

Name _____

Date _____

Stories from the Life of Saint Francis

There are many wonderful stories about the life of Saint Francis of Assisi. He is noted for his love for Jesus, people, and all forms of nature.



Nativity Scenes

Saint Francis is credited with starting the custom of setting up a manger or Nativity scene in church to celebrate Christmas.

Some accounts tell of how he used live animals for his scenes.

Francis loved Christmas. He even wanted the emperor to pass a special law that would ensure care for not only poor people at Christmastime but also for his beloved animals.

Lady Poverty

After Francis returned all his worldly goods to his father, he lived a life of poverty. At first he did manual labor or begged, always giving to those who were poor.

When Francis founded his religious community, he insisted that his followers be poor. This is how he described his community: “Those who presented themselves to observe this kind of life distributed all that they might have to the poor. They contented themselves with a tunic, patched within and without . . . and we desired to have nothing more.” Francis’s devotion to poverty was so deep that others have said that he was “married” to Lady Poverty, and artists have sometimes pictured him as “marrying” poverty in the appearance of a young woman.

Your Thoughts on Saint Francis

1. Why do you think that Saint Francis is so loved?

2. On your own, find another story about Saint Francis, summarize it below, and share it with the class.
