



The Pilgrim's Companion:

Sharing the Franciscan Journey

March 2026

Contemplative Corner



St. Francis' Farewell to Assisi
P. Subercaseaux



I have done
what was
mine to
do.

May Christ
teach you
what is
yours.

St. Francis
FA:ED, LM Ch XIV



Pilgrims on the way to San Damiano

A Time for Reflection: Lent and the Franciscan Jubilee Year

As we journey through Lent, we are invited to take time for prayer, reflection, and active charity. This year, that invitation is deepened for our Franciscan family as we celebrate a Jubilee Year marking the 800th anniversary of the passing of Saint Francis of Assisi. For those who share in the Franciscan tradition, this moment offers a special opportunity to pause and consider how the spirit of Francis continues to live and grow in our world today.

One meaningful way many within the Franciscan community renew this commitment is through pilgrimage. Stepping away from the routines of daily life creates space for reflection and spiritual renewal. Walking the paths once traveled by Francis and his companions invites us to ask how we, too, are called to carry forward his vision of humility, compassion, and reconciliation.

In the reflection that follows, Debi Haug, Executive Director for Mission at the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities, invites us to consider what it means to continue living the Franciscan charism today. As we mark this Jubilee Year, her words encourage us to reflect on our shared responsibility to keep the spirit of Francis alive—in our classrooms, workplaces, and communities—and to see pilgrimage as one meaningful way of deepening that commitment.

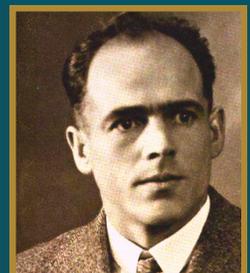
Wishing you Peace, Good and Discernment on your Lenten Journey!

Special Pilgrim Reflection: In the Footsteps of Blessed Franz and Franziska Jagerstatter

In May 2025, a group of pilgrims traveled to Austria to walk in the footsteps of Blessed Franz Jägerstätter, who gave his life rather than betray his faith during the rise of Nazism in World War II. Following the witness of Franz and his wife, Franziska Jägerstätter, the pilgrims reflected on courage, conscience, and faith.

[Read about](#) the lasting inspiration of the Jägerstätters in this article by Bridget Durham OFS, Catherine Golski, and Toni Maconi OFS.

[Click Here](#)



In the Franciscan world, we are especially grateful to Pope Leo for recognizing this year as a Jubilee Year for Franciscans. Over the past several years, we have been commemorating the 800th anniversaries of pivotal moments in the life of St. Francis: the approval of the Rule of St. Francis (2023), the reception of the Stigmata (2024), the composition of the Canticle of the Creatures(2025), and, finally, the death of St. Francis in 2026.

In marking this Jubilee, Pope Leo invites us into prayer:

Saint Francis, our brother,
you who eight hundred years ago
went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace,
intercede for us before the Lord.
You recognized true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano;
teach us to seek in Him the source of all reconciliation
that breaks down every wall.
You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war
and misunderstanding,
give us the courage to build bridges
where the world raises boundaries.
In this time afflicted by conflict and division,
intercede for us so that we may become peacemakers:
unarmed and disarming witnesses
of the peace that comes from Christ. Amen.

As Franciscans, we are focused on the charism that has been modeled by Francis and Clare and carried forward by countless women and men in the Franciscan family. Central to this charism are care for the poor, reverence for creation, and a commitment to being a sign of peace in a fractured world.

Those who work and serve at our Franciscan institutions walk in the footsteps of generations of Franciscans who founded and sustained our schools. Inspired by their witness and dedication, we seek to form our faculty, staff, and students in a deeper understanding of the Franciscan tradition and the charism that is so needed in our world today.

With Pope Leo’s recognition of this Jubilee Year, we are invited to renewed spiritual engagement: to visit Franciscan places of worship, to participate in spiritual conferences, and to cultivate a deeper, more mature faith. One way we encourage this on our campuses is through pilgrimage. Through our partnership with the Franciscan Pilgrimage Program (www.franciscanpilgrimages.com), faculty and staff have the opportunity to journey together to Rome and Assisi, meeting colleagues from other AFCU institutions and sharing in the experience of walking the same roads once traveled by Francis and Clare.

We also offer a student pilgrimage that brings together students from across our schools to journey, reflect, and grow together. For many years, we have partnered with the Franciscan Pilgrimage Program to make possible experiences that invite participants not only to encounter sacred places but also to be transformed by them.

As we continue to celebrate this Jubilee Year, may these pilgrimages and shared reflections inspire us to carry the spirit of St. Francis back into our classrooms, offices, and communities. Rooted in prayer, committed to peace, and attentive to the cries of the poor and the earth, may we live this holy year as true witnesses to the Franciscan charism.

Debi Haug is the Executive Director for Mission at the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities and a Franciscan pilgrimage leader. This article was originally published by the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities.

Travel with us on pilgrimage:



Assisi and Rome

2026: June, July, October
2027: April, June, July, October

Click on pictures for online links or give us a call!



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Tourgrimage:
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October 2026

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Have a question about pilgrimage? Reach out to us at :



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General Questions can be sent to InfoFPP@thefranciscans.net

Do you have a story or picture to share?

Send to:

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