

Franciscan Readings for Advent



The logo of Franciscan University of Steubenville, featuring a stylized cross and a building.

FRANCISCAN
UNIVERSITY
OF STEUBENVILLE

Franciscan Readings for Advent

Fr. Daniel Pattee, TOR, STL, PhD
Director,

Office of Mission & Franciscan Charism
Franciscan University of Steubenville

Franciscan Readings for Advent

First Week of Advent: Sunday

1 Celano # 81

How great a gladness do you think the beauty of the flowers brought to [Francis's] mind when he saw the shape of their beauty and perceived the odor of their sweetness? He used to turn the eye of consideration immediately to the beauty of that flower that comes *from the root of Jesse* and gives light in the days of spring and by its fragrance has raised innumerable thousands from the dead. When he found an abundance of flowers, he preached to them and invited them to praise the Lord as though they were



endowed with reason. In the same way he exhorted with the sincerest purity cornfields and vineyards, stones and forests and all the beautiful things of the fields, fountains of water and the green things of gardens, earth and fire, air and wind, to love God and serve him willingly. Finally, he called all creatures *brother*, and in a most extraordinary manner, a manner never experienced by others, he discerned the hidden things of nature with his sensitive heart, as one who had already escaped into the freedom of the glory of the sons of God. O good Jesus, he is now praising you as admirable in heaven with all the angels, he who on earth preached you as lovable to every creature.

First Week of Advent: Monday

2 Celano # 214

The Wise Man says: In the end of man is the disclosing of his works. We see this gloriously fulfilled in this saint. Running the way of God's commandments with alacrity of mind, [Francis] reached the summit by means of the steps of all the virtues; and like a beaten work, he was brought to perfection by the hammer of many kinds of tribulation, and he saw an end of all perfection. For it was then that his wonderful works shone forth; and that the way he lived was from God was shown by a judgment of truth, for after he had trampled upon all the allurements of mortal life, he went free to heaven. For to live for the world he considered a disgrace; he loved his own to the end, and he accepted death singing. When he was approaching his last days, and the eternal light was taking the place of the temporal light that was being withdrawn, he showed by an example of virtue that he had nothing in common with the world. For, worn down by his serious illness that was being brought to an end with every suffering, he had himself placed naked upon the naked ground, so that in that final hour when the enemy could still rage against him, he might wrestle naked with a naked enemy. He waited without fear for his triumph, and with his hands clasped he was grasping a crown of justice. Placed thus upon the ground, with his garment of sackcloth laid aside, he raised his face to heaven as was his custom, and giving his whole attention to that glory, he covered the wound [of the stigmata] in his right side with his left hand lest it be seen. And he said to his brothers: "I have done what was mine to do; may Christ teach you what you are to do."



First Week of Advent: Tuesday

First Letter to the Faithful II: ## 11-15

All those men and women who are not living in penance and do not receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who practice vice and sin and follow the ways of wicked concupiscence and the desires of the flesh; who do not observe what they have promised to the Lord, and bodily serve the world and the cares of this life: such people are held fast by the devil, whose children they are and whose works they perform. They are blind, since they do not see the true light, our Lord Jesus Christ.

See, you blind ones, you who are deceived by your enemies: by the flesh, the world, and the devil; because it is sweet to the body to commit sin and it is bitter for it to serve God; and because all vices and sins come forth and *proceed from the heart of man*, as the Lord says in the Gospel. And you have nothing in this world or in the world to come. And you think you possess the vanities of this world for a while, but you are deceived, since the day and the hour will come to which you give no thought, of which you have no knowledge, and of which you are ignorant. The body becomes sick, death approaches, and this man dies a bitter death. And no matter where or when or how a man dies in the guilt of sin without doing penance and satisfaction, if he is able to perform some act of satisfaction and does not, the devil snatches up his soul from his body with so much anguish and tribulation that no one can know it unless he has experienced it.

First Week of Advent: Wednesday

St. Bonaventure, *Major Life XIV: ## 8-9*

In the year of our Lord 1230, when the friars had assembled for a general chapter at Assisi, Francis's body, which had been so dedicated to God, was solemnly transferred on May 25 to the basilica constructed in his honor.

While that sacred treasure was being carried,
marked with the seal of the Most High King,
he whose image Francis bore
deigned to perform many miracles
so that through his saving fragrance
the faithful in their love
might be drawn to run after Christ.
It is truly appropriate
that he who was pleasing to God and beloved by him
in his life;
who, like Enoch,
had been borne into paradise
by the grace of contemplation
and carried off to heaven
like Elijah in a fiery chariot;
now that his soul is blossoming
in eternal springtime
among the heavenly flowers
it was, indeed, truly appropriate
that his blessed bones too
should sprout with fragrant miracles
in their own place of rest.
Just as that blessed man
shone in his life
with the marvelous signs of virtue,
so from the day of his passing to the present,
in different parts of the world,
he radiated forth
with outstanding miracles
through the divine power that glorified him.
Thus the magnificence
of the power of the Most High
doing wonders for his saint
shines forth to the faithful.
To him be honor and glory
for endless ages of ages.

Amen.

First Week of Advent: Thursday

The Earlier Rule XXII: ## 25, 27; XXIII: # 11

Therefore, all my brothers, let us be very much on our guard so that we do not lose or turn away our mind and heart from the Lord under the guise of achieving some reward or doing some work or providing some help. And let us make a home and dwelling place for Him Who is the Lord God Almighty, Father and Son and Holy Spirit.

Let all of us
 wherever we are
 in every place
 at every hour
 at every time of day
 everyday and continually
believe truly and humbly
and keep in our heart
and love, honor, adore, serve,
 praise and bless,
 glorify and exalt,
 magnify and give thanks to
the most high and supreme eternal God,
Trinity and Unity,
the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
Creator of all
Savior of all who believe in Him
 and hope in Him
 and love Him

Who is
 without beginning and without end,
 unchangeable, invisible,
 indescribable, ineffable,
 incomprehensible, unfathomable,
 blessed, worthy of praise,
 glorious, exalted on high, sublime,
 most high, gentle, lovable,
 delectable and totally desirable
 above all else forever.

Amen.

First Week of Advent: Friday

The Earlier Rule XVII: ## 11-12

For the spirit of the flesh desires and is most eager to have words, but cares little to carry them out. And it does not seek a religion and holiness in the interior spirit, but it wishes and desires to have religion and holiness outwardly apparent to people.

First Week of Advent: Saturday

The Prayer Inspired by the Our Father ## 1-2

O OUR most holy FATHER,

Our Creator, Redeemer, Consoler, and Savior

WHO ARE IN HEAVEN:

In the angels and in the saints,

Enlightening them to love, because You, Lord, are light

Inflaming them to love, because You, Lord, are love

Dwelling in them and filling them with happiness,
because You, Lord, are the Supreme Good,
the Eternal Good

from Whom comes all good
without Whom there is no good.

Second Week of Advent: Sunday

2 Celano # 196

To touch briefly upon the special devotions of St. Francis will perhaps be neither unprofitable nor unfitting. For, though this man was devout in all things, as one who enjoyed the anointing of the Spirit, nevertheless he was moved toward certain special things with a special love. Among other words used in ordinary conversation, he could never hear the *love of God* without a kind of transformation within himself. For immediately upon hearing the love of God, he would become excited, stirred, and inflamed, as though an inner chord of his heart had been plucked by the plectrum of the outward voice of the speaker. He said that to offer the *love of God* to get an alms was a noble prodigality, and those who valued it less than money were most foolish. He himself kept unflinchingly to his death the resolution he had made while he was

still enmeshed in worldly things, namely, that he would never turn away a poor man who asked an alms for the love of God. For on one occasion when a poor man asked an alms for the love of God and he had nothing, he took a scissors and was going to quickly cut up his tunic. He would have done this too, but he was detected by his brothers, and instead he saw to it that the poor man was provided for by some other means. "The love of him," he said, "who loved us much is much to be loved."

Second Week of Advent: Monday

The Office of the Passion I, Antiphon ## 1-3

Holy Virgin Mary,
among women,
there is no one like you born into the world:
you are the daughter
and servant of the most high and supreme King
and Father of heaven,
you are the mother of our most holy Lord
Jesus Christ,
you are the spouse of the Holy Spirit.

Pray for us
with Saint Michael the Archangel
and all the powers of the heavens
and all the saints
to your most holy beloved Son, the Lord
and Master.

All glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and
ever shall be world without end. Amen.

Second Week of Advent: Tuesday

St. Bonaventure, *Major Life VIII*: # 5

Francis responded with a remarkably tender compassion to those suffering from any bodily affliction. If he saw signs of poverty in anyone or signs of deprivation, he referred them to Christ in the sweetness of his pious heart. He had an inborn kindness which was doubled by the kindness of Christ infused in him from above. Therefore, his soul melted at the sight of the poor and infirm, and to those to whom he could not extend a helping hand he extended his affection. Once it happened that one of the friars responded gruffly to a beggar who had asked for an alms at an inconvenient time. When the devoted lover of the poor heard this, he ordered the friar to strip himself, cast himself at the beggar's feet, confess his guilt and beg for his prayers and forgiveness. When he had done this humbly, the father added sweetly: "When you see a poor man, my brother, an image of the Lord and his poor mother is being placed before you. Likewise, in the case of the sick, consider the physical weakness which the Lord took upon himself." That most Christian pauper saw Christ's image in all the poor.



Second Week of Advent: Wednesday

The First Letter to the Custodians II: ## 6-8

I beg you, with all that is in me and more, that, when it is appropriate and you judge it profitable, you humbly beg the clergy to revere above everything else the most holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and His holy written words which consecrate His Body. And in every sermon which you give, admonish the people concerning the need of penance, and tell them that no one can be saved unless he receives the Body and Blood of the Lord. And when It is sacrificed upon the altar by the priest and carried to any place, let all the people, on bended knee, praise, glorify, and honor the Lord God living and true. And you must announce and preach His praise to all peoples in such a manner that at every hour and whenever the bells are rung, praise, glory, and honor are given to the all-powerful God throughout all the earth.



Second Week of Advent: Thursday

1 Celano # 79

One time when Francis was passing through the Marches of Ancona, with Brother Paul serving him gladly as his companion, he met a certain man who had two little lambs hanging bound over his shoulder, taking them to the market to sell them. When blessed Francis heard them bleating, he was filled with pity; and, coming close, he touched them and showed his compassion for them like a mother over her weeping child. And he said to the man: "Why are you torturing my brother lambs tied up and hanging like this?" Answering, he said: "I am taking them to the market to sell them, because I need the money." The saint said: "What will happen to them then?" He answered: "Those who buy them kill them and eat them." "God forbid," replied the saint; "this must not happen. Take the mantle I am wearing as their price and give the lambs to me." He quickly gave him the lambs and took the mantle, for the mantle was of much greater value. Now the saint had borrowed the mantle that day from a certain faithful man to ward off the cold. For the rest, the saint, after receiving the lambs, considered carefully what he should do with them; and, at the advice of his companion, he gave them to that man who had given him the mantle to take care of them; and he commanded him not to sell them at any time, nor to do them any harm, but to keep them, feed them, and take care of them conscientiously.

Second Week of Advent: Friday

The Salutation of the Virtues ## 4-18

O most holy Virtues, may the Lord protect all of you,
from Whom you come and proceed.

There is surely no one in the entire world
who can possess any one of you
unless he dies first.

Whoever possesses one of you
and does not offend the others,
possesses all.

And whoever offends one of you
does not possess any
and offends all.

And each one destroys vices and sins.
Holy Wisdom destroys
Satan and all his subtlety.

Pure holy Simplicity destroys
all the wisdom of this world
and the wisdom of the body.

Holy Poverty destroys
the desire of riches
and avarice
and the cares of this world.

Holy Humility destroys
pride
and all the people who are in the world
and all things that belong to the world.

Holy Charity destroys
every temptation of the devil and of the flesh
and every carnal fear.

Holy Obedience destroys
every wish of the body and of the flesh
and binds its mortified body
to obedience of the Spirit
and to obedience of one's brother;
and the person who possesses her is subject and submissive
to all persons in the world
and not to man only
but even to all beasts and wild animals
so that they may do whatever they want with him
inasmuch as it has been given to them from above
by the Lord.

Second Week of Advent: Saturday

The Testament of St. Francis ## 6-10

Afterward the Lord gave me and still gives me such faith in priests who live according to the manner of the holy Roman Church because of their order, that if they were to persecute me, I would still have recourse to them. And if I possessed as much wisdom as Solomon had and I came upon pitiful priests of this world, I would not preach contrary to their will in the parishes in which they live. And I desire to fear, love, and honor them and all others as my masters. And I do not wish to consider sin in them because I discern the Son of God in them and they are my masters. And I act in this way since I see nothing corporally of the Most High Son of God in this world except His Most holy Body and Blood which they receive and which they alone administer to others.

Third Week of Advent: Sunday

(If this Sunday occurs on December 17, proceed forward to the time of the *O Antiphons*)

Admonition I: ## 14-22

Therefore, *O sons of men, how long will you be hard of heart? Why do you not recognize the truth and believe in the Son of God? See, daily He humbles Himself as when He came from the royal throne into the womb of the Virgin; daily He comes to us in a humble form; daily He comes down from the bosom of the Father upon the altar in the hands of the priest. And as He appeared to the holy apostles in true flesh, so now He reveals Himself to us in the sacred bread. And as they saw only His flesh by means of their bodily sight, yet believed Him to be God as they contemplated Him with the eyes of faith, so, as we see bread and wine with our bodily eyes, we too are to see and firmly believe them to be His most holy Body and Blood living and true. And in this way the Lord is always with His faithful, as He Himself says: *Behold I am with you even to the end of the world.**

Third Week of Advent: Monday

(If this Monday occurs on December 17, proceed forward to the time of the *O Antiphons*)

The TOR Rule of Life #18

As poor people, the brothers and sisters to whom the Lord has given the grace of serving or working with their hands, should do so faithfully and conscientiously. Let them avoid that idleness which is the enemy of the soul. But they should not be so busy that the spirit of holy prayer and devotion, which all earthly goods should foster is extinguished.



Third Week of Advent: Tuesday

(If this Tuesday occurs on December 17, proceed forward to the time of the *O Antiphons*)

First Letter to the Faithful I: 8-13

We are spouses when the faithful soul is joined to our Lord Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. We are brothers to Him when *we do the will of the Father Who is in heaven*. We are mothers, when we carry Him in our heart and body through divine love and a pure and sincere conscience and when we give birth to Him through His holy manner of working, which should shine before others as an example.

Oh, how glorious it is, how holy and great, to have a Father in heaven! Oh, how holy, consoling, beautiful and wondrous it is to have such a Spouse! Oh, how holy and how loving, pleasing, humble, sweet, lovable, and desirable above all things to have such a Brother and such a Son: our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave up His life for His sheep.

Third Week of Advent: Wednesday

(If this Wednesday occurs on December 17, proceed forward to the time of the *O Antiphons*)

Cf. Mirror of Perfection # 84

(*On the Favors Granted to the Portiuncula Chapel, a.k.a. St. Mary of the Angels*)

Holy of Holies is this place of places, rightly deemed worthy of the highest honors! Happy its surname “of the Holy Angels,” happier its dedication to “Saint Mary.” And now the third name of “The Little Portion” [*Portiuncula*] foretells the Mother-house of all the Order. Here the fair presence of the holy Angels sheds light around it, filling it with splendor; here in the long night-watches of the brothers praises soar upwards, piercing the heavens. Once long abandoned, fallen into ruin, Francis restored it to its former honor; of the three churches which the holy Father raised with his own hands, this is best and dearest. This place our Father chose for his own dwelling, here in stern penance he clad his limbs in sack-cloth, subdued his body and its errant passions, made it obedient to the spirit's bidding....

Here did the Orders of the Friars and Ladies spring into being, born of one fair Mother, Mary most holy, who in her new offspring gave to the world new patterns of her First-born. Here the broad highway of the old world changed into the narrow way to life eternal; and to the faithful, called from every nation, new grace was given freely by God, the Father....

Whenever Francis, worn and frail in body, weary in spirit, sought for rest and comfort, here in the sweet silence of this sanctuary he found healing, com-

fort, and refreshment. And when the Devil sowed doubt and confusion in his spirit, here Truth was revealed; here, too, was granted to the holy Father Francis all that he asked for in his intercession and prayer.

Third Week of Advent: Thursday

(If this Thursday occurs on December 17, proceed forward to the time of the *O Antiphons*)

Bishop Jacques de Vitry, *History of the Orient*, ch. 32

(eyewitness testimony, ca. 1220)

We have seen the founder and master of this Order, the one whom all the others obey as their superior general: he was a simple unlettered man, loved by God and men; he was called Brother Francis. Spiritual fervor and ecstasy moved him to such excesses that, having arrived at the army of the Christians before Damietta in Egypt, with no fear whatsoever, fortified solely with the “shield of faith,” he set out for the camp of the sultan of Egypt. The Saracens arrested him on his way. “I am a Christian,” he said; “bring me to your master!” And so they brought him to him. On seeing the man of God, the sultan, that cruel beast, became sweetness itself, kept him with him for a few days and with a great deal of attention listened to him preach the Faith of Christ to him and to his followers. But in the end he was afraid of seeing some of his soldiers, whom the effective words of this man would have converted to the Lord, go over to the army of the Christians. He, therefore, had Francis led back to our camp with many signs of honor and with security precautions, but not without saying to him: “Pray for me, that God may reveal to me the law and the faith that is the more pleasing to him.”



December 17: O Wisdom from the Most High (*Sapientia*)

A Letter to the Entire Order, ## 26-29

Let the whole of mankind tremble,
the whole world shake
and the heavens exult
when Christ, *the Son of the living God*,
is present on the altar
in the hands of a priest.

O admirable heights and sublime lowliness!

O sublime humility!

O humble sublimity!

That the Lord of the universe,

God and the Son of God,
so humbles Himself
that for our salvation

He hides Himself under the little form of bread!

Look, brothers, at the humility of God
and *pour out your hearts before Him!*

Humble yourselves, as well,
that you may be exalted by Him.

Therefore, hold back nothing of
yourselves for yourselves
so that

He Who gives Himself totally to you
may receive you totally.



December 18: O Ruler of the House of Israel (Adonai)

Legend of the Three Companions, Prologue

Resplendent as the dawn and as the morning star, or even as the rising sun, setting the world alight, cleansing it, and giving it fertility, Francis was seen to rise as a kind of new light.

Like the sun he shone by his words and works upon a world lying torpid amid wintry cold, darkness, and sterility, lighting it up with radiant sparks, illuminating it with the rays of truth, and setting it afire with charity, renewing and embellishing it with the abundant fruit of his merits, and enriching it wonderfully with various fruit-bearing trees in the three orders he founded. Thus did he bring the world to a kind of season of spring.



December 19: O Root of Jesse (Radix)

Little Flowers of St. Francis, #35

At one time the most devout spouse of Christ, St. Clare, while staying at San Damiano, was seriously ill, so that she was unable to go and say the office in church with the other nuns.

Now the Feast of the Nativity of Our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ came, when the Sisters used to recite matins and devoutly receive Holy Communion at the Mass of the Nativity. While all the others went to matins, St. Clare remained alone in bed, seriously ill and very sad because she could not go with the others to attend such a holy ceremony and have that spiritual consolation.

But Our Lord Jesus Christ wished to give this most faithful spouse of His a consolation, and He miraculously let her attend in spirit both the matins and the Mass as well as the whole celebration of the Feast by the friars in the Church of St. Francis, so that she clearly heard the organ and the friars' chanting to the end of the Mass. Moreover, she received Holy Communion and was fully consoled. Then He had her carried back to bed.

December 20: O Key of David (Clavis)

1 Celano 84

Francis's highest intention, his chief desire, his uppermost purpose was to observe the holy Gospel in all times and through all things and, with perfect vigilance, with all zeal, with all the longing of his mind and all the fervor of his heart, "to follow the teaching and the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ." He would recall Christ's words through persistent meditation and bring to mind his deeds through the most penetrating consideration. The humility of the incarnation and the charity of the passion occupied his memory particularly, to the extent that he wanted to think of hardly anything else. What he did



on the birthday of our Lord Jesus Christ near the little town called Greccio in the third year before his glorious death [1223] should especially be noted and recalled with reverent memory. In that place there was a certain man by the name of John, of good reputation and an even better life, whom blessed Francis loved with a special love, for in the place where he lived he held a noble and honorable position in as much as he had trampled upon the nobility of his birth and pursued nobility of soul. Blessed Francis sent for this man, as he often did, about fifteen days before the birth of the Lord, and he said to him: "If you want us to celebrate the present feast of our Lord at Greccio, go with haste and diligently prepare what I tell you. For I wish to do something that will recall to memory the little Child who was born in Bethlehem and set before our bodily eyes in some way the inconveniences of his infant needs, how he lay in the manger, how, with an ox and an ass standing by, he lay upon the hay where he had been placed." When the good and faithful man heard these things, he ran with haste and prepared in that place all the things the saint had told him.

December 21: *O Rising Dawn (Oriens)*

1 Celano 85

But the day of joy drew near, the time of great rejoicing came. The brothers were called from their various places. Men and women of that neighborhood prepared with glad hearts, according to their means, candles and torches to light up that night that has lighted up all the days and years with its gleaming star. At length the saint of God came, and finding all things prepared, he saw it and was glad. The manger was prepared, the hay had been brought, the ox and ass were led in. There simplicity was honored, poverty was exalted, humility was commended, and Greccio was made, as it were, a new Bethlehem. The night was lighted up like the day, and it delighted men and beasts. The people came and were filled with new joy over the new mystery. The woods rang with the voices of the crowd and the rocks made answer to their jubilation. The brothers sang, paying their debt of praise to the Lord, and the whole night resounded with their rejoicing. The saint of God stood before the manger, uttering sighs, overcome with love, and filled with a wonderful happiness. The solemnities of the Mass were celebrated over the manger and the priest experienced a new consolation.

December 22: O King of the Gentiles (Rex)

1 Celano 86

The saint of God was clothed with the vestments of the deacon, for he was a deacon, and he sang the holy Gospel in a sonorous voice. And his voice was a strong voice, a sweet voice, a clear voice, a sonorous voice, inviting all to the highest rewards. Then he preached to the people standing about, and he spoke charming words concerning the nativity of the poor King and the little town of Bethlehem. Frequently, too, when he wished to call Christ, *Jesus*, he would call him simply the *Child of Bethlehem*, aglow with overflowing love for him; speaking the word *Bethlehem*, his voice was more like the bleating of a sheep. His mouth was filled more with sweet affection than with words. Besides, when he spoke the name *Child of Bethlehem* or *Jesus*, his tongue licked his lips, as it were, relishing and savoring with pleased palate the sweetness of the words. The gifts of the Almighty were multiplied there, and a wonderful vision was seen by a certain virtuous man. For he saw a little child lying in the manger lifeless, and he saw the holy man of God go up to it and rouse the child as from a deep sleep. This vision was not unfitting, for the Child Jesus had been forgotten in the hearts of many; but, by the working of his grace, he was brought to life again through his servant St. Francis and stamped upon their fervent memory. At length the solemn night celebration was brought to a close, and each one returned to his home with holy joy.



December 23: O God-with-Us (Emmanuel)

The Praises of God

You are holy, Lord, the only God, You do wonders.
You are strong, You are great, You are the most High, You are the almighty King.
You, Holy Father, the King of heaven and earth.
You are Three and One, Lord God of gods;
You are good, all good, the highest good, Lord, God, living and true.
You are love, charity.
You are wisdom; You are humility; You are patience;
You are beauty; You are meekness; You are security;
You are inner peace; You are joy; You are our hope and joy;
You are justice; You are moderation,
You are all our riches;
You are enough for us.
You are beauty, You are meekness;
You are the protector,
You are our guardian and defender;
You are strength; You are refreshment.
You are our hope, You are our faith, You are our charity,
You are all our sweetness,
You are our eternal life: Great and wonderful Lord,
God almighty, Merciful Savior.

CHRISTMAS SEASON: Christmas Eve, December 24

The Salutation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Hail, O Lady,
 holy Queen,
 Mary, holy Mother of God:
 you are the virgin made church
 and the one chosen by the most holy
 Father in heaven
whom He consecrated
 with His most holy beloved Son
 and with the Holy Spirit,
 the Paraclete,
in whom there was and is
 all the fullness of grace and every
 good.

Hail, His Palace!
Hail, His Tabernacle!
Hail, His Home!
Hail, His Robe!
Hail, His Servant!
Hail, His Mother!
And, hail all you holy virtues
 which through the grace and light of
 the Holy Spirit
 are poured into the hearts of the
 faithful,
 so that from their faithless state
 you may make them faithful to God.

CHRISTMAS SEASON: Christmas Day, December 25

Admonition V: # 1

Be conscious, O man, of the wondrous state in which the Lord God has placed you, for He created you and formed you to the image of His beloved Son according to the body, and to His likeness according to the spirit.

SOURCES

Armstrong, Regis, OFM^{Cap}, (trans). *Francis and Clare: The Complete Works in The Classics Of Western Spirituality*. New York: Paulist Press, 1982.

Cousins, Ewert, (trans). *Bonaventure: The Soul's Journey into God; The Tree of Life; The Life Of St. Francis in The Classics of Western Spirituality*. New York: Paulist Press, 1978.

Habig, Marion, OFM. (ed). *St. Francis of Assisi: Omnibus of Sources*. 3rd Edition. Chicago: Franciscan Herald Press, 1973.