

## **The Jubilee Year of Saint Louis must help us in going deeper into the reality of our baptism and of our profession inside the Secular Franciscan Order.**

Louis was born on April 25, 1214 and was baptized on the same day. Louis was not born a saint ... he was a person like us... he struggled all his life against his flaws, with the help of God's grace; he controlled and overcame himself in various circumstances until his death. But in his heart he nourished the will to be conformed to the Gospel. He lived his entire life being aware of his dignity as child of God called to holiness, a contagious holiness expressed throughout his life and his teachings.

By commemorating the birth of St. Louis King of France and co-patron of the OFS, eight hundred years later, we want to learn from him how to develop the grace of baptism in our lives, till reaching its fullness, which is perfection of charity.

### **A baptism to live**

The baptism is not an act occurred in our past. It has to irrigate our whole life, enlighten our choices, and guide our sacrifices. The reality of our baptism must be embodied in the reality of our life. (Rule 6, GG.CC. 14,3a; GG.CC. 17-27)

Saint Louis has accomplished all that. His baptism was an act with repercussions: he tried to live as a Christian, to seek justice as a Christian, to assume his duty as a king, as a Christian ... He did all this in his time, and according to the culture of his time, even if in contrast with the culture of that period. Following his example, today we are asked to be faithful to our baptism, to live as Christians, to think as Christians, to act as Christians in our time and in our culture, even though in opposition to what surrounds us.

### **Everyone can become saint!**

St. Louis' entire life contributed to make him "saint". Holiness is the condition of a life lived with Christ, who is "the Way, the Truth and the Life" (Jn 14,6) In this Jubilee Year, we want to renew the promises of our Baptism and of our profession in the OFS, thus moving forward on the path of sanctity, along with our brothers and sisters.

### **8 Themes of Christian life to help us in going deeper into our faith.**

Our Christian life is a whole, for St. Louis such as for us. Let us consider more closely some specific aspects of our lives, to better orient it in accordance with the Gospel.

1. theme: The spirituality of St. Louis
2. theme: St. Louis and Christians public commitment
3. theme: St. Louis and marriage
4. theme: St. Louis, the educator
5. theme: St. Louis, social justice and evangelization
6. theme: St. Louis and the poor
7. theme: St. Louis and the interfaith dialogue
8. theme: St. Louis and sister death

For each theme, some steps are proposed:

- historical enlightenment
- pastoral enlightenment
- since St. Louis up to today
- in the light of Second Vatican Council
- with the Word of God