

## WHAT IS "THE CANTICLE OF THE SUN?"

Near the end of his life, St. Francis developed an illness that made him sick and blind. No longer was he able to work, fast and help the poor people of the area. His Franciscan brothers brought him back to a cottage called San Damiano outside Assisi in Italy and prepared a place for him to live until the end of his days.

It is there that Francis composed the first hymn written in Europe called "The Canticle of the Sun" - a beautiful song of praise to God for all His gifts - just before he died in 1226.

Francis says:

"Praised be you, my Lord, through all your creatures, especially through my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day: You give light through him, he is beautiful & radiant in all his splendor."

"Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Moon  
And the stars; in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful."

"Praised be you, my Lord, for our sister Mother Earth,  
Who sustains and governs us,  
And who produces various fruits  
With colored flowers and herbs."



Check out this awesome hymn on YouTube: Canticle of the Sun by Marty Haugen

<https://youtu.be/Cfj6WJPUff8>

## DID YOU KNOW THIS IS THE YEAR POPE FRANCIS ASKS US TO HONOUR SAINT JOSEPH IN A SPECIAL WAY?

Saint Joseph is the patron saint of Canada and also the patron saint of the church world-wide. Pope Francis reminds us that the Pandemic helps us to see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence" who plays a vital role in the history of salvation.

JOSEPH, TEACH ME HOW ...

Joseph,  
Teach me how to lift my heart  
To welcome my sister and brother  
As well as the stranger.

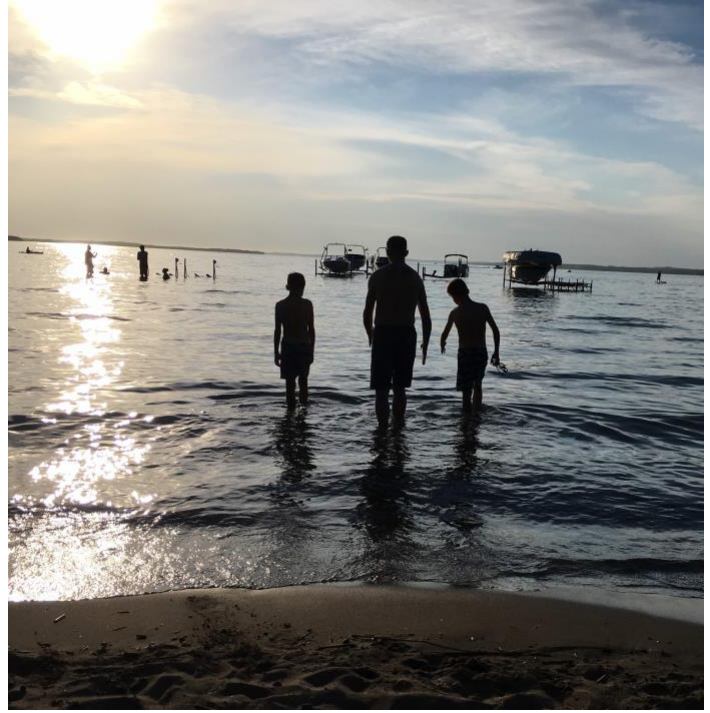
Show me how to open my mind  
To listen to confidences and opinions  
With care and respect.

Help me to put my hands to the work  
Of support, love and justice.

Joseph,  
Keep my paths on the way of Christ;  
My eyes in the light of Christ;  
My will obedient to  
His will.

Today,  
Tomorrow  
And forever,  
Amen.

Nathalie Dumas/St. Joseph Oratory of Mount Royal.  
Used with permission.



## *CAN'T MAKE IT TO MASS THIS SUMMER?*

*Stay connected to GOD with this Spiritual Communion Prayer:*

*My Jesus,  
I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.  
I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
Come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you as if you were already there,  
And unite myself wholly to you.  
Never permit me to be separated from you,  
Amen.*



## KIDS CORNER

### THE TWO OF US

First of all, I want to tell you that the storyteller got my name wrong the last time. She called me Rick the Cat and my name is really RITZ the Cat. Brother Gerry told her about the mistake. He knows that names are important so I decided to set the record straight right at the beginning of the story. If you forget my name you can always think of Ritz Crackers and it will remind you!

I am already Brother Gerry's friend when, one cold, wintery morning he tells me he will be leaving Mount Saint Francis for Montreal in the summer time. He says I will be ok because his friend, Father Dan will look out for me.



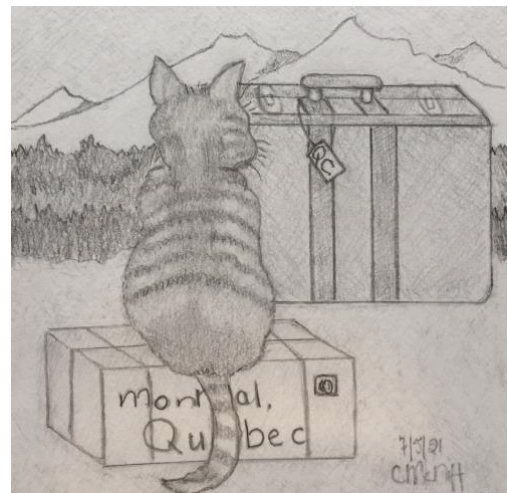
*I think Father Dan will be ok too. My friend, Brother Gerry shows love when he talks to me and rubs behind my right ear. He makes my kennel warm and cozy with the blanket and heating pad and the heated water bowl so I don't have to lick the icy snow. Brother Gerry's love and kindness reminds me of God's love in the song "Open the Eyes of my Heart." Check out the song on the YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/lkGbDu9iDqo> and hear 10 year old blind, autistic Christopher Duffley sing about God's love for us. When we are reassured that God loves us we can see God in everyone we meet, just like me and Brother Gerry and Saint Francis of Assisi. Francis knew God loved him and saw God in all the people he met, especially in the poor and the sick, in the birds and the animals and all of God's creation.*

*I have been doing a lot of thinking about Brother Gerry leaving the Friary for his new home in Montreal. He is not planning on bringing much stuff in his suitcase so I'm wondering if I can slip into his suitcase and hide between his socks and underwear? Cats are very unobtrusive – that's another word for not taking up much space – Do you think he'd notice me there? Maybe I can crawl into the box of books he is thinking of taking with him. I'll check it out when everyone is in the Chapel for Evening Prayer. It is always a good time to "meow" to the cook by the kitchen door. That reminds him to leave out my saucer of milk before I do my evening rounds to catch a few mice.*

Maybe I will just end up sitting on that box of books, keeping guard over Brother Gerry's suitcase until he leaves. I know he will be sad to go without me, but he tells me I would never be happy as a city cat. He's probably right. I would have to get used to all that "Oui, Oui" and "Non, Non" and the city sights and smells of Montreal instead of the clear air and beautiful Rocky Mountains I call "Home."

Good Bye and God Bless You, Brother Gerry, from your friend – Ritz the Cat

THE END



**NANA CATHERINE SAYS:** Send a story about your furry friend to [nanacatherineofs@gmail.com](mailto:nanacatherineofs@gmail.com) and we will share it in the "Kids Corner" of the Franciscan Youth Web Page!