

St Francis Franciscan Scavenger Hunt

- *Teams are to send 2 students at a time to find 1 symbol at a time using the directions provided.*
- *When they return with the symbol the team needs to work out which story it fits with.*
- *Once they have matched it to a story the next 2 students can be sent to find the next symbol.*
- *After all of the symbols are found the team needs to discuss for each story what the message is for us as members of _____ College/ school.*
- *First team to gather all of the symbols and match them to the correct stories wins.*

NB. Symbols are not to be moved or removed from their locations.

SYMBOLS are provided at end of this document.

Symbol	Story	Values/message for our school
	<p>Francis wore fancy clothes, and he went to big extravagant parties where there were long tables of delicious food and drink. Everyone danced and laughed all night without a care in the world.</p> <p>But not everyone lived like Francis. In Francis' town there were people called Lepers. Lepers had a terrible disease called leprosy—it caused them to have sores all over their body that were very painful and also very contagious. Nobody wanted to catch this disease, so they would stay far away from lepers. When people saw a leper on the street, they would turn and walk the other way. Absolutely no one touched a leper. One day, Francis was riding down the road and he saw a leper. He was terrified of getting the disease, so he quickly turned to go in the opposite direction. But as he turned, something stopped him. Francis remembered the story of Jesus healing a leper in the Bible, and he knew that he couldn't just walk away. Francis felt compassion for this leper who had not been touched in years. He imagined what it would be like to have no one to hug you when you are sad, or pat your back when you are sick, or shake your hand to say hello— and he knew he could not simply walk away. Instead, Francis walked right over to the man, and kissed him! Then, Francis emptied his pockets and gave the leper all the money he had.</p> <p>Francis left the man but he always remembered him. Not long after that, he devoted his life to serving the sick and the poor. Francis gave away all his fancy clothes and money. He had no home and he ate only what people gave him. Then he travelled around the country telling anyone who would listen—even animals—about Jesus's love for them. He helped so many people and loved God so much that the church named him a saint. We know him today as St. Francis of Assisi.</p>	

Symbol	Story	Values/message for our school
	<p>The man who would become St. Francis was born the son of a wealthy cloth merchant in the city of Assisi. When the boy was born, his mother asked that he be named Giovanni, after John the Baptist, for she had great hopes that her son would grow to become a man of God, perhaps even a priest. The boy's father wanted nothing to do with such religious nonsense. He defied his wife and had the boy named Francesco, which means "free one."</p> <p>As Francesco grew into a young man, he certainly worked to earn that nickname. He was well liked by almost everyone he met, which allowed him to get into all sorts of trouble. He played pranks, made jokes, threw lavish parties, engaged in just about every type of debauchery you could imagine, and was often found drunk in the inn, laughing and singing with his friends.</p>	

Symbol	Story	Values/message for our school
	<p>Francis was known for his love of nature and animals. There are many stories about Saint Francis and his preaching to animals. It is said that one day he was talking to some birds when they began to sing together. Then they flew into the sky and formed the sign of a cross.</p>	

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	<p>Wherever he went and whatever he did, he was the centre of attention, a natural leader. And while his likable nature and his ability to entertain made him a fine businessman, Francis wanted more than the life of a simple cloth merchant. He wanted to test his courage and to be showered with glory and honour. So, Francis set out to become a knight.</p> <p>Now, contrary to what you may have read and or what you may have seen in movies, being a knight did not mean that you were necessarily a great warrior. In those days, one simply had to look like a knight to be declared a knight.</p> <p>So, Francis' father purchased for his son a horse, a fine suit of armour inlaid with gold and silver, and a red, flowing cape. Look the part, Francis most certainly did! But his father could not buy for him a warrior's skill or talent with the sword...</p> <p>In one of his very first battles, Francis' battalion (composed almost entirely of inexperienced soldiers like Francis) was wiped out. Francis was captured, and, as the son of a wealthy merchant, he was held for a hefty ransom. It took over a year for Francis' father to save enough to pay the boy's captors, but eventually Francis was redeemed and brought back home to Assisi.</p>	
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Symbol	Story	Values/message for our school
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	<p>It was also said that Francis could tame wild animals. One story tells of a vicious wolf in the town of Gubbio that was killing people and sheep. The people of the town were frightened and didn't know what to do. Francis went to the town to confront the wolf. At first the wolf growled at Francis and prepared to attack him. However, Francis made the sign of the cross and told the wolf not to hurt anyone else. The wolf then became tame and the town was safe.</p>	
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Symbol	Story	Values/message for our school
	<p>Many groups of pious (<i>religious/devout</i>) individuals adopt the convention of wearing a knotted cord in recognition of the ropes that bound Jesus and as a reminder of their commitment. The three knots on the friar's cord represent his vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.</p>	

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	<p>In 1224 it is said that Francis had a vision and received stigmata. Stigmata are bodily marks or scars that match the same ones Jesus Christ suffered during the crucifixion. Francis tried to hide the stigmata for the rest of his life. Francis died in Assisi on October 3, 1226. He was canonized, or made a saint, on July 16, 1228. His feast day is October 4.</p>	

Symbol	Story	Values/message for our school

	<p>St. Francis of Assisi had a special devotion to the Child Jesus, and he is credited with creating the first nativity scene on Christmas Eve of the year 1223.</p> <p>It is believed that St. Francis was first inspired by this idea after visiting the historical place of Christ's birth on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land—the humble stable in a Bethlehem cave.</p> <p>St. Francis recreated the scene of Christ's birth in a special ritual and Mass he held inside of a cave in Greccio, Italy, inviting both his fellow friars and the townspeople to join in the celebration.</p> <p>He set up an empty manger (the feeding trough of farm animals which served as Jesus' crib) inside a cave, and even included a live ox and donkey beside the manger just as it was believed to have happened on that first Christmas night. Through these visual aids he wanted everyone to impress more deeply into their understanding how Christ came into the world in such poverty and simplicity. This was a typical perspective of St. Francis' unique charism of simple, poverty-centred spirituality.</p> <p>It is also said that St. Francis—who was radically devoted to the virtue of evangelical poverty—was inspired to recreate the original nativity scene to overcome the rampant greed and materialism prevalent at that time in Italy.</p>	
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	<p>Eight centuries ago, St. Francis of Assisi took a risk when he crossed the battlefield between Crusader and Muslim forces near Damietta, Egypt, desiring to meet Sultan al-Malik al-Kamil and preach his faith in Jesus Christ.</p> <p>At the time – 1219 – Christian forces were in the midst of the Fifth Crusade, which was eventually repelled by the sultan’s superior army near the town that was a centre of trade and commerce on the Nile River where it flows into the Mediterranean Sea.</p> <p>The future saint readily put his life on the line so he could witness his faith to the famed Muslim sultan, and in doing so both men came away with a new respect for the faith of the other, Franciscan Rev. Michael Calabria told a Nov. 7 conference at The Catholic University of America in Washington.</p> <p>Early retellings of the meeting describe al-Kamil as willingly listening to St. Francis as he preached and being a gracious host. The future saint witnessed peacefully and his subsequent writings reveal the meeting had a profound impact on his life, the priest told participants in the event titled The Sultan and the Saint: The Spiritual Journey of Transformative Encounter. While the sultan did not relinquish his Islamic faith, he asked his Italian visitor to pray for him so that he would follow God more closely. When Francis crossed the battlefield and was taken to al-Kamil by his troops, it was an opportunity for both men to learn from each other. St. Francis’ example is an invitation to people today to leave their “comfort zone and accept the challenges” presented in life, to move beyond hatred and violence to achieve peace.</p>	
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	<p>With the encouragement of his father, Francis dreamed of becoming a noble knight who would accomplish fantastic deeds and bring honour to his family. He attended the church school of St. George and was no doubt entranced with the story of this saint who is one of the patron saints of knighthood. Finally, when the cities of Assisi and Perugia went to war against each other, Francis had his chance at glory. The reality of war, however, was not what he dreamed. The fierce fighting, vicious hatred, horrible mutilation and death were a shock to his spirit of nobility. Being captured and held as a hostage in a stinking dungeon held no glory, only insult, sickness and death for many of the soldiers. Francis himself came home very ill after his imprisonment and then, as he slowly returned to health, he began to yearn for a better purpose in life. He was soon offered a chance to go to another war. This time it was to fight with the Papal army. Perhaps this was the chance he was waiting for, the purpose of his life. His father happily provided him with a splendid suit of armour. However, as they were setting out to join the army, Francis met a knight in very poor armour. With his usual impulsive generosity, he insisted that the knight had more right to wear his beautiful armour than he did, because he himself had not yet won his spurs, sword and shield.</p> <p>That night as he lay down to sleep with the rest of the army under the stars, Francis had a very vivid dream. He was in a hall full of armour with coloured banners hanging from the walls. He heard a voice ask him, "Francis, who is it better to serve, the Master or the Servant?" He answered, "The Master". The voice then said, "Go back to Assisi and all this will be yours." It was such a powerful dream that Francis acted on it and went back home. However, it was quite some time before he heard the voice again.</p>	
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	<p>The Canticle of the Creation is a hymn of praise that summarises Francis's journey to God in and through the beautiful things of creation. The Canticle reminds us that we humans are as dependent on the elements of creation as they are dependent on us. With his marvellous respect for creatures of all kinds, for sun, moon, stars, water, wind, fire and earth, Francis came to see that all creation gives praise to God. Brother Sun and Sister Moon praise God just by being sun and moon. We might say that Francis became sensitive to the goodness of creation.</p>	
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	<p>Francis was praying alone in front of a crucifix in the abandoned chapel of San Damiano, located down the hill from Assisi. Suddenly, Francis heard these words of Christ coming from the cross: "Francis, repair my house, which is falling into ruin." Francis realized later that it was a much bigger house—the Christian Church itself—that Christ was asking him to rebuild.</p>	

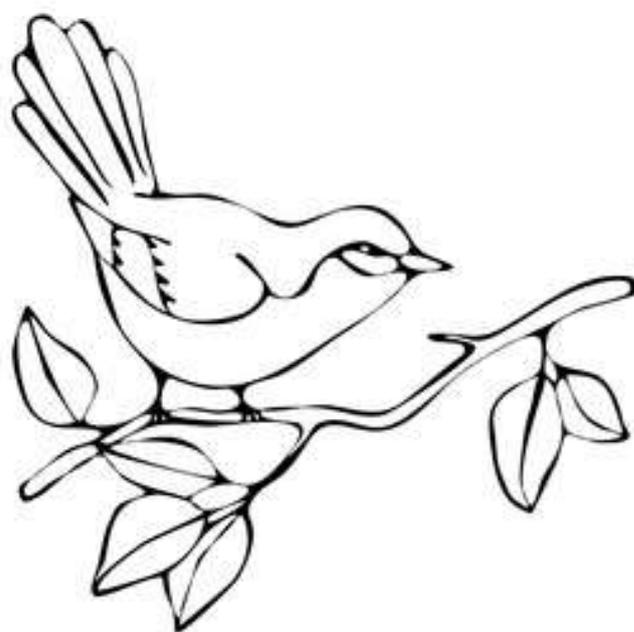
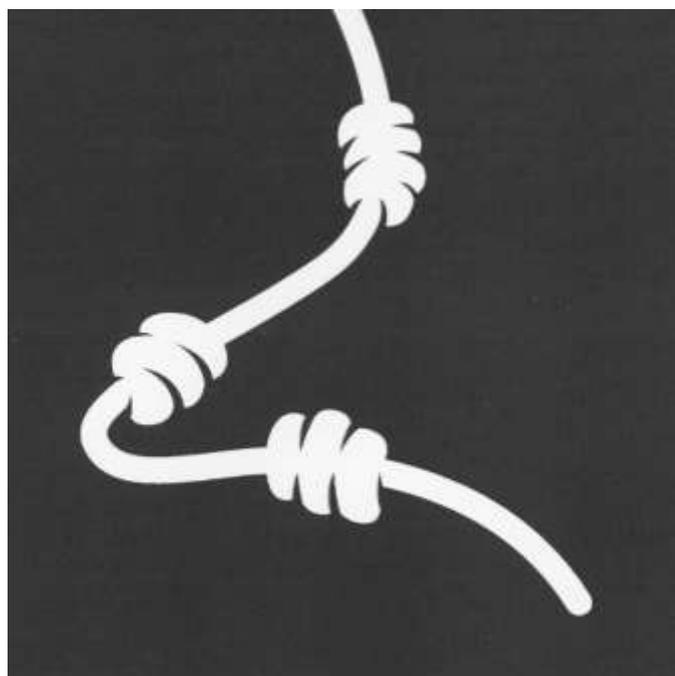
Symbol	Story	Values/message for our school

	<p>Clare of Assisi (July 16, 1194 – August 11, 1253), born Chiara Offreduccio, is an Italian saint. She was one of the first followers of Saint Francis of Assisi. Saint Clare of Assisi was of noble birth, her father, Favorone Offreduccio, was the Count of Sasso-Rosso and her mother, Ortolana di Fiumi, was from aristocratic descent. She was born as Chiara Offreduccio di Favaronne in Assisi. She was promised in marriage at age of 12, but it was cancelled due to her father's death. She was the oldest child in her family. When she was 18 years old, she heard Francis of Assisi preaching. She was extremely moved by his sermon, so she ran away to join him. Francis didn't have a place for women to stay, so he sent her to the Benedictine convent in San Paulo. Clare's relatives found out where she was staying, but when they arrived to take her back home, she clung to the altar saying she would only wed Christ. When she was staying in another monastery in Panzo, she was reunited with her younger sister, Agnes. Later, when she was 21, she was moved to another convent next to the San Damiano church, where she was appointed the superior for 40 years. In that church, she was reunited with her mother and her other sister named Beatrice.</p> <p>Saint Clare of Assisi will be remembered for founding the "Order of Poor Ladies", later named "Poor Clares." The order of Poor Clares was an order that had strict rules, such as silence vows, poverty, and strict fasting. The Poor Clares was an order for women so they could become closer to God.</p>	
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	<p>Francis gave up all of his family's wealth to live a simple life of poverty. He even went to the extreme of not touching money. He believed that money and wealth were corrupt and prevented people from becoming closer to God. He believed that through living a simple life and giving up wealth and material things people could become closer to God. Francis would give the clothes of his own back to others in need.</p>	
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Symbol	Story	Values/message for our school
	<p>Because of the Tau's resemblance to the cross, this sign was very dear to St. Francis of Assisi, so much so that it occupied an important place in his life as well as his gestures. In him the ancient prophetic sign was actualized, regained its saving power and expressed the beatitude of poverty, which is an essential element of the Franciscan way of life.</p>	





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