

(Make sure you have a brochure to hold up for the end.)

Good morning/afternoon/evening. My name is _____ and I am here to extend an invitation that could change your life! My own life **DID** change after meeting a family which belongs to our worldwide Roman Catholic Family.

As you are aware, there are many religious families in the Roman Catholic Church that have been inspired by a specific Saint. I belong to the Franciscan Family as a Secular Franciscan. This means that as a lay person living in the world, I am committed to living the Gospel according to the spirituality of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. Every Sunday you see Father kiss the Gospel after he reads it. Why does he do that? (Pause) The Gospel is the Good News and the good news is a person- Jesus. Jesus, the Word made flesh, was the centre of St. Francis' whole life with God and with people.

I am sure that many of you have seen garden statues of St. Francis with birds on his arms and at his feet. Be assured that St. Francis' life was so much more than about birds. He did indeed love all of God's creation and praised God for all natural beauty surrounding him.

Did you know that the Nativity Scenes we have in our homes and all the pageant plays we have every Christmas, began with a live outdoor nativity scene in Greccio Italy? St. Francis' heart was moved to organize an outdoor reenactment of our Lord born in humble surroundings.

Did you know that when we pray each Station of the Cross we begin with the prayer St. Francis said each time he entered a Church: "We adore you, O Lord Jesus Christ, in this church and **all** the churches of the world, and we bless you, because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world." ? He had such a great love for the Eucharist and was in awe that God and the Son of God, Jesus, would be so humble so as to hide himself under a small morsel of bread. He would say to his Brothers, "look at the humility of God and pour out your hearts before Him!"

Did you know that St. Francis was the first human that is known to have received the wounds of Christ, the stigmata? In Matthew 11:29 Jesus says, "learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart and you **WILL** find rest for your souls." St. Francis and St. Clare learned from Jesus and in humility and simplicity, they found true peace and joy in living the Gospel.

I invite you to visit with my Franciscan Fraternity, which has members from all 3 Catholic Churches in Belleville, this coming Thursday, March 30th. We begin with Mass at 5:30pm at Holy Rosary Church followed by our meeting. There will be a short social time, prayer, a teaching, and time to ask questions. We look forward to seeing you!! **(Hold up brochure)** Looking for More? Want to go deeper? Is God calling you? Come and See!!