



Minister General
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CAPE TOWN – SOUTH AFRICA

Message from the Minister General

Feast of St Francis of Assisi – Saturday 4 October / Sunday 5 October 2025

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this joyous Feast of St Francis.

On this Feast of St Francis, as we gather across the world on Saturday, 4 October, and Sunday, 5 October 2025, we remember with deep thanksgiving the little poor man of Assisi, whose life continues to be a lamp for our steps in a weary and broken world. The readings appointed for today invite us into a renewal of vision and vocation.

The prophet Micah calls us to *“do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God”* (Micah 6:8). This is not only a moral compass but a Franciscan pathway: simplicity, compassion, and humility woven together as a witness to God’s kingdom. In a time when nations are torn by conflict, creation groans under exploitation, and communities despair, the Franciscan way is an antidote of hope.

St Paul, writing to the Galatians, reminds us to boast only in the Cross of Christ (Galatians 6:14). Francis bore that Cross in his own body, marked by the stigmata, not as a badge of honour but as a sign of surrender to Love. As members of the Third Order, you too are invited to carry the Cross daily — in workplaces, families, churches, and streets — not as a burden of despair but as a sign of resurrection hope.

The psalmist summons all creation — sun and moon, fire and hail, wild beasts and creeping things — to join in the praise of God (Psalm 148). Francis heard that summons clearly, singing with Brother Sun, Sister Moon, and even Sister Death. Today, when creation itself suffers from human greed, your vocation is to raise the canticle of life, to stand as healers and stewards, reminding the world that everything that breathes is kin and everything that exists is sacred.

Finally, our Lord’s words in Matthew are both invitation and consolation: *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest”* (Matthew 11:28). In a world that feels heavy with anxiety, injustice, and violence, we — the scattered members of the Third Order — are called to be the visible arms of Christ’s rest. You are to be faces of gentleness, voices of encouragement, and presences of hope where others encounter only weariness.

Therefore, beloved brothers and sisters, let this Feast not be mere remembrance but recommitment. Go on living simply, loving generously, and rejoicing always. Be prophetic voices of peace where there is hatred, be humble servants where there is pride, and be bearers of joy where there is despair. In so doing, you will continue to be the face of hope in a broken world — a hope rooted not in ourselves but in Christ who is our peace.

May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, rest upon you and remain with you, that you may embody the vision of Francis in our own age.

Pax et Bonum,

Br. Michael Twum-Darko, tssf

Minister General

The World-wide Third Order

The Society of St Francis