# "GOING EASY ON THE KLEENEX" Celebrating Styles of Life

LIFE STYLE HYMN: "Angels Praise Him"

Angels praise him, heavens praise him, waters praise him, Hallelujah!

4.4

Powers of the Lord all praise him for evermore.

Sun praise him, moon praise him, stars praise him, Hallelujah!

Showers praise him, dews praise him, for evermore.

Winds praise him, fire praise him, heat praise him, Hallelujah!

Winter praise him, summer praise him for evermore.

Nights praise him, days praise him, light praise him, Darkness praise him,

Lightnings praise him, clouds praise him for evermore.

Earth praise him, mountains praise him, hills praise him, Hallelujah!

Green things praise him, wells praise him for evermore.

Seas praise him, floods praise him, creatures of the Waters praise him,

Birds, beasts, and cattle praise him for evermore.

National praise him, churches praise him, saints praise him, Hallelujah!

All his people join to praise him for evermore.

HUMILITY

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Leader: Listen to the rule of life intended for the followers (the friars) of St. Francis. It is based upon-

observance of the Holy Gospel,
living in obedience to Jesus Christ,
and practicing purity of heart and action.

The rule will be read and pauses will occur at the end of each paragraph for your silent meditation and personal confession.

"I warn all the friars and exhort them not to condemn or look down on people whom they see wearing soft or gaudy clothes and enjoying luxuries in food or drink; each one should rather condemn and despise himself . . .

"And this is my advise, my counsel, and my earnest plea to my friars in our Lord Jesus Christ that, when they travel about the world, they should not be quarrelsome or take part in disputes with words or criticize others; but they should be gentle, peaceful, and unassuming, courteous and humble, speaking respectfully to everyone, as is expected of them . . .

Wherever the friars meet one another, they should show that they are members of the same family. And they should have no hesitation in making known their needs to one another. For if a mother loves and cares for her child in the flesh, a friar should certainly love and care for his spiritual brother all the more tenderly . . .

"And they shall take care not to get angry or disturbed by the sins of others, for anger and trouble of spirit are hindrances to charity in themselves and in others....

"With all my heart, I beg the friars in our Lord Jesus Christ to be on guard against pride, boasting, envy, and greed, against the cares and anxieties of this world, against detraction and complaining . . . .

"They should realize that the only thing they should desire is to have the spirit of God at work within them, while they pray to him unceasingly with a heart free from self-interest.

They must be humble, too, and patient in persecution or illness . . .

"Being always submissive and subject to the Holy Church, and firmly established in the Catholic faith, we may live always according to the poverty, and the humility, and the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, as we have firmly promised . . .

L: Blessed are those whose sins have been forgiven, whose evil deeds have been forgotten. Rejoice in the Lord.

### PRAISE

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THE CANTICLE OF BROTHER SUN

Leader: Most high, all-powerful, all good Lord! Left: All praise is yours, all glory, all honor

Right: And all blessing.

Leader: To you, alone, Most High, do they belong.

Left: No mortal lips are worthy
Right: To pronounce your name.

Leader: All praise be yours, my Lord, through all that you have

Left: And first my lord Brother Sun,

Right: Who brings the day; and light you give to us through him.

Leader: How beautiful is he, how radiant in all his splendor!

All: Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

Leader: All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Moon and

Stars;
Left: In the heavens you have made them, bright

Right: And precious and fair.

Leader: All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air,

Left: And fair and stormy, all the weather's moods, Right: By which you cherish all that you have made.

Leader: All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Water.

All: So useful, lowly, precious and pure.

Leader: All praise be yours, my Lord, through Brother Fire,

Left: Through whom you brighten up the night.

Right: How beautiful is he, how gay! Full of power and strength.

Leader: All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Earth, our

mother,

Left: Who feeds us in her sovereignty and produces
Right: Various fruits with colored flowers and herbs.

Leader: All praise be yours, my Lord, through those who grant

pardon.

Left: For love of you; through those who endure

Right: Sickness and trial.

Leader: Happy those who endure in peace;

All: By you, Most High, they will be crowned.

Leader: All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Death,

All: From whose embrace no mortal can escape.

Leader: Woe to those who die in mortal sin!

Left: Happy those she finds doing your will!

Right: The second death can do no harm to them.

Leader: Praise and bless my Lord, and give him thanks,

All: And serve him with great humility. A hoose

#### LOVE THE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

All: Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace; Where there is hatred let me put love,

Where there is anger let me put forgiveness,

Where there is discord let me put unity, Where there is doubt let me put faith, Where there is error let me put truth,

Where there is despair let me bring happiness,

Where there is sadness let me bring joy, Where there is darkness let me bring light.

O Master, grant that I may desire:
To console rather than to be consoled,
To understand rather than to be understood,

To love rather than to be loved.

Because it is in giving that we receive; In forgiving that we obtain forgiveness; In dying that we rise to eternal life.

JUSTICE Reading of I John 2:3-6

PEACE Reading "OF THE WOLF OF GUBBIO" from
THE LITTLE FLOWERS OF ST. FRANCIS

#### A CONVERSATION WITH THE CHRIST WITHIN

You say, Christ, that Francis ran to do your bidding—is that true, Lord? Was he running a race, Lord? Who was he competing with? No one, Lord? You say that he was in a race with himself—to do God's will?

"Yes, friend, that was one of the marks of his discipleship."

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You say he went running and singing? Lord, I want to be a disciple-But I'm afraid I'm not a runner—
And I can't carry a tune. You say I don't have to compete with Francis-Just be myself?
Can I dance?

dance? Can I dance? Now, Lord, that's asking too much! You say Francis did! He danced his way through life?
Why, that's impossible! How could he run and sing and dance All at the same time?

> You say singing and dancing were also marks of his discipleship?

"Yes, Friend, they were the outward signs of his maturity, his love of life, and his joy in me and his total obedience to me!" The state of the s

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## HYMN "Joyful, Joyful"

- 1. Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
  God of glory, Lord of love!
  Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
  Praising thee, their sun above.
  Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
  Drive the gloom of doubt away.
  Giver of immortal gladness,
  Fill us with the light of day.
- 2. All thy works with joy surround thee,
  Earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
  Stars and angels sing around thee,
  Center of unbroken praise.
  Field and forest, vale and mountain,
  Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
  Chanting bird, and flowing fountain
  Call us to rejoice in thee.
- 3. Thou art giving and forgiving
  Ever blessing ever blest,
  Well-spring of the joy of living,
  Ocean-depth of happy rest!
  Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
  All who live in love are thine;
  Teach us how to love each other,
  Lift us to the joy divine!

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