

The Life of Saint Francis: A Chronology

- 1182 Francis is born in Assisi
1193 Clare is born in Assisi
1202 Perugia and Assisi at war
Francis taken prisoner for one year
1204 Francis suffers a long illness
1205 Francis receives a vision and a message while in Spoleto; his conversion begins
1205 (Fall) San Damiano crucifix speaks to Francis: "Go and repair my house, which as you see, is falling into ruin"
1206 Francis' father takes him before the bishop's court for the return of his money;
Francis renounces his father
1206 (Winter) Francis nurses lepers
1206 (Summer) Francis return to Assisi and begins repairs on church of San Damiano
1208 (April) First three companions join Francis
1208 (Summer) Three more brothers join
1209 (Spring) Number of companions now eleven. Francis goes to Rome where
Pope Innocent III approves first Franciscan rule. Franciscan community established
in Portiuncula
1210 Beginning of the Third Order (secular Franciscans)
1212 Clare is formally received
1213 Missionary trips of brothers begin, Francis goes to Spain until 1215
1216 Pope grants indulgences for visiting Portiuncula
1219 Francis goes to Egypt where he received audience with Sultan
1220 First Franciscan martyrs in Morocco.
Francis travels to Holy Land
1221 Rule of Third Order approved by Pope
1223 Rule of Franciscan's approved by Pope.
Francis sets up first Christmas Nativity at Greccio for midnight mass
1224 Francis receives stigmata
1225 Francis return to Assisi and lives in hut
Francis composes Canticle of Brother Sun. His illness worsens
1226 Francis moves to bishops house due to failing health. Shortly after he insists on
being taken back to Assisi
1226 October 3, Francis dies
1228 Francis canonized
1253 Clare dies
1255 Clare canonized

(Taken from: Bodo, OFM, Murray. Through the Year with Francis of Assisi. Doubleday Publishing, New York: 1987)

Canticle of the Sun

Most high, all powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, the
honour, and all blessing.

To You alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no one is worthy to mention Your
name.

Be praised, my Lord,
through all your creatures,
especially through my lord Brother Sun,
who brings the day;
and you give light through him.
And he is beautiful and radiant
in all his splendour!
Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

Praised be You, my Lord,
through Sister Moon
and the stars, in heaven you formed them
clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be to You, my Lord,
through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene,
and every kind of weather through which
You give sustenance to Your creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord,
through Sister Water,
which is very useful and humble
and precious and chaste.

Praised be You, my Lord,
through Brother Fire,
through whom you light the night
and he is beautiful and playful
and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord,
through Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains us and governs us and who
produces varied fruit with coloured flowers
and herbs.

Praised by You, my Lord,
through those who give pardon
for Your love,
and bear infirmity and tribulation.

Blessed are those who endure in peace
for by You, Most High,
they shall be crowned.

Praise be You, my Lord,
through your Sister Bodily Death,
from whom no living person can escape.

Woe to those who die in mortal sin.
Blessed are those whom death will
find in Your most holy will,
for the second death
shall do them no harm.

Praise and bless my Lord,
and give Him thanks
and serve Him with great humility.

