



S

t. Francis Loves the Birds and Nature

St. Francis - The "Seraphic Saint," was the founder of the Order of Friars Minor. He was born in Assisi, Italy in 1182 and died in Assisi, Italy on October 3rd 1226.

Feast Day: October 4.

In modern times, Francis' love of nature is taken to be his most typical characteristic, and he is generally surrounded by animals. However, no authentic representation of the saint is known to exist.

St. Francis is often portrayed with the Stigmata on his palms. The Stigmata are the wounds of Our Lord, the pierced hands, feet and side, and the impression of the crown of thorns which appear in the flesh of certain persons who suffer corresponding pain.

This painting shows St. Francis emerging from the church down the stairs into the garden, symbolizing his religious concern for all the creatures of nature.



T

he Albigenses at Fanjaux Confounded by St. Dominic

If it were not for St. Dominic our church would be very different. The Rosary originated about the year 1208, when St. Dominic was preaching against the Albigensian heresy. One night while praying, Our Lady appeared to him, holding a rosary. She taught him how to say it, and told him to teach it to the world, promising that it would convert sinners and obtain graces for the just. Armed with this weapon, St. Dominic's preaching among them began to take effect, and many of them returned to the faith. Thus, the Rosary is very much a part of St. Joseph's Parish. St. Dominic is usually vested in black and white, and there is fire and a dog in the paintings or stained glass windows. The dog is most often black in colour and has a burning torch in its mouth. This painting contains all those elements but the fire is that of the Albigensians trying to burn St. Dominic's writings along with the writings of the heretics in the presence of three judges that are seated under the canopy. The writings of the saint writings were not touched by the fire while all the writings of the heretics were burnt.