

Brother Lark
In honour of the Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi
October 3rd

OFS Monthly Formation

October 2022

The Transitus of St. Francis

Saint Bonaventure writes that “at the hour of the passing of the holy man, the larks – birds that love the light, and dread the shades of twilight – flocked in great numbers unto the roof of the house, albeit the shades of night were then falling, and, wheeling round it for a long while with songs even gladder than their wont, offered their witness alike gracious and manifest, unto the glory of the Saint, who had been wont to call them unto (to *sing*) the divine praises” (*The life of St. Francis, chap. XIV*).



The crested lark

Saint Francis states:

“Sister Lark has a hood like a religious and is a humble bird who gladly goes in search of any little grain, and even if she finds something in the garbage, she picks it out and eats it. In flight she sweetly praises God like good religious who, detached from worldly things, turn ever toward heaven and long only to praise God” (*Mirror of Perfection, 113*).

Holy Scripture - Romans 14:7-9

“None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord, so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living”.

The OFS Rule, 19

“Since they are immersed in the resurrection of Christ, which gives true meaning to Sister Death, let them serenely tend toward the ultimate encounter with the Father”.



The last communion of St. Francis by Agostino Carracci, late 16th C.

Something to ponder

“Francis left this earth a poor and lowly man: He enters heaven rich in God’s favour, greeted with songs of rejoicing” (*Franciscan University of Steubenville, Transitus liturgy, 2009*).

Hymn: Hail Saint Francis, Holy Father

*Text: Melvin Farell, S.S.,c. 1955, WLP.
CCLI #680890*

Hail Saint Francis, holy father,
help us our own heaven to gain.
May we through your prayer prevailing,
unto joy at last attain.

Grant that we, most loving patron,
wheresoever your footsteps bend,
follow you to blissful heaven,
where our hymns and praises tend.

To your name may praise be endless,
God immortal, One in Three!
Grant that with your Saints in glory,
we rejoice eternally!



St. Francis and the birds—house blessing