

Secular Franciscan Order Wake Service

Prayers of Farewell and Commendation at the Wake of a Secular Franciscan



It is no use
walking
anywhere
to preach
unless
our walking
is our
preaching.

St Francis of Assisi

Compiled by Deacon Lee Winchester ofs, from various Franciscan sources

**Edited by Michel David ofs
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Introduction

Welcome my Sister Death:

As Christians we believe that death has “lost its’ sting” through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. As Franciscans we believe even more strongly that “it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.” In the view of this faith stance, death takes on an entirely new meaning. Thus we celebrate the passing of a sister or brother to a more fruitful life in the company of the saints. We hope and trust in the promises of Christ. Death teaches us to cling to the Cross of Christ with

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knowledge that having "been conformed with Him in His death, we will be conformed with Him in His resurrection from death." {Phil.3:10-11)

Sr/Br _____ was a member of the
Secular Franciscan Order

St. Francis life was to search and strive for union with Christ through faith. Death for him was not a harsh reality, but the goal through which he passed toward his ultimate goal-total union with the Father. What St. Francis sought through faith on earth, he achieved totally after death. The death of a Franciscan shows forth the same faith as that which St. Francis possessed: our belief that death is the gateway to total union with God.

As our Franciscan fraternity gathers with friends to pray for our departed brother/sister we seek the support of one another in the faith we share. We express our sorrow at the departing of Sr/Br: _____. Through death, yet we share in the joyful and confident hope of ultimate reunion with our deceased sister/brother and with the lord.

Leader:

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All praise be yours, my lord through Sister Death, from whose embrace no mortal can escape.

All:

All praise be yours, my Lord through Sister Death from whose embrace no mortal can escape.

Invitation Rite

Celebrant/SFO Minister:

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

My sisters and brothers, we have come together to renew our trust in Christ,

Who by dying on the Cross, freed us from eternal death, and By rising has opened for us the gates of heaven. Let us pray for our sister/brother: _____

That she/he may share in Christ's victory and,

Let us pray for ourselves, that the Lord may grant us the gift of His loving consolation.

Opening Prayer:

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Almighty God,

It is our certain faith that your son, who died on the
Cross, was raised from the dead,
the first fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

Grant that through this mystery your servant

Sr/Br _____, who has
gone to her/his rest in Christ, may share in the joy of His
resurrection.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

(Hymn may be sung)

Reading from the Life of St. Francis:

1) Excerpt from the Major Life of St. Francis by St. Bonaventure;
Secular Franciscan Companion; Franciscan Press, 1987; 188-190

2) **Gospel Reading: (Clergy or OFS Minister)**

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (5:1-12)

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The Sermon on the Mount:

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons[a] of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

(a brief reflection may follow)

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Intercessions: (OFS Minister/member)

L Let us turn to Christ Jesus who is Lord over the living and the dead. As we look forward to the joys of God's kingdom, we pray in confidence:

All. Lord hear our prayer.

L Open the door of eternal happiness to our Br/Sr _____ and welcome him/her into the glory of eternal life.

All. Lord hear our prayer.

L Be merciful to all who mourn: give them consolation and peace.

All. Lord hear our prayer.

(any additional from gathering)

The Lord's Prayer: (OFS Minister/other)

As we long for the coming of the Kingdom, we pray as Jesus taught us:

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Our Father.....

Fraternal Commendation

Leader:

Sisters and brothers,

before we take leave of our

Br/Sr. _____,

let us bless her/him with the Blessing of St.

**Francis. (all raise your right hand toward the
deceased and together pray):**

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May he show his face to you and be merciful to you.

**May he turn his countenance to you and give you his
peace.**

May the Lord bless you,

Brother/Sister _____

Leader:

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Our prayer for our brother/sister has ended. Let us go now, and until that time when the Lord shall gather us all into his kingdom, let us live in peace.

(Closing hymn on inside back cover)

The Prayer Of St. Francis (Or Peace Prayer)

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there is hatred let me bring love.

Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,

and where there's doubt, true faith in You.

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.

Where there is darkness, only light, and

where there's sadness, ever joy.

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Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console.

To be understood as to understand, to be
loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.

In giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we are born of eternal life.

*This space can be used to include information about the local fraternity
such as name, address, meeting place, dates and times. Local contact
person, etc.*