

St. Francis of Assisi

Feast Day October 4

St. Francis was born around 1181 in Assisi, in Italy. As a young man he loved parties and good times. He was handsome and rich, so he spent money freely. Francis had no wish to study or to learn his father's business, as he was having too much fun. One day he refused to give alms to a poor beggar but as the man was leaving, he felt sorry for what he had done and ran after him with some money.

He dreamed of knighthood, and when he was 20 he joined in the war between Assisi and Perugia, but was wounded and taken prisoner. Spending the next year in a dungeon, he contracted malaria. Ransomed by his father, a more reflective Francis returned to Assisi. In 1204, he was struck by another serious illness. Later, Francis left for Puglia, to enlist in the army, but returned after he had another vision that deepened his spiritual awakening. From that moment on, Francis began to care for the sick and the poor convinced that this was what God had called him to do.

He often gave his clothes and money to the poor, and served the sick in hospitals. He fasted and began to go around in rags to humble himself. It is not hard to imagine how his rich friends must have looked at him now! His father was so angry that he beat him and locked him up at home. Francis bore all this suffering for love of Jesus. When his father took everything from him in disgust, Francis put all his trust in his Father in heaven and he began to live as a beggar. He had no shelter and his food was what kind people gave him. Everywhere he went, he begged people to stop sinning and return to God.

One day, in the neglected field-chapel of San Damiano, Francis had a vision of Christ from the cross. Christ told him, "Francis, go out and build up my house, for it is nearly falling down." Francis became the totally poor and humble workman and began to rebuild the chapel, to the ridicule of the townsfolk. He gave up all his possessions, even publicly giving his clothes to his "earthly" father.

He was, for a time, considered to be a religious fanatic, begging from door to door when he could not get money for his work. But over time, people began to realize that this man was actually trying to be Christian. This led Francis to see a deeper meaning to the message of "build up my house," or simply fixing abandoned chapels. He was called to build up THE CHURCH, the people of the Body of Christ!

People began to see how close to God this poor man really was, and they became his followers. That is how the great Franciscan order of priests and brothers began. They helped the poor and sick and preached everywhere. Even after the order had spread all over Italy, Francis insisted that they should not own anything. He wanted his priests to love poverty as he did. His devotion and loyalty to the Church were absolute and highly exemplary at a time when various movements of reform tended to break the Church's unity.

As a reward for his great love, Jesus gave him his own wounds, the stigmata. Two in his hands, two in his feet and one in his side but the humble Francis tried to hide them from people. Toward the end of his life, he became very sick. He was told he would live only a few more weeks and he exclaimed, "Welcome, Sister Death!" He asked to be laid on the ground and covered with an old habit.

He advised his brothers to love God, to love being poor, and to obey the Gospel. "I have done my part," he said. "May Jesus teach you to do yours." Francis died on October 3, 1226.



***Blessed Eurosia Fabris Barban,
Feast day January 8***

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Holiness is manifested in every age, social status and place, so it also showed in the life and home of Eurosia Fabris Barban, who was born September 27, 1866 in Quinto Vicentino, Italy

Her parents, Luigi and Maria Fabris, moved in 1870 to Marola (Vicenza) and Rosina, as she was called in the family, attended only the first two elementary grades, because then she had to help her parents in the work of the fields. In that time when female illiteracy exceeded 75%, it was fortunate for her that she could learn to read, write and do the accounts for her family.

She grew up in the atmosphere of a Christian family. She led her other adolescents in prayer, work, in innocence and simplicity, completed her training in her faith with reading books useful studying the catechism and the Sacred History. She taught catechism to the girls in the parish of Marola and, later, taught sewing to young people in her home.

In 1885, when Rosina was 19, one of her neighbors, a young wife died of an incurable disease, leaving her husband, Carlo Barban, a widower at 23, with two girls, Chiara Angela, 20 months old, and Italia, 2 months old. This tragic situation that deeply affected the young Rosina and when she was asked to look after the house as a maid, she gladly accepted, especially by focusing his care to the small ones in need of affection. Her work continued for six months, then at the request of the Carlo, following the advice of relatives and the parish priest, she agreed to marry him.

The marriage was celebrated on 5 May, 1886 and her marriage was considered by all an act of charity and love. Her family grew, she had seven children of her own. In 1917 they added three other orphans of a niece, Sabina, who died while her husband was at the front in the First War world, and none of the relatives wanted to deal with the children, so Eurosia and Carlo, had no hesitation and accepted them into their home.

Of her large family, including her children and adopted, two died at a young age, two others chose the priesthood and the other six of the total of thirteen children, chose the way of marriage. To all these children, "Mamma Rosa", as she was called since her marriage, offered affection and care, sacrificing her own needs to provide for them a solid Christian formation.



Rosina lived an intense life of prayer, which was evident by her great devotion to God love's, to the Holy Eucharist and to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Like the strong woman in Sacred Scripture, she became a real treasure to her family. She knew how to balance the family budget and at the same time exercised great charity towards the poor, sharing her daily bread also with them. She often persuaded her husband to give shelter to pastors or passing pilgrims. Almost every night in the barn or stable, there were people who were asleep and Rosina, would also provided them dinner. When a woman gave birth to a child in the stable, the Barbans welcomed that family for three days in their home. She cared for the sick and gave them continuous assistance, showing heroic strength during the final illness of her husband Carlo, who died in 1930. She died on January 1932 surrounded by her loved ones.

On February 3, 1972 began with the Curia bishop of Padua, the process information for his beatification, which ended April 23, 1977. On June 22, 2004, the Vatican congregation responsible, in the presence of Pope John Paul II recognized the validity of a miracle obtained through her intercession, which opened the door for her beatification. She was Beatified by Pope Benedict XVI on November 6, 2005 in Vincenza.

NAME:_____

Fill out the chart, using bullet points, comparing the stories of Blessed Eurosia and St. Francis

How did these holy people...	Blessed Eurosia Fabris Barban	St. Francis of Assisi
act as Priest?		
act as Prophet?		
act as King?		
follow in Jesus' footsteps?		
live the Mission of the Church?		
say "YES" to Christ!		

Jesus: Prophet, Priest, and King

At your baptism you were marked with oil as a sign that you are consecrated to God and anointed by the Holy Spirit. Your anointing also was a sign that you are joined to Christ and share in his threefold mission as prophet, priest, and king.

The Israelites anointed their priests and kings with oil. They spoke of their prophets as being anointed with the spirit. Jesus, known as the Christ, the anointed one, fills all three roles. According to Luke, at the outset of his public ministry, Jesus read from Isaiah and claimed that the words referred to him:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.

Luke 4:18

A prophet is a messenger sent by God, a person who speaks for God. He or she witnesses to God, calls people to conversion, and may also foretell the future. Prophets often are killed for their message.

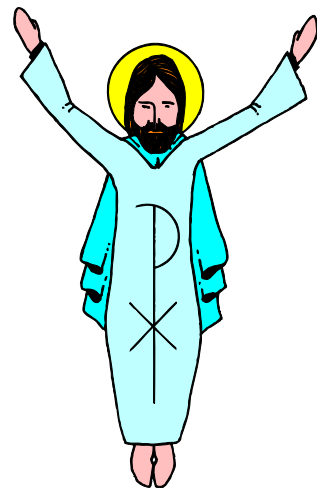
Jesus fits this description. He is none other than the Word of God in the flesh. He called the world to turn from sin and return to the Father and was put to death for it. In Scripture Jesus is presented as a prophet. Crowds identified him as “Jesus the prophet” (Matthew 21:11). He spoke of himself as a prophet: “No prophet is accepted in his own native place” (Luke 4:24). He foretold his passion and resurrection.

A priest is a mediator, or bridge, between God and human beings. He offers sacrifice to God on behalf of all. Once a year on the Day of Atonement the Jewish high priest went into the Holy of Holies in the Temple. There he offered sacrifice to God to make up for his sins and the sins of the people.

The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews compared Jesus to Melchizedek, a mysterious, superior priest in the Old Testament who blessed Abraham. Jesus is the greatest high priest. Because he is both divine and human, Jesus is the perfect mediator. He is not only the perfect priest, holy and sinless, but the perfect sacrifice. The sacrifice of Jesus need never be made again. Jesus “entered once for all into the sanctuary, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption” (Hebrews 9:12). Jesus continues his role as priest. “He is always able to save those who approach God through him, since he lives forever to make intercession for them” (Hebrews 7:25).

A king is a person who has supreme authority over a territory. When the Jewish people were ruled by kings, they became a nation. They longed for a Messiah who would again make them great.

Jesus is spoken of as a king in the Gospels. Gabriel announced to Mary that the Lord God would give her son the throne of David his father, and he would rule over the house of Jacob forever. Magi looked for a newborn king of the Jews. When Jesus last entered Jerusalem, crowds hailed him as a king. He was arrested for making himself king, and the soldiers mocked him as one. When Pilate asked if he were king of the Jews, Jesus replied, “You say so,” and he clarified, “My kingdom does not belong to this world” (John 18:36). The charge written against Jesus was “Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews.” Jesus announced the kingdom of God. His mission was to have God reign in the hearts of all and to have peace and justice in the world. Jesus exercised his royal office by serving.



† Christ, help me carry out my baptismal mission! †

