

St. Francis' Transitus – 2026 (Version 2)

{SCENE: 2-4 mourners around an improvised Francis on his death bed.

When Francis needs to speak, use a friar or a male Secular out of sight.}

SAMPLE OPENING/INTRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER: Welcome Sisters and Brothers. Thank you for joining us to pray with our Brother Francis in his last hours of Earthly life. Are you here because of Francis influence on your life? Did Francis ask you for “stones to rebuild God’s church”? (to give your time, your effort, your money) Did he help you care for a loved one when it was not easy to do so – like his caring for the lepers of Assisi? Did he help you “tame the wolf within you” when you felt like “devouring” your opponent? Did he help you understand that the “Father’s gift of the Christ Child” should be the heart/the center of your Christmas celebrations? Whatever your reasons for coming, please be sure to tell him why you are here as you say “goodbye”. Thank you for sharing these last moments with us.

[Handout Page (at the end of this document) – distribute as attendees enter: “the Praises of God” and “the Seed for Eternal Life”

Optional inclusion or include link to it : St. Francis “Testament” for personal reflection]

Francis: Let us all recite the “Praises of God” (on handout)

After a minute or two for reflection – **Francis** begins reciting his “Testament” (this should be done slowly, haltingly as he is close to death)

ANNOUNCER: In the quiet of our hearts, let us offer Francis our “goodbyes” (allow 2 -3 minutes)

ANNOUNCER continues: “Please join me in reciting the prayer “The Seed for Eternal Life” (on handout) then closing.

SAMPLE CLOSING:

Our Brother Francis has gone to his eternal reward. Rejoice over his victory! We have more than the memories of his interactions with us and of the stories shared among us. We have his *Testament* – his blueprint for living a life with and for Christ. We need not be alone on this journey. *We are NOT orphans!* We have a Loving Father Who created us and sustains us. We have a Loving Brother as a model and inspiration. We have a Loving Generous Holy Spirit Who patiently waits for us to seek the Gifts we need and for our openness to accept & use these gifts as fully as we can.

“Jesus, show me what is mine to do TODAY. Holy Spirit, provide the gifts I need today and guide me to use those gifts as fully as I can.”

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Handout Page

The Praises of God

*You are the holy Lord God Who does wonderful things!
You are strong. You are great. You are the most high.
You are the almighty king. You holy Father,
King of heaven and earth.*

*You are three and one, the Lord God of gods;
You are the good, all good, the highest good,
Lord God living and true.*

*You are love, charity; You are wisdom, You are humility,
You are patience, You are beauty, You are meekness,
You are security, You are rest,
You are gladness and joy, You are our hope, You are justice,
You are moderation, You are all our riches to sufficiency.*

*You are beauty, You are meekness,
You are the protector, You are our custodian and defender,
You are strength, You are refreshment. You are our hope,
You are our faith, You are our charity,
You are all our sweetness, You are our eternal life:
Great and wonderful Lord, Almighty God, Merciful Savior.*

THE SEED FOR ETERNAL LIFE

Lord Jesus Christ, thank You for the seed of eternal life that You planted in Francis. Thank You because that seed continues to germinate, from generation to generation. May it also bear fruit in each of us: mercy towards the poor, love for You crucified, fidelity to the Church, love for the Eucharist, fraternity without power, the witness of peace. Help us to live "according to the form of the Holy Gospel" wherever we are and whatever we do.

May the Spirit make us passionate Christians, citizens of these times, capable of facing real problems and seeking a more just and fraternal world. And remind us that we are pilgrims of hope, on our way to the Definitive City, where God, Your Father and our Father, will be all in all. Amen.