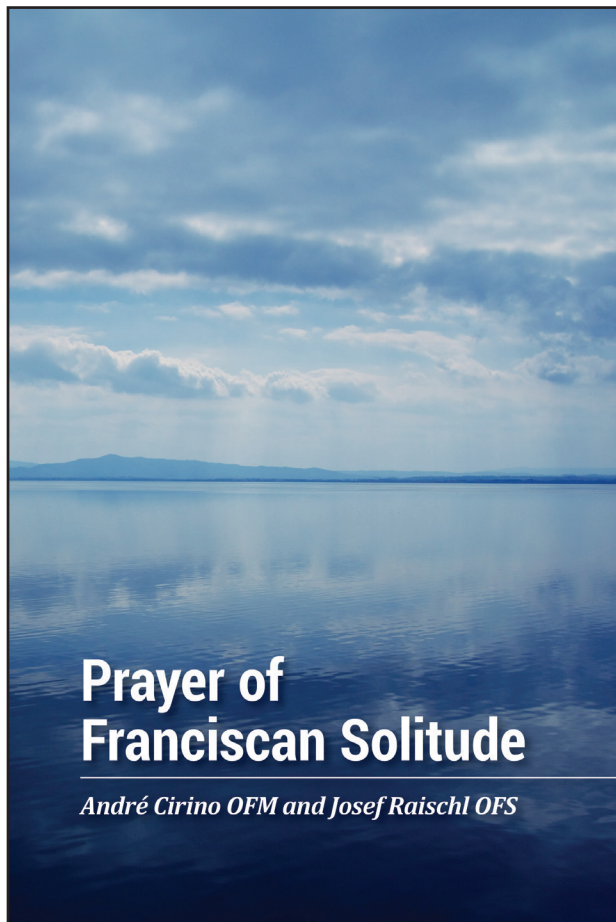


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Since the publication of our first volume, *Franciscan Solitude*, in 1995, we have encountered several people who have taken St. Francis' *Document on Solitude* personally into the fabric their lives, and we have invited them to share their experiences in a collection of essays that comprise a new anthology called *Franciscan Prayer of Solitude*. Solitude has been embraced by the Church since its beginning, but solitude that is called by the name "Franciscan" has the unique vision of its founder, St. Francis, stamped upon it. And simply being *in a religious way* in solitude is prayer. So, we offer these essays to all lovers of Franciscan solitude

The followers of Francis and Clare today continue to discover ways to adapt a thirteenth-century document on solitude to the lives of people in the twenty-first century. The essays of this volume demonstrate the ongoing vitality of the Franciscan spiritual tradition of solitude in our day. And the inspiring words and example of these authors comprise an invitation to the readers of this book to discover the riches of this tradition for themselves.

Brother William Short OFM from his Introduction to this new anthology

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