



Faith Filled People

October

Saint Francis of Assisi

Francis loved to have a good time. He never worried about money. His family was very rich. He spent a lot of money on friends and fun. In the late 1100's he fought in a war. He was captured by the enemy. In their prison, he did a lot of thinking. He decided to be more like Jesus. When he got back home, he gave away everything he had. He believed that Jesus wanted us to live simply and love God.

Francis' father was not very happy about his son's decision. His father didn't want anything to do with Francis. Francis did not want anything to do with his father's wealth. Francis wore and ate only what he needed. He gave anything extra away. Many people liked the way he lived and wanted to be like him. Together, they traveled telling people about Jesus. They lived simply and slept on the ground.

Some things Francis started are still around today. His followers are called Franciscans, and they are all over the world. He made the first crèche, or nativity. Many of us display the manger, holy family, shepherds, angels and animals in our homes at Christmastime. We remember St. Francis in a special way on October 4, but every day, we can try to live more simply. Some things that are really valuable cannot be bought with money.