

# Little Weeds

## DIDJA KNOW?

By  
M. Marko, OFS

Didja know that St. Dominic suggested to St. Francis that they combine their Orders? Francis quietly declined. I'm sure he'd given it some thought and come to the conclusion that it wouldn't work, if only because no one thereafter would want to be either a Franinican or a Domiscan.

Didja know that when the Church was getting ready to name a Patron Saint of Ecology, Francis wasn't the only one in the running? St. Benedict was a contender, too. Apparently, the Benedictines take very good care of the grounds around their monasteries and were therefore considered good stewards of Mother Earth. Francis, however, went beyond that, insofar as he didn't think of himself as a mere steward but rather a member of her family along with Brother Sun, Sister Moon, etc. So Francis got the title of Patron Saint of Ecology. We understand Benedict was offered Patron Saint of Congeniality, but he passed.

Didja know that King Henry VIII (yeah, THE Henry VIII) had two Tertiaries in his life? St. Thomas More, an important councilor of Henry and Lord Chancellor for a couple of years, eventually lost his head (literally), as he couldn't go along with Henry's plans for a second marriage and taking over the Church in England. He eventually became the Patron Saint of Lawyers. The other Tertiary in Henry's life was his first wife, Catherine of Aragon. She fared better than Thomas, in that she was merely divorced rather than beheaded. She has not been canonized. But I'm sure if the Church were looking for a Patron Saint of Ex-wives, she'd be one of the first to raise her hand.

Didja know that St. Clare is the Patron Saint of Television? She spent her last few years in ill health. One Christmas Eve, when the other

Sisters were celebrating Midnight Mass, Clare was confined to her sickbed. But on the wall opposite her bed, she saw everything at Midnight Mass, much as if it were on TV. Needless to say, if someone had had the foresight to invent the telephone and the Internet back then, she could've become the Patron Saint of Bundling. At the very least, you'd think they'd add on the title of Patron Saint of Mass for Shut-Ins.

Didja know that of the 300+ Franciscan saints over the past seven centuries, more than 40 percent were martyrs? And many of these were missionaries to foreign (to them) countries.

Didja know that our Tertiary "ancestors" run the gamut from royalty down to seamstresses? There have been actors, writers, priests, bishops and popes. There have been people who were important to governments and the Church; there have been people who were important only to their own families. There have been founders of religious congregations and societies.

Didja know that while Louis IX was a Tertiary and later became one of our Patron Saints, another Louis, Louis XIV, persecuted the Order in France in the 18th century?

Didja know that while San Francisco is obviously named after St. Francis, there are at least a couple other well-known towns that can claim Franciscan names? Los Angeles, which is actually named after the Portiuncula, Our Lady of the Angels; and Santa Fe, whose whole name is "The Royal City of the Holy Faith of Blessed. Francis."

Didja know the story of our Order isn't over yet? You and I are still writing it. It'll be interesting to see what the next eight centuries hold for us.

