** Sister Death visited Francis**

 **and our Secular Franciscan**

 **Brothers and Sister**

**Introduction:**

To Francis death was not harsh. Death was his “Sister” – the means to ultimate union

and everlasting life with the Lord. Francis had the attitude of Christ and lived a life of

humility. We are encouraged to have that same attitude of Jesus Christ as Francis did.

Jesus, “Though he was in the form of God, did not deem equality with God something

to be grasped at. Rather, he emptied himself, taking on form of human likeness; and

he was known to be of human in estate, and it was thus that he humbled himself,

obediently accepting even death on a cross.” **Philippians 2:6-11**

Shortly before Jesus’s passion, he wept tears with Mary and Martha upon the death

of Lazarus. In the midst of his sorrow, he told Martha: “I am the Resurrection and the

Life; whoever believes in Me, though they should die, will come to life” (Jn 11:25-26).

Jesus raised Lazarus from the tomb to teach us that death is not an end for those who

believe, but rather a glorious beginning. Upon leaving this world, the faithfully departed

begin their journey toward a heavenly dwelling place, prepared for them by Christ who

rose from the dead (cf., Jn 14:4-3). The passing away of our earthly life, therefore, is a

transition to a new life in which “every tear is wiped from our faces” (cf,. Is 25:8) and

sickness, pain and suffering are no more.

Today, we celebrate the deaths of Secular Franciscans - Ray Thibault, OFS, Patrick Powers,

OFS and Mary Madigan, OFS. They were faithful followers of St. Francis. They followed

the Franciscan Rule and lived the Gospel Life exemplarily. We were touched by their lives

and they made a difference. We cherish their precious memory.

**Invocation:**

Leader: Come, all you who have heard my word and kept it.

**All:**  Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

**SONG: “I am the Resurrection…**

**Antiphon**: Praised be you, my Lord, ‘through our Sister Bodily Death,’ from whom

 no one can escape.

1. O God, you have put a new song 1. You, who wanted no sacrifice

 in my mouth – a song of praise. or oblation, open my ear;

 you asked no holocaust or

1. Many will look on in awe and sacrifice for sin.

 will put their trust in you.

 2. Then I said, “Here I am!’

1. Happy those who put their trust I have come!

 in God and do not side with

 rebels who stray after false gods. 1. In the scroll of the book it is

 prescribed for me to obey

2. How many plans you have made your will.

 for us! You have no equal.

 2. My God, I have always loved

1. I want to proclaim your deeds your law from the depths

 again and again, but they are of my being.

 more than I can count.

1. Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
2. As it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.

**Antiphon:** Praised be you my Lord, ‘through our Sister Bodily Death, ‘from whom

 no one can escape.

**REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE ENTERED IN UNION WITH GOD**

(A lighted candle will be lit by David for all the faithful departed)

Ray Thibault, OFS was professed 9/20/1992 and went to the Lord 12/29/2019,

May Christ, our Savior embrace you Ray in the Kingdom forever.

**All:** We thank you Lord for this faithful servant who has touched our lives

 in faith, goodness and example.

\*\*\*Sharing of memories of Ray, our beloved Secular Franciscan

Patrick Powers, OFS, former Minister, Received 10/15/1989, Professed 10/21/1990,

and went to the Lord 12/7/2019

May Christ, our Savior embrace you Patrick in the Kingdom forever.

**All:** We thank you Lord for this faithful servant who has touched our lives

 in faith, goodness and example.

\*\*\*Sharing of memories of Patrick, our beloved Secular Franciscan

Mary Madigan, OFS was Received 4/21/1957, Professed 6/15/1958 and went to the Lord

6/6/2020.

May Christ our Savior embrace you Mary in the Kingdom forever.

**All:** We thank you Lord for this faithful servant who has touched our lives

 in faith, goodness and example.

\*\*\*Sharing of memories of Mary our beloved Secular Franciscan

**All:** We thank you Lord for each of these faithful Franciscan servants who has touched

our lives in faith, goodness, gospel living and loving example.

**Response (All):** Jesus, my only desire. Jesus, my only desire. Jesus, my love; Jesus, my

beauty. Jesus my God and my all! Jesus, the hope of my soul. Jesus, the hope of my soul.

Jesus, my strength; Jesus, my refuge. Jesus my God and my all! Jesus, the mercy of God.

Jesus the mercy of God. Jesus, my truth; Jesus, my justice. Jesus my God and my all!

We remember Our Franciscan Friars of the First Order: Fr. Dan Havron, Fr. John Market,

Fr. Todd Lafferty, and Brother Mike: May their memories always rest in our hearts and

may their souls be at rest in God’s presence forever.

We pray for eternal rest for the Second Order of Poor Clare Sisters. May they be graced

in the presence of God and their founder, St. Clare of Assisi.

For the Third Order Franciscans Priests, Religious and Brothers and Our Third Order

Secular Franciscans who went before us! May they rest in God kingdom always.

For all our Family Members who have passed away this past year. May eternal rest grant

unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls

of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.

POEM: RUN WITH THE ANGELS

So go and run free with the Angels dance around the golden clouds –

For the lord has chosen you to be with him and we should feel

nothing but proud. Although He has taken you from us and our pain, is still with us

 – Your memory will never escape us but make us glad for the time we did have.

Your face will always be hidden deep inside our hearts – Each precious moment you

gave us shall not, ever depart. So go and run free with the Angels as they sing so tenderly

* And tell the angels to take care of you for us. Amen.



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**A READING FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 4:14-15**

This is a promise for the resurrection.

“Brothers and sisters: Knowing that the One who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us

also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so

that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving

to overflow for the glory of God.” The Word of the Lord. **All:** Thanks be to God

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HONORING OUR FRANCISCAN SAINTS

**Reflection:** A reading from the Second Life of St. Francis by Thomas of Celano

Francis’ accepted death singing. When he was approaching his last days, and the eternal

light was taking the place of the temporal light that was being withdrawn, he showed

by an example of virtue that he had nothing in common with the world. For, worn down

by his serious illness that was being brought to an end with every suffering, he had himself

placed naked upon the naked ground. Francis raised his face to heaven as was his custom

and giving that whole attention to that glory, he covered the wound in his right side with

his left hand lest it be seen. And he said to his brothers: ‘I have done what is mine to do;

may Christ teach you what you are to do.’ Then with all the brothers sitting about, he

extended his right hand over them and beginning with his vicar, he placed it upon the

head of each one. ‘Farewell,’ he said, ‘all you my sons, in the fear of the Lord, and may

you remain in him always! I am hastening to the Lord, to whose grace I commend you all.

’ And he blessed all those who were present, all his Brothers in the world and all

Franciscans who would come after them until the end of the world.”

(Celano, Life II, 214, 216)



(Take time to reflect on the death of St. Francis)

ST. CLARE OFFERS A BLESSING AND ADVICE

I, Clare, a handmaid of Christ, a little plant of our Holy Father Francis…, although

unworthy ask Our Lord Jesus Christ through the intercession of His Most Holy Mother

Mary, of Blessed St. Michael the Archangel and all the holy angels of God and of his men

and women saints that the heavenly Father give you and confirm for you His most holy

blessing in heaven and on earth. On earth may he increase his grace and virtues among

you his Franciscan servants in the world.

Always be lovers of God and your souls and the souls of your Secular Franciscan brothers

and sisters and always be eager to observe what you promised the Lord.



ST. ELIZABETYH OF HUNGARY, OUR PATRON

Elizabeth, loose from the bonds of death, has set out towards the source of eternal happiness

to live forever. Through her intercession will come to us from the treasures of heaven.

She is the Patron of our St. Elizabeth of Hungary Fraternity. May our benevolent God bless

us through her intercession and care. We come before the heavenly throne and ask her to

pray for us, to teach us humility, to help us honor the poor, to suffer with the Crucified

Christ and to give love to all the needy and to touch their hearts with joy in our hearts.

**Intercessions:**

Let us pray for our Franciscan Brothers and Sisters that God may watch over them, protect

them and fill them with his love and joy. Let us pray to the Lord, All: Lord, hear our

prayer.

For an end to the Covid-19 Virus and God’s protection and peace of heart among all

people, Let us pray to the Lord, All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For world peace, an end to violence, abortion, and human trafficking, Let us pray to the

Lord. All: Lord hear our prayer.

For all the intentions of our heart and for everyone who needs our prayers and God’s

special healing, Let us pray to the Lord, All: Lord, hear our prayer

Let us pray the OUR FATHER….

CLOSING PRAYER:

O God, may our faith in the resurrection of Jesus comfort us as we morn the death of our

Brothers Patrick and Ray and our Sister Mary. May we look forward to the day when you

call us home so that we may be united to you and live with your forever in heaven. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER AT THE END OF THE MEETING:

BLESSING:

May we experience the power of Christ’s resurrection in this life and the life to come.

(Phil 3:10-11)

May the Lord bless you and keep you. Amen.

May the Lord let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. Amen.

May the Lord look upon you with kindness and grant you his peace. Amen.

May the Lord bless you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of

the Holy Spirit. Amen.



SONG: “I AM THE RESURECTION” By John Michael Talbot

I AM THE RESURRECTION

I AM THE LIFE

HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME

EVEN THOUGH HE DIES

HE SHALL LIVE FOREVER (CHORUS)

CHORUS

AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP

AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP

AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP

ON THE LAST DAY

YES, LORD I BELIEVE

THAT YOU ARE THE CHRIST

THE ONLY SON OF GOD

WHO HAS COME

HAS COME INTO THE WORLD (CHORUS)

CHORUS

AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP

AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP

AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP

ON THE LAST DAY