

Transitus of St. Francis

The Transitus, or passing over from this life into new life, is celebrated every year in all the Franciscan family. There are four branches of the Franciscan family: the first order which are the friars minor; OFM, OFM Capuchin, and OFM Conventual: the second order which is the Poor Clares: the Third Order Regular, which are the apostolic religious sisters and the TOR friars: and the Secular Franciscans. There are four facets to franciscan spirituality: minority or identifying with the lower classes (emphasized in the first order), contemplation (emphasized in the second order), on going conversion (emphasized in the third order regulars, and being gospel in the world (emphasized by the Secular),

The transitus in Assisi is the largest celebration I have ever seen. Each year one region of Italy is honored. This year it was Malise. There is an exhibition of about there region and products. The Transitus starts at 5:30 pm in the piazza of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels which houses the Porziuncola.



The angels are actual children about 6 years old suspended the air.

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The floats are drawn by white oxen.

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This float is made from all the seeds and grains grown in the Malise region.

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After the parade around the piazza, the procession begins for the mass. Every city and commune in the region brings a flag from their city/village and is in the procession. Much like some Diocese do at the Blessing of the Oils in Holy Week.



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The procession continues with the friars: some 80-100 participated here. The guard of Malta enters leading the incense bearer and the cross.



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Two women enter dressed in clothes of morning. They represent Lady Pica, Francis' mother and Lady Jacoba, a close friend.

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The bishops (6) and the minister generals of the three groups of friars.



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Finally the celebrant, the Bishop of Assisi.

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A mass celebrating the death of Francis follows.

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The Porziuncola.



The Rocca Maggiore is lit with oil lamps.

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As are the walls of Assisi.

Santa Chiara

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