

# Comments on the OFFICE OF THE PASSION

The workshop on the Office of the Passion reveals Francis' original use of psalms in his daily prayer. Set to music as well, the Office has benefited us communally and personally in our call to live the Gospel.

Joseph Patrona SFO, Formation Director, Little Portion Fraternity, NY

To pray as Francis prayed, to use his own words and arrangement of Scripture in his Office of the Passion is an enriching experience for anyone in the Franciscan family. The addition of easily learned music adds to the spiritual depth of this composition. Through it, I have learned to see Christ the way Francis saw him.

Joseph Schwab OFM, Franciscan Renewal Center, Scottsdale, AZ

The book is a prayer-gift to Franciscans—an illuminating arrangement of Scripture and art that connects one deeply with the prayer life of St. Francis and his bonding with the life of Christ the Hero. The workshop is superbly organized, attention-getting, and fully explains how to pray this powerfully spiritual book.

Anthony Mazotti SFO, Minister, San Jose, CA.

Mary Mazotti SFO, Spiritual Assistant and Coordinator

My community and I received deep insight into Francis' personal prayer and his understanding of the mystery of the Incarnation when praying, singing and studying the Office of the Passion with André Cirino. This has deepened our own Franciscan spirituality and our contemplative prayer.

Claire André Gagliardi OSC, Monastery of St. Clare, NJ

The workshop on St. Francis' Office of the Passion is a wonderful experience—extremely educational and fun! The history of the Office in itself is worth the day's experience. To learn how to really use the Office and how to sing it is a blessing. We have tried it at various gatherings since then. The CD is a big help. It is a gift of prayer.

Marcia Stambouljian SFO, Regional Minister, Our Lady of the Angels Region, NJ

Spent most of the rest of the evening with St Francis' Office of the Passion. It's very beautiful. The lightness, directness, humanity and clarity of it all are both touching and refreshing. Your patron saint (I'm now beginning to realize) is a very special voice. He found the way to address his fellow-men and help them feel closer to God and grace and things profound in their simplicity. Much closer than they might have otherwise felt. Was very impressed indeed with your friend's interpretation of the sequence! It really makes sense and it too is refreshing. Their effort and vision also left me with a desire to find and read the original (Italian?) words of St Francis. The translation, here plays a very important role of a mediator, and most importantly, gets the ground ready for the reader to hear the original. Have to rummage in the library a little, maybe I'll find it somewhere among the Franciscana ...

Fr. Serafin Benicek OFMCap, Prague