

800th ANNIVERSARY

St. Francis of Assisi

1226 - 2026

*A life of radical faith, joyful simplicity
and love for all creation.*



10 Things You May Not Know About St. Francis of Assisi

1

He was born into wealth.



Francis was born around 1181 in Assisi, Italy, to a wealthy merchant family. He chose poverty, not wealth.

2

He was a soldier — then a pilgrim.



As a young man, Francis dreamed of glory and served in a war. After a serious illness, he heard God's call and turned his life toward Christ.

3

He received the stigmata.



In 1224, while praying on Mount La Verna, Francis received the marks of Christ's Passion in his own body.

4

He loved all of God's creation.



Francis saw all creatures — from animals to the smallest insects — as brothers and sisters, praising God together.

5

He founded the Franciscan Order.



Francis began a simple community of brothers in 1209, later approved by the Church. His followers continue his charism of peace, poverty and service.

6

He preached without possessions.



Francis traveled throughout Italy giving the Gospel, relying on God's providence and the kindness of others.

7

He restored the Church.



He helped rebuild the Church through prayer, humble service and a renewed love for the Gospel.

8

He inspired the first Nativity scene.



In 1223, he created the first live Christmas manger scene in Greccio, Italy, with real people and animals to show the humble birth of Jesus.

9

He was a joyful witness.



Francis possessed a deep sense of joy, calling all people to rejoice in God's love, even in suffering.

10

He is the patron saint of animals and ecology.



Today, he reminds us to care for all creation and to live in harmony with God, others and the earth.

*May the example of St. Francis
inspire us to see Christ in every person,
in every creature and in all of creation.*

