

Living Sermons

One day, St. Francis of Assisi said to several of his followers: "Let us go to the village over the way and preach." As they went, they met a man who was greatly burdened in his spirit. Francis was in no hurry, so he stopped and listened attentively to the man's tale of woe.

Upon reaching the village, Francis talked with the shopkeepers, spent time with the farmers at their vegetable and fruit stalls, and played with the children in the streets. On the way back to the monastery, he and his followers were met by a farmer with a load of hay. Francis stopped to talk with him. By the time he said goodbye, the morning was gone.

One of the followers seemed disappointed. He said to Francis, "Brother Francis, you said you were going to preach. The morning is spent and no sermon has been given."

The saintly Francis replied, "But we have been preaching all the way."

In Life Care, American Lifestyles and Life Care at Home, I am pleased to be among "preachers" – associates who daily live out St. Francis' concept of sermons. The work that you do is a pleasing aroma going up to God.

--Beecher Hunter