

St. Francis, the Crèche and Stations of the Cross
September 25th

- I. Devotions that connect us to the sacred humanity of Christ
- II. A note on affective piety
 - A. Piety that moves the heart and emotions.
 - B. Christ in heaven and Christ on earth
 - 1. Pantocrator
 - 2. Crib and cross
 - C. A movement of the high middle ages.
- III. The Crib/Nativity/Crèche
 - A. The Gospel story — Luke 2:1-7
 - 1. Two Gospel accounts, in common — the Holy Family, Bethlehem
 - 2. Matthew — Herod and the Three Kings, Bethlehem
 - 3. Luke — the census, the manger, swaddling clothes, angels and shepherds
 - 4. The ox and ass? Isaiah 1:3; Ox- the Jews and Ass the Gentiles
 - B. Bethlehem, St. Helena, and St. Mary Major
 - C. St Francis at Greccio
 - 1. In homes, in churches, and civic places
 - 2. A whole world builds up around the crèche
 - 3. Crèches of different cultures
 - 4. *Admirabile Signum*, Pope Francis
- IV. The Stations of the Cross — accompanying the Lord's Passion
 - A. Jesus' way — all four Gospels
 - B. Ancient pilgrims and crusaders
 - 1. St. Jerome
 - 2. Bl. Alvaro of Cordova
 - 3. The Franciscans and the Holy Land
 - C. The fourteen stations
 - 1. Scripture and traditions
 - 2. St. Leonard of Port Maurice
 - D. Devotion and Indulgence
- V. Humanity leads to Divinity

