



The Tertiaries Companion

A Prayer Book
for the
Members of the Third Order Secular
of St. Francis of Assisi

compiled by
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FIFTEENTH EDITION

With a Frontispiece

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DEVOTION IN HONOR OF ST. FRANCIS

Greeting to St. Francis

1. I greet and venerate thee, holy Father, St. Francis, who didst live in the greatest poverty and torment thy innocent body by every rigor. With kind violence tear me away from the world and its deceits, and turn all my affections to God. Intercede for me, that I may overcome my evil inclinations and henceforth lead a pure and holy life.

2. I greet and venerate thee, holy Father, St. Francis, upon whose body our divine Saviour impressed the marks of His sacred wounds. Obtain for me an ardent devotion to the passion of Christ, that I may cheerfully bear the cross and produce worthy fruits of penance.

3. I greet and venerate thee, holy Father, St. Francis, who didst die of

longing for God. I invite thee with Jesus and Mary to assist me at the hour of my death. Be then to me a father and protector and intercede for me, that I may die in the grace of God and merit to dwell in heaven, where thou now enjoyest everlasting glory. Amen.

PRAYER TO ST. FRANCIS

Holy Father, amiable and most beloved St. Francis, I beseech thee by the holy wounds of our Lord Jesus Christ, which were imprinted on thy body, assist me to govern the five senses of my body, according to the will and pleasure of almighty God. Intercede for me, so that I may be most faithful in the observance of thy Rule of Penance. Obtain for me contrition and devotion, faith, hope and charity, patience, purity of body and soul, together with the grace of persevering in the service of the Lord: so that after this life I may merit to come to thee, and with thee to enjoy eternal happiness,

which I hope through thy intercession
to obtain from Christ our Lord. Amen.

LITANY OF ST. FRANCIS

For private devotion

Lord, have mercy on us!
Christ, have mercy on us!
Lord, have mercy on us!
Christ, hear us!
Christ, graciously hear us!
God, the Father of heaven, — *Have
mercy on us!*
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world,
Have mercy on us!
God, the Holy Ghost, *Have mercy
on us!*
Holy Trinity, one God, *Have mercy
on us!*
Holy Mary, conceived without sin,¹
Holy Mary, special patroness of the
three Orders of St. Francis,
St. Francis, seraphic patriarch,
St. Francis, most prudent father,
St. Francis, despiser of the world,

¹ Pray for us!

St. Francis, model of penance,¹
St. Francis, conqueror of vices,
St. Francis, imitator of the Saviour,
St. Francis, bearer of the marks of
Christ,
St. Francis, sealed with the character
of Jesus,
St. Francis, example of purity,
St. Francis, image of humility,
St. Francis, abounding in grace,
St. Francis, reformer of the erring,
St. Francis, healer of the sick,
St. Francis, pillar of the Church,
St. Francis, defender of the faith,
St. Francis, champion of Christ,
St. Francis, defender of thy chil-
dren,
St. Francis, invulnerable shield,
St. Francis, confounder of the heretics,
St. Francis, converter of the pagans,
St. Francis, supporter of the lame,
St. Francis, raiser of the dead,
St. Francis, healer of the lepers,
St. Francis, our advocate,

¹ Pray for us!

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, *Spare us, O Lord!*

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, *Graciously hear us, O Lord!*

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, *Have mercy on us!*

V. Pray for us, blessed Father Francis.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who, when the world was growing cold, didst, in order to renew in our hearts the flame of love, imprint the sacred marks of Thy passion on the body of our blessed Father Francis; mercifully grant, that by his merits and prayers we may persevere in bearing the cross, and bring forth worthy fruits of penance. Who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

PRAYER TO ST. FRANCIS

O seraphic Father, St. Francis, I venerate in thee the living image of Christ crucified. Born like Him in a stable, thou didst contemn a world which rejected thee; poor like Him, thou didst esteem no possessions but those which are eternal; meek and humble like Him thou didst count confusion and humiliation a joy; inflamed with an ardent charity, thou didst burn to increase His glory; thy love transformed thy whole life into one long martyrdom, and made thee strive by severe penances to satisfy the ardor of thy desires, until at last it impressed on thy body the wounds it had long before engraved deeply in thy heart, and made thee a living crucifix, preaching sweetly to men the sufferings and love of Jesus. Obtain for me, O holy Father, that I too may banish from my heart the spirit of the world; that I may esteem poverty and humiliation above wealth and honors; that I may mortify

my passions and advance daily in the knowledge and love of God, until at last, detached from myself, from the world, and from all creatures, I may live for God alone, and like thee, may say with my whole heart: "My God and my all", my inheritance and my joy in time and in eternity. Amen.

Prayer of a Tertiary to St. Francis

O seraphic St. Francis, my beloved Father, protector of the poor, glorious patriarch of thy three great Orders, with tender love and veneration I kneel before thee and kiss the sacred stigmata with which our divine Saviour adorned thee. I thank thee for having numbered me among thy children. This grace is so sublime, that I could never have merited it for myself; and it brings with it an endless chain of heaven's choicest blessings. How shall I ever be able to show thee sufficient gratitude for all these favors?

O holy Father, help me ever to love the Third Order most tenderly. Let me consider it as my spiritual home and my paradise on earth, that I may, ever mindful of my holy profession, keep the commandments of God and the Church and observe most faithfully even the smallest details of the Rule. For only then shall I perceive the wholesome effects of the blessings which thou, in thy dying hour, didst impart to thy beloved children. Bless me, therefore, kind Father, bless thy unworthy child, that I may persevere in the conscientious observance of the Rule of the Third Order until the end of my life. Amen.

