



Transitus – a story of Accompaniment

The story:

Blind and broken, Francis lay on the bare floor of his little church, choosing to die as he had lived—in joyful poverty. His brothers sang psalms, and he whispered, *“Let us begin now to serve God, for until now we have done little.”*

Word was about to be sent for Lady Jacoba, his dear friend from Rome, but she was already on her way. She had long shared Francis’s vision, giving generously from her wealth, even building a hospice where she and the friars cared for the poor and dying. Before they could call her, Lady Jacoba was already coming, bearing a pillow, a burial cloth, and his beloved almond cookies. Francis welcomed her as *“Brother Jacoba,”* honoring their bond of love and faith.

With his friends beside him, he prayed: *“The Lord has shown me what was mine to do. May He show you what is yours to do.”* And so, surrounded by song and love, Francis passed, teaching one last time that true companionship is presence—faithful, humble, and whole.

Reflection:

- Francis reminded his brothers, *“The Lord has shown me what was mine to do.”* When has it been a struggle to discern what is *yours* to do in ministry, without needing to “fix” what cannot be fixed? How do you stay focused on our mission and purpose and not inadvertently expanding off in unplanned directions?
- Accompaniment often means being with others who are vulnerable. How do you prepare yourself to sit with someone’s suffering without turning away, rushing, trying to control the outcome, or ‘fix’ the situation?



Death of St. Francis of Assisi, Illustration from Seraphische Sonntagsstunden, 1931