

# St Francis of Assisi

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An Overview  
by  
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# Who was Francis?

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- **Giovanni di Bernardone**
  - Born in Umbria between 1181 – 1182, died October 3, 1226.
    - Lived in a world of luxury...think “rich kid”.
    - Compare maps of the [11<sup>th</sup>](#) and [12<sup>th</sup>](#) Century Europe.
    - This was a world in turmoil, he goes to war, is captured and imprisoned. This experience and what he sees changes him.
  - He believes that the Lord speaks to him and becomes “possessed” with a desire to seek the spiritual.
  - His message: *“Go, Francis, and repair my house, which as you see is falling into ruin.”*
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1100 AD Europe Map





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1200 AD Europe Map

# How did he Act?

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- Some considered him “mad”...he renounces his inheritance in front of his father by shedding his clothes and taking on a vow of poverty.
- All his friars take on this mission of preaching poverty and penitence.



# Acts cont'd

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- This action is in keeping with a mystical movement within the Catholic Church.
    - The church was at this time more like a political state than a religious church.
    - Francis and his actions lay the ground work for his order, the Friars Minor and the challenge for the church to return to its roots.
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# What did he love?

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- ❑ He cared about all nature...thus his association with animals.
  - ❑ His orders good works attracted followers. St. Clara, a disciple who founded an order of nuns in 1212.
  - ❑ The growth of his and her orders and his wide travels (even to Moslem Spain) set the theme of prayerful peace that ground the VALUES.
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# Four Franciscan Values

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- In light of Francis's life and religious commitment what do these values mean to you?
    - Creating a Caring Community
    - Showing Compassion
    - Reverencing all of Creation
    - Making Peace
  - For further information see:  
<http://www.stitch.edu/data/files/values.pdf>
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# Basilica of San Francesco

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