



Prayer to Saint Francis in the Chapel of the Stigmata

La Verna, 17 September 2026 – Procession to the Chapel of the Stigmata

Brother Francis,
you came up this mountain
with your hands already empty.
You had given back your father's wealth,
relinquished the leadership of your
brothers,
acknowledged that nothing was yours
any longer.

And to you, precisely,
who clung to nothing any longer,
the Lord pressed his seal into your flesh:
the wounds of the Beloved.
You did not claim them. You hid them.

Not even this grace
would you keep for yourself.

Brother Francis,
you came down from this mountain
and resumed your journey.
Your body was still yours,
marked by the Stigmata.

And in the end
you gave even that back too:
naked on the bare earth,
like Christ on the cross,
you returned your life to the Father,
singing of Sister Death.

Your wounds and your death
are one and the same love:
to receive everything from God
and give everything back to God.

Teach us to open our hands,
to release
our possessions and our plans,
the need to succeed,
the very fear of letting go.

Free us from the fear
of vanishing
and being forgotten.

Make us believe
that whoever gives back does not lose,
but receives.

With you and with Saint Clare,
who chose to possess nothing
so as to be wholly free for Christ,
teach us to hand over our life,
blessing the One
who gave it to us.

To You alone, Most High,
all good,
all praise,
all glory.
Amen.