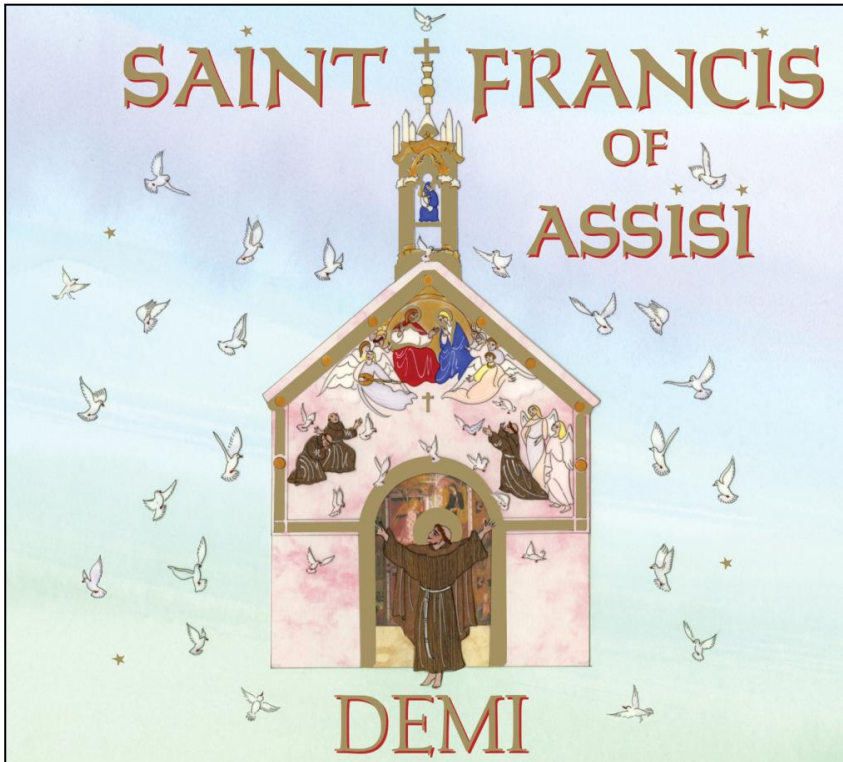


Saint Francis of Assisi

Written and Illustrated by Demi



“Lord make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love”: these inspiring words comprise the opening lines of one of the most famous prayers in all of Christianity—the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. The son of a rich merchant who was raised to become a knight, Francis received a vision from God that led him to abandon all his worldly goods and travel the country as a poor beggar. His saintly imitation of Jesus’ life and teachings inspired others to follow his example, eventually leading to the foundation of the Franciscan Order and the Order of St. Clare. In his efforts to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to all of God’s creation, Francis even preached to the animals and nature itself. Award-winning author, Demi, beautifully brings to life the story of this most influential figure, who is venerated by millions of Christians around the world, no matter their denomination.

This Book Features:

- ❖ A retelling of the life story of Francis of Assisi, the most beloved saint in all of Christianity.
- ❖ 56 beautiful color illustrations by Demi, the award-winning children’s book author and illustrator.

Publication Details

- ❖ ISBN: 978-1-937786-04-5
- ❖ Pub Date: October, 2012
- ❖ Price: \$19.95
- ❖ Trim Size: 11x10
- ❖ Page Count: 56 (hard cover)

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For many, the rules of absolute poverty were too difficult. But Francis was divinely inspired to reject making the rules any easier. From a mountaintop he shouted, "The rules of poverty must be observed to the letter without gloss, without gloss." But not many could follow.

Finally Francis went to the Pope, who advised him to give in a little, for the Franciscan brothers were learning—but all at different rates.

“Demi includes every single story and legend about Francis: his misspent youth, his conversion to poverty, his preaching to the birds, his receiving of the stigmata (the wounds of Christ on the Cross). The narrative opens with his Canticle of the Sun and closes with St Francis’ Blessing and his Praises to God Most High... Medieval manuscripts, marbled papers, ancient cityscapes and Persian miniatures are all sources of inspiration for image after image of surpassing beauty ... Beautiful...”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“The beloved saint gets colorful treatment from Demi, who retells his biography at length, beginning at the beginning, when Francis was born in a stable in Assisi in 1182. Those unfamiliar with the details of Francis’s life ... will find it in edifying visual detail, including Francis’s legendary encounter with the wolf of Gubbio. Even the end papers are lavishly illustrated, with parade-like ranks of animals along with the words to Francis’s prayers, including the Canticle of the Sun. As usual, Demi’s mixed-media illustrations feature intricate decorative borders, along with lots and lots of animals. A visual feast and tribute to a Christian figure said to have lived like Jesus.”

—*Publishers Weekly*



The gentle love and charity of Francis extended to everything in the universe. If he accidentally kicked a stone, he apologized to it. If a worm was on the road, he saved its life. If wild bees were hungry in winter, he brought them warm wine and honey to eat.

One day Francis preached to the birds: "My sister birds, you owe God great gratitude, and should always praise Him. Praise Him because you can fly so freely wherever you please, and for your most beautiful coat of feathers, and for the food you do not have to work for, and for the lovely voices your Creator has given you."

Francis continued, "God gives you rivers and springs to drink from, and hills and mountains, cliffs and rocks in which to hide and high trees to build your nests in. And though you neither spin nor weave, He gives you and your young ones necessary clothing. Therefore you must greatly love your Creator since He has given you such blessings."

Instantly the little birds opened their beaks and sang a wonderful song, then bowed to the earth praising the Lord. Francis blessed them, making a sign of the cross. Then all the birds flew up in the sky forming the sign of the cross, and singing the word of God.

About the Author and Illustrator of *Saint Francis of Assisi*



Demi is an award-winning children's book author and illustrator. She has published over 130 books during her career. Born in Cambridge, MA, she studied art at the Instituto Allende, Mexico; with Sister Corita at the Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles; and was a Fulbright scholar at the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, India where she received her Master's degree. Well known for her biographies of pivotal historical and spiritual figures such as Krishna, Lao Tzu, Jesus, Mary, Muhammad, Rumi, Gandhi, and the Dalai Lama, her book *The Empty Pot* was selected by former First Lady Barbara Bush in 1990 as one of the books to be read on the

ABC Radio Network Program *Mrs. Bush's Story Time*, sponsored by the Children's Literacy Initiative.

In 1990, both Demi and her husband, translator Tze-si "Jesse" Huang, represented the United States at the First Children's International Book Conference in Beijing.

