

# *Franciscan Season of Giving*

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## a word from Terry on Transitus

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Between the feast days of St Clare and St Francis (August 11 and October 4), we ask for your support in raising funds to meet our obligations and dream about the future.

In this season of prayer, discernment, and reflecting on the gifts of community, we share some of the voices of the Franciscan Spiritual Center. Our aim is to name what happens in this community and how we perceive its value. We hope it engages you and motivates you to support us. We hope it encourages you to pay attention to what is sacred in your life.



This year I look forward to gathering with community to observe and celebrate the Transitus of St Francis. On the evening of October 3, the Franciscan Spiritual Center will recreate the passing of St. Francis in stories and song. I participated in the planning of this event. The ceremony will be sacred, solemn, and joyous all at the same time.

In his Canticle, Francis praised Sister Death saying: "Praise be You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death from whom no living man can escape." Francis did not fear death and longed to meet Christ.

In the year prior to his death, Francis' health declined. He returned to Assisi where he stayed in a dwelling on the grounds of San Damiano. Clare and her sisters ministered to his needs. He lay in the dark because of the injuries to his eyes and awaited his death. And when his time approached, he asked his brothers to return him to the Portuincula. Francis and his brothers had built their

huts on that swampy piece of land in 1211. It was a place of great importance to Francis, a place he frequently returned to for prayer and solitude. It was there he wished to lay naked on the ground and enter eternal life.

As his final minutes neared, Francis said to his companions, “I have done what is mine to do, may Christ Jesus now teach you yours.” This approach to death carries direct relevance to us today as each of us seek to discern what is ours to do.

St. Francis’ final words have always resonated with me. Isn’t this the question we all ask ourselves? Isn’t this what we have been pondering our whole lives as young people who selected careers, as parents who guided children, as caregivers who ministered to loved ones and congregations, as people, who like Francis, seek to see the face of Jesus in all we meet?

In 2024 the Church began a three-year cycle of celebrations of the 800th anniversaries of significant events in the life of St. Francis: the miracle of the Stigmata (sharing in the wounds of Christ); the writing of the Canticle of the Creatures (the first poem written in the Umbrian dialect and still recited today by Italian children in praise of creation); and the Transitus of St. Francis (his passing from his earthly life to eternal life). These are opportunities to meditate upon and learn again how we can join in the wisdom of the Little Man of Assisi.

Join us on October 3 as a community. We will meet on the campus of Marylhurst Commons at 6:30pm. The program begins with a short procession for those who are able. A reception and refreshments will follow.

With gratitude,

*Terry Cappiello*

Hermitage Retreat Leader, Board Member, Book Group Discussion Facilitator

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Click [HERE](#) to read the stories in the *Season of Franciscan Giving* series. Email your own stories to [cnaylor@francisspctr.com](mailto:cnaylor@francisspctr.com).

To make a charitable donation to the Franciscan Spiritual Center, you may:  
Mail a check payable to Franciscan Spiritual Center, PO Box 144, Marylhurst, OR 97036  
or  
Use a credit card using our online portal.

**Give**

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Join us as we celebrate Transitus (Oct 3rd)  
and the Feast of St Francis during our First



Friday gathering (Oct 4th).

These are both free events, but we ask that you RSVP below so that we may hold space for you.

**RSVP for Transitus  
Service**

**RSVP for First  
Friday**

Franciscan Spiritual Center | PO Box 144 3159 Furman Dr. | Marylhurst, OR 97036 US

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