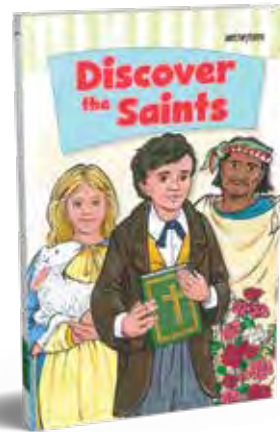


Saint Francis of Assisi

(c. 1181-1226)

The
Earth
is God's gift!
Take care
of it!



This activity is taken from the
Discover the Saints book.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
DISCOVER THE SAINTS
AND ITS COMPONENTS,

visit smp.org/discoversaints/





Francis of Assisi has been called the most beloved saint of all time. Why is that? Perhaps because he was full of love and joy. He loved people (especially those who were poor). He loved the natural world. He loved animals, both wild and tame. He was full of love!

But Francis was not always like this. When he was a young man, he thought only of spending his father's money on good times with his friends. Yet he wanted to do better. One day, while Francis prayed before a crucifix in the Church of San Damiano, Christ spoke to him. Christ asked Francis to repair his house, meaning the Church. But Francis took this to mean the little church of San Damiano! He began repairing the ruined stone church.

After hearing the Gospel in which Christ told his disciples to go and proclaim the Kingdom, Francis did just that. He began to preach and to devote himself to poverty, wearing a simple robe and a knotted belt. The people listened to him because he lived what he preached. Young men joined him, and so began the Franciscan Order. Saint Francis is honored as the patron saint of animals and the environment.



Prayer

Saint Francis, ask God to fill me with love and joy!



Francis respected the natural world as a gift from God. In each box below, write something you will do to show respect for the environment. Draw an X over the box when you have taken each action.

--	--	--	--

