



Cardinal Gibbons Assembly 783
Newsletter
May 2014



FRANCISCAN REFLECTION

“Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words.”

St. Francis of Assisi

<http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/f/francisofa109569.html>

**THE COOL HISTORY BEHIND THE ‘INCREDIBLY RARE’ LUNAR BIBLE YOU
NEED A MICROSCOPE TO READ**

By Billy Hallowell

A Bible that has been to the moon and back again was auctioned off Wednesday, with one of the world’s rarest — and smallest — copies of the holy “book” fetching an impressive \$75,000.

The so-called “Lunar Bible,” a microfiche that contains both the New and Old Testaments, has taken two notable trips in space. The document first flew around the moon on Apollo 13 and later landed on the moon with the Apollo 14 crew, Reuters reported.

The Bible, which can be read using a microscope, fits all 1,245 pages of the King James Bible on 1 tiny 1.5 by 1.5 inch square.

But aside from its size, the auction house said that the text is also unique because it didn’t just merely land on the moon; the microfiche was “exposed directly to the lunar environment” every time the hatch was opened and astronauts moon-walked during the three days they were on the moon’s surface.

“This is an incredibly rare space artifact,” Michael Riley, senior historian at Heritage Auctions, said in a press release.

This particular copy of the “Lunar Bible” is one of 99 others just like it that all traveled to the moon along with astronaut Edgar Mitchell in 1971. But only 12 of these Bibles remain fully in tact, with the auctioned book among them.

The auction house said that the Bibles were created by the Apollo Prayer League, a group of NASA employees that formed in 1967 in an effort to make a small and light Bible that could go with astronauts to the moon.

In sum, 512 of these Bibles were initially made, but most have been cut up and handed out to dignitaries over the years.

Heritage Auctions sold the book Thursday as part of its “Space Exploration Auction.”

From *The Blaze*: <http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2014/05/15/the-cool-history-behind-the-incredibly-rare-lunar-bible-you-need-a-microscope-to-read/>

DEGREE CEREMONIES

Second Degree Ceremony: 28 May 2014. Location: Council 9844, Fayetteville, NC. For more details go to:
http://www.kofcnc.org/09_10Files/calendar.htm?pli=1

Third Degree Ceremony: 31 May 2014. Location: Garner, NC. For more details go to:
http://www.kofcnc.org/09_10Files/calendar.htm?pli=1

Third Degree Ceremony: 19 June 2014. Location: Council 10852, Charlotte, NC. For more details go to:
http://www.kofcnc.org/09_10Files/calendar.htm?pli=1

First Degree Ceremony: 23 June 2014. Location: Council 11683, Fayetteville, NC. For more details go to:
http://www.kofcnc.org/09_10Files/calendar.htm?pli=1

First Degree Ceremony: 21 July 2014. Location: Council 15250, Ft. Bragg, NC. For more details go to:
http://www.kofcnc.org/09_10Files/calendar.htm?pli=1

If your Council is hosting a Degree Ceremony send an email to COOP5614@yahoo.com with the information and I will place it in the next Assembly Newsletter and on the website Calendar page.



CARDINAL GIBBONS ASSEMBLY HONOR GUARD

MEMORIAL DAY WREATH LAYING CEREMONY – 26 MAY 2014

Our Assembly has an Honor Guard Event on 26 May 2014. The event is the Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony at Freedom Memorial Park across the street from the Airborne & Special Operations Museum, 100 Bragg Blvd., Fayetteville, NC 28301.

Date: 26 May 2014

Show Time: 9:30 AM

Start Time: 10:00 AM

Completion Time: 11:00 AM

If you would like to sign up for this event please click on the following link:

<http://cardinalgibbonsassembly783.weebly.com/memorial-day-wreath-laying-ceremony-2014.html>

FRANCISCAN MONASTIC ORDER

SK Christopher R. Cooper

The Franciscan Monastic Order as the name indicates is named after its founder, St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis had a colorful life and he was a bit of a rascal in his younger days. However, St. Francis became more devoted to God over the years. Starting around 1208 A.D. he started to pen the Rule of St. Francis and completed its final version in 1223 A.D. Like the Benedictine Monastic Order the Franciscan Order is divided into three Orders. First, a brief overview of St. Francis' life is a good starting point.

St. Francis was born in the town of Assisi in Umbria around 1181 A.D. or 1182 A.D. (Robinson, St. Francis of Assisi, 1909) Umbria is a province in modern day Italy located in north central Italy. (Umbria, 2014) St. Francis was

born to wealthy and noble parents. He was baptized Giovanni, but his father later changed his son's name to Francesco, Francis in English. (Robinson, St. Francis of Assisi, 1909) In his youth St. Francis was what society in modern times would call a slacker. He did not take his education seriously and he did not complete it either. Also, St. Francis did not take to his father business, cloth merchant. St. Francis led a hedonistic life in his youth, but he still gave alms to the poor. At age 20 St. Francis joined arms with his fellow citizens of Assisi against a neighboring city in Umbria, Perugia. He became a prisoner of war. After a year he was released. St. Francis planned a military career joining the court of a local knight. Before he could join he became ill and returned to Assisi in 1205 A.D.

Over time St. Francis left his hedonistic ways. He took the ways of Lady Poverty. St. Francis gave his wealth to the poor. (Robinson, St. Francis of Assisi, 1909) St. Francis' father did not approve of his son's new way of life. He finally forced St. Francis to give up his inheritance. In 1208 A.D. after hearing the words of St. Matthew's Gospel, "Do not possess gold, nor silver, nor money in your purses: Nor scrip for your journey, nor two coats, nor shoes, nor a staff; for the workman is worthy of his meat" he took a vow of poverty. Over the next several years he acquired eleven follows and wrote the *Rule of St. Francis*. During this time Pope Innocent III approved the Franciscan Monastic Order also known as the Friars Minor. The Friars Minor is the official name of the Franciscan Monastic Order.

The first Franciscan Monastery was established in 1211 A.D. after the Benedictines gifted the Franciscan Order with the chapel at Santa Maria degli Angeli. (Robinson, St. Francis of Assisi, 1909) The following year St. Francis made the first of his attempts to convert the Saracens in Syria. Saracen was general term used during the Crusades for a Muslim. (Saracen, 2014) He became shipwrecked and turned his attention to evangelize in central Italy. On St. Francis' second mission he planned to convert the people of Morocco to Christianity. St. Francis fell ill before he could begin his mission. On his third mission in 1219 A.D. St. Francis made it to Syria and was taken prisoner by the Saracens. St. Francis met with the Sultan and attempted to convert him to Christianity. The Sultan did not convert, but St. Francis negotiated better treatment for the Christian prisoners.

After his time in the Middle East, St. Francis returned to Italy in 1223 A.D. (Robinson, St. Francis of Assisi, 1909) St. Francis rewrote his rule on his return. The second version of the *Rule of St. Francis* is also known as "*Regula Bullata*". The second version stresses the four vows a monk takes; obedience, poverty, chastity, and poverty.

St. Francis received the stigmata of Christ in 1224 A.D. He bore marks on his hands and feet resembling the wounds of crucifixion. St. Francis also bore a mark on the right side of his chest resembling the lance wound Christ received on the cross. (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, 2014) After St. Francis received the stigmata of Christ his health began to fail. St. Francis fell asleep with the Lord on October 3, 1226 A.D. Pope Gregory IX canonized St. Francis a Saint on July 16, 1228 A.D. The Feast Day of St Francis is October 4 and the stigmata of his body are celebrated on September 17.

St. Francis composed the first version of the *Rule of St. Francis* over several years starting in 1208 A.D. After his return from the Middle East he completed the final version in 1223 AD. (Robinson, St. Francis of Assisi, 1909) The Rule consists of twelve chapters. The provisions of the Rule guide the monks in their daily lives as well as operations for a Franciscan community. (The Rule of St Francis - 1223) There is also the Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order. (Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order) This Rule has provisions for people to join the Franciscan Order who would otherwise be barred because of marriage.

The Franciscan Order has three Orders like the Benedictine Order. (Robinson, Franciscan Order, 1909) The three Orders are; First Order, the Friars Minor; Second Order, the Poor Ladies or Clares; and Third Order, the Brothers and Sisters of Penance. St. Francis established the Friars Minor in 1209 A.D. St. Clare established the Poor Ladies or Clares in 1212 A.D. She asked St. Francis to set up a community following the Rule of St. Francis. He granted her request. The first community was founded at St. Damian near Assisi. St. Francis established the Third Order in 1221 A.D. This Order is divided into three groups Secular, Regular, and New Foundations.

The Franciscan Monastic Order has had a long history dating from the early 13th century. The Orders' founder, St. Francis, came from a wealth and noble family. After living a hedonistic life during his youth he had a yearning to devote his life to God. After hearing the words from the Gospel of St. Matthew during Mass he began journey to monastic life. During his monastic years he traveled on missionary trips to convert people to Christianity. St Francis received the stigmata of Christ before his health declined and he returned his soul to God in 1226 A.D. He left the legacy of the Rule of St. Francis to govern the Franciscan Order. The Franciscan Order like the Benedictine has three Orders. St. Francis left many memorable quotes, but one stands out:

"I have been all things unholy. If God can work through me, he can work through anyone."

Works Cited:

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IN MEMORIAM:

Please keep in your prayers for the repose of the souls of:
Deceased Knights of Columbus and U.S. Armed Forces

ARTICLES FROM THE ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP

Any Sir Knight who wants to add his article to the Newsletter, submit the article to Faithful Scribe, SK Chris Cooper, at the next Assembly meeting or send it via email to COOP5614@yahoo.com.