibi est.

## IN PREPARATION FOR THE ELECTIONS

### *Election of the President*

#### INVOCATION TO THE SPIRIT

1. Veni, creator Spiritus,  
mentes tuorum visita,  
imple superna gratia,  
quae tu creasti pectora.

2. Qui diceris Paraclitus,  
Altissimi donum Dei,  
fons vivus, ignis, caritas  
et spiritalis unctio.

3. Tu septiformis munere,  
digitus paternae dexterae,  
tu rite promissum Patris  
sermone ditans guttura.

4. Accende lumen sensibus,  
infonde amorem cordibus,  
infirmi nostri corporis,  
virtute firmans perpeti.

5. Hostem repellas longius  
pacemque dones protinus;  
ductore sic te praevio  
vitemus omne noxium.

6. Per te sciamus da Patrem  
noscamus atque Filium,  
teque utriusque Spiritum  
credamus omni tempore. Amen.

#### READING FROM THE FRANCISCAN SOURCES

*The qualities that one should have to govern.*

#### Reading from the Mirror of Perfection, (FF 1775-1776 passim)

Near the end of his life, a brother said to Francis: “Father, you will pass on to the Lord and this family of your followers will know remain in this *valley of tears*. Point out to us, someone in the Order, if you know one, on whom your spirit may rest and on whom the burden of the general ministry may worthily be laid”.

Francis responded: “I would like to paint one for you to show clearly what kind of person the leader and shepherd of this family should be. This person must be of very dignified life, of great discernment, and of praiseworthy reputation. He must be without personal favorites, lest while loving some more than others, he create scandal for all. He must be a committed friend of prayer, who can distribute some hours for his soul and others for his flock. Early in the morning, he must put first the most holy sacrifice of the Mass, and then, with prolonged devotion, lovingly commend himself and his flock to divine protection. After prayer, he must make himself centrally available for all to pick at him, and he should respond to all and provide for all with charity, patience and meekness.

He should not play favorites, so that he does not care less for the simple and illiterate than for the learned and educated. Even if he should be allowed the gift of learning, he should all the more bear in his behavior the image of piety, simplicity, patience and humility, and nourish these virtues in himself and others, constantly exercising them in patience and inspiring others to do so more by example than by words. He should loathe money, which is the principal corrupter of our profession and perfection. Let him be one who piously comforts the afflicted, and *the final* remedy of the distressed, so that the sickness of despair does not overcome the sick because he did not offer healing remedies.

I want that all honor him with devotion and reverence as the vicar of Christ, to be provided for in everything with all kindness according to his needs by everyone as is fitting for our state of life. However,

he must not enjoy honors, nor delight in approval more than insults, so that honors do not change his conduct except for the better.

It especially pertains to him to discern what is hidden in consciences and to draw out the truth from its hidden veins. Let him initially consider all accusations as suspect, until after diligent inquiry, the truth begins to appear. Let him not listen to gossip and consider the accusations of garrulous people especially suspect, and let him not believe them too easily. In order to maintain his honor, let him be a person who in no way betrays or relaxes the virile form of justice and equity. Let him take care never to destroy a soul by excessive severity, so that torpor not be aroused by undue lenience, and dissolution of discipline be undermined by lax indulgence. In this way he will be feared by all and loved by those who fear him. Let him always feel and consider the office of his prelacy as a burden rather than as an honor.

I would like him to have companions endowed with honesty, firmly opposed to sinful pleasures, resolute in difficulties, kind and compassionate to offenders, having the same affection for all. Let him not receive any remuneration for his work, except for his bodily needs. Let him seek nothing but the glory of God, the good of the Order, merit for his own soul, and for the salvation of all the brothers. Let him be friendly toward all and receive everyone who comes to him with holy cheerfulness, demonstrating in themselves purely and simply the form and example of the observance of the Gospel, according to the profession of the *Rule*.

There, he concluded, the general minister of this Order should be like this and such is the kind of companions he should have.

#### PRAYER (*Adsumus*)

*(Said each morning by the Council Fathers at Vatican II)*

We have come, O God the Holy Spirit, before you,  
hampered indeed by our many and grievous sins,  
but for a special purpose gathered together in your name.  
Come to us and be with us and enter our hearts.  
Teach us what we are to do and where we ought to go;  
show us what we must accomplish, in order that, with your help,  
we may be able to please you in all things.  
Be alone the author and the finisher of our judgments,  
you who alone with God the Father and his Son possesses a glorious name.  
Do not allow us to disturb the order of justice,  
you who loves equity above all things.  
Let not ignorance draw us into devious paths.  
Let not partiality sway our minds,  
nor respect of riches nor persons pervert our judgment.  
But unite us to you effectually by the gift of your grace alone,  
that we may be one in you and never forsake the truth;  
inasmuch as we are gathered together in your name,  
so may we in all things hold fast to justice tempered by mercy,  
so that in this life our judgment may in no way be at variance with you  
and in the life to come we may attain everlasting rewards for deeds well done. Amen.

#### **Election of the Councilors**

#### **Hymn Veni, Sancte Spiritus, (Taizé)**

## CLOSING EUCHARIST

OPENING HYMN

COLLECT

O Lord, our God, you have made us participants in the gifts of your salvation. Let us profess with faith and witness with works the joy of the resurrection. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

**A. Amen.**

PREMIÈRE LECTURE

*Paul demeura chez eux et y travailla, et discourait dans la synagogue.*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 18:1-8)

After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, and, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them, and they worked together-- by trade they were tentmakers. Every sabbath he would argue in the synagogue and would try to convince Jews and Greeks. When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with proclaiming the word, testifying to the Jews that the Messiah was Jesus. When they opposed and reviled him, in protest he shook the dust from his clothes and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." Then he left the synagogue and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God; his house was next door to the synagogue. Crispus, the official of the synagogue, became a believer in the Lord, together with all his household; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul became believers and were baptized.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(from Psalm 98)

R. Lord, your salvation is for all people.

O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

R. Lord, your salvation is for all people.

The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

R. Lord, your salvation is for all people.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

R. Lord, your salvation is for all people.

ALLELUIA

Alleluia, alleluia

I will not leave you as orphans, says the Lord; I will return to you and your heart will rejoice.  
alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

*You will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy*

A Reading from the Gospel of John (Jn 16:16-20)

“A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me.” Then some of his disciples said to one another, “What does he mean by saying to us, ‘A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and ‘Because I am going to the Father’?” They said, “What does he mean by this ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Are you discussing among yourselves what I meant when I said, ‘A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’? Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy.

The Gospel of the Lord.

HOMILY

RENEWAL OF PROFESSION

C. Let us renew our consecration to the Lord  
and the promise to faithfully observe the Rule that we have professed.  
Let the example and intercession of our father St. Francis help us to be faithful.

*All:*

**Omnipotent, most holy and high God,  
Holy and just Father, Lord and King of heaven and earth,  
I bless and thank you  
because, by the power of your love,  
you have called me to follow in the footsteps of your beloved Son,  
our Lord Jesus Christ,  
according to the form of life inspired by your servant Francis.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit, I renew today,  
with all my strength, and vow to live  
in obedience, in poverty and in chastity  
and confirm the engagement to profess the life and Rule**

**of the Third Order Regular of Saint Francis of Assisi  
confirmed by Pope John Paul II.**

**Holy Father, grant that, sustained by Mary Immaculate,  
Virgin made Church and model of the consecrated life,  
through the intercession of father St. Francis and all the Saints,  
with the help of brothers and sisters, I may persevere to the end in this holy proposal  
and, only by your grace, come to you, O most High,  
who, in perfect Trinity and simple Unity,  
live and reign gloriously for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

....

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Look graciously, Lord, upon the prayers and offerings of your people and make them steadfast in your service. Through Christ our Lord.

**A. Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER III

COMMUNION SONG

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O Father, may this Eucharistic communion, sign of our fraternity in Christ, strengthen us in the bond of love in your Church. Through Christ our Lord.

**A. Amen.**

INSTALLATION OF THE NEW COUNCIL

*The Celebrant invites the new President and Council to approach the altar and in the name of the assembly wishes them well in faithfully and fruitfully carrying out their mandate.*

DISMISSAL

*President:*

From Assisi the first friars left to preach the good news.

Interiorly renewed, let us leave this place as they did to go to our field of work mor authentic witnesses and apostles of the Gospel.

The Tau which is given, will remind us of the intense days that we have lived together and the engagement that we have taken before the Lord, our sisters and brothers, and before the whole human family.

*[The President and Council go through the assembly giving each one a tau]*

***The Councilors:***

Now, we are reminded of the words that St. Francis spoke when greeting his first members as they left to go out in the world at the end of the Chapter of Mats:

*President:*

«In the name of God, go out into all the earth. Go walking two by two, humbly, modestly and do not engage in useless discourses. Even on the road speak humbly and honestly as one would as if at home or in one's own room. In fact where ever we are or go, we always have our room with us. Both body is our room and the soul is the hermitage where we live to pray to the Lord. If the soul is uneasy in the room that God has given, it will not find welcome in any room of the convent made by the ahnds of men. Beloved children, to observe the precept of the Lord for the salvation of your souls, preserve the joy and peace among you, wish each other all good, drive away envy, be patient in tribulations and humble in prosperity, imitate Jesus Christ in poverty, chastity and obedience. Trust only in the Lord who will be your guide and your help. Carry the Rule and Breviary with you and always pray the Office with great devotion. My children my heart suffers for your departure because I love you».

*Second councilor:*

From the valley in Assisi, the voice of all taking their leave of Holy Francis were filled love and poverty as they repeat:

*All:*

**«Good bye, Saint Mary of the Angles, good bye round table of the Porziuncola, good bye brothers, good by blessed Francis, consoler in every sadness, good bye improvised praises with him, good bye, our father».**

*President:*

Let the sisters and brothers always be mindful that they should desire one thing alone, namely, the Spirit of God at work within them. Always obedient to the Church and firmly established in the Catholic faith, let them live according to the poverty, the humility and the holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ which they have solemnly promised to observe.

“Whoever will observe these, things shall be filled with the blessings of the Most High Father in Heaven, and on earth with the blessing of His beloved Son, with the Holy Spirit, and with all virtues and with all the saints.

And I, Brother Francis, your little one and servant, in so far as I am able, confirm to you within and without this most Holy Blessing.”

**A. Amen.**

SOLEMN BLESSING

The Lord Bless you and keep you.

**A. Amen.**

The Lord turn his countenance on you and be merciful.

**A. Amen.**

The Lord look upon you and give you peace.

**A. Amen.**

And the blessing of almighty God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
come upon you and remain forever.

**A. Amen.**

Go and bring the peace of the risen Lord to all you meet.

**A. Thanks be to God!**

### **All creatures of our God**

1. All creatures of our God and King.  
Lift up your voices, let us sing: Alleluia!  
Alleluia!  
Bright burning sun with golden beams,  
Soft silver moon that gently gleams, O praise  
Him!  
O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2. Great rushing winds who are so strong,  
You clouds above that sail along, O praise Him!  
Alleluia!  
Fair rising morn, with praise rejoice,  
Stars nightly shining, find a voice, O praise Him!  
O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

3. Swift flowing water pure and clear,  
Make music for your Lord to hear, Alleluia!  
Alleluia!  
Fire so intense and fiercely bright,  
Who gives to us both warmth and light, O praise  
Him!  
O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

4. Let all things their Creator bless,  
And worship him in humbleness, O praise Him!  
Alleluia!  
Praise God the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One: O praise  
Him!  
O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!