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Introduction to Unit Three

This unit covers the history of the Franciscan movement from the death of Francis of Assisi, 1226, until the present. The period has been divided into two: Modules One and Two conclude with the events of 1517 and Module Three takes up the history from 1517 until the present.

Module One is a survey of the history of the Order of Friars Minor until 1517. Module Two reflects the sketchy nature of the sources currently available for the history of the Second and Third Orders during this period. It opens with an introduction to the history of the Third Order, explaining the meaning of “penance”, as the Order was known as the Order of Penance. It details why it is necessary to divide the Third Order into secular and regular branches. Module Two includes aspects of the History of the Second Order, for which it is currently not possible to provide a fuller historical survey. Module Three takes a chronological approach and sets the history of the whole Franciscan movement within the wider context of the important major events and trends in world history. Consequently Module Three has not been divided into two parts although the period has been subdivided into three sections.

Modules One and Two include an examination of selected sources that can be found in *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents Vol. 1 The Saint*. You are not required to read further additional material so you will notice that there is no appendix of selected reading material attaching to this unit. This means that the lessons tend to be longer as they have been designed to include all the information you need. This unit includes detailed bibliographical details for those who wish to carry out more extensive research.

Assessment:

The entire Unit is to be assessed by the writing of one essay chosen from a selection given at the end of Module Three (located after the General Bibliography).

Glossary Note:

The term “monastery” refers to the habitation of enclosed communities, both male and female.

The term “convent” refers to the residence of a regular religious community that is not bound by enclosure.

ABBREVIATIONS

Writings of Saint Francis

Adm	The Admonitions	LtMin	A Letter to a Minister
BIL	A Blessing for Brother Leo	LtOrd	A letter to the Entire Order
CtC	The Canticle of the Creatures	LtR	A Letter to Rulers of the Peoples
CtExh	The Canticle of Exhortation	ExhP	Exhortation to the Praise of God
1Frg	Fragments of Worchester Manuscript	PrOF	A Prayer Inspired by the Our Father
2Frg	Fragments of Thomas of Celano	PrsG	The Praises of God
3Frg	Fragments from Hugh of Digne	Ofp	The Office of the Passion
LtAnt	A Letter to Brother Antony of Padua	PrCr	The Prayer before the Crucifix
1LtCl	First Letter to the Clergy (Earlier Edition)	ER	The Earlier Rule (Regula non bullata)
2LtCl	Second Letter to the Clergy (Later Edition)	LR	The Later Rule (Regula bullata)
1LtCus	The First Letter to the Custodians	RH	A Rule for Hermitages
2LtCus	The Second Letter to the Custodians	SalBV	A Salutation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
1LtF	The First Letter to the Faithful	SalV	A Salutation of Virtues
2LtF	The Second Letter to the Faithful	Test	The Testament
LtL	A Letter to Brother Leo	TPJ	True and Perfect Joy

Franciscan Sources

1C	The Life of Saint Francis by Thomas of Celano	HTrb	The History of the Seven Tribulations by Angelo of Clareno
2C	The Remembrance of the Desire of a Soul	ScEx	The Sacred Exchange between Saint Francis and Lady Poverty
3C	The Treatise on the Miracles by Thomas of Celano	AP	The Anonymous of Perugia
LCh	The Legend for Use in the Choir	L3C	The Legend of the Three Companions
Off	The Divine Office of Saint Francis by Julian of Speyer	LP	The Legend of Perugia
LJS	The Life of Saint Francis by Julian of Speyer	AC	The Assisi Compilation
VL	The Versified Life of Saint Francis by Henri d'Avranches	UChL	An Umbrian Choir Legend
1-3JT	The Praises by Jacopone da Todì	1-4Srm	The Sermons of Bonaventure
DCom	The Divine Comedy by Dante Alighieri	LMj	The Major Legend by Bonaventure
TL	Tree of Life by Ubertino da Casale	LMn	The Minor Legend by Bonaventure
1MP	The Mirror of Perfection, Smaller Version	BPr	The Book of Praises by Bernard of Besse
2MP	The Mirror of Perfection Larger Version	ABF	The Deeds of Saint Francis and His Companions
		LFl	The Little Flowers of Saint Francis
		KnSF	The Kinship of Saint Francis
		ChrTE	The Chronicles of Thomas of Eccleston
		ChrJG	The Chronicle of Jordan of Giano

Other Sources

AF	Analecta Franciscana	CF	Collectanea Franciscana
AFH	Archivum Franciscanum Historicum	CSEL	Corpus Scriptorum Eccles. Latinorum
BFr	Bullarium Franciscanum	GR	Greyfriars Review
CCSL	Corpus Christianorum, Series Latina	PL	Patrologia Latina

Explanation of Usage

Examples

ER II:1 = “If anyone, wishing...with kindness” (in the Saint page 64)

ER = Earlier Rule II = Chapter II 1 = Verse 1

1LtF 1:5–8 = “O how happy and blessed...Holy Spirit to Our Lord Jesus Christ”
(in the Saint page 41–42)

1LtF = First Letter to the Faithful 1 = Chapter 1 5–8 = Verses 5 to 8

Index to the Writings

Francis of Assisi Early Documents, Volumes 1 to 3

The following is a summary of the various sources and documents contained with the three volume set (The Saint, The Founder, The Prophet) as published by New City Press 1999, 2000, 2001 respectively.

The abbreviations are given and the page number.

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