

St Louis, King of France

Co-patron of the OFS

Born 25 April 1214 Died 25 August 1270. His Memorial is August 25th.

Father died when he was 12 and as such, he was crowned king of France at that time. His mother ruled as regent until Louis reached maturity (probably in 1234).

Married in 1234 to the 13 year old, Margaret of Provence. They seemed to have a happy and loving marriage.

They had 11 children, two who died as infants. He was involved in their education and faith formation.

Built the Sainte-Chappelle to house the Crown of Thorns and a fragment of the Cross of Christ which he acquired from Emperor Baldwin of Constantinople by paying an “exorbitant” amount to cover the imperial debt.

In 1248 he departed to participate in the 7th Crusade. In 1249 he and his army landed in Egypt, after some initial success they were defeated in 1250 and Louis was captured as a prisoner. He was released after paying a ransom and surrendering the city of Damietta.

He participated in the 8th Crusade and in 1270 he landed in Carthage with his army. Disease broke out and Louis died of dysentery outside of Tunis.

Very likely was not a member of the “Brothers and Sisters of Penance”

- I. The Rule of the OFS at that time was Later Admonition and Exhortation to The Brothers and Sisters of Penance (Second Version of the Letter to the Faithful 1220?)
- II. The other document governing the Brothers and Sisters of Penance was Memoriale Propositi (Pope Honorius III, 1221)
- III. There is no record of him being accepted into the Brothers and Sisters of Penance (Memoriale Propositi)
- IV. Accepted as a Trinitarian tertiary June 11, 1256
- V. Led Armies in the 7th and 8th Crusades (Memoriale Propositi)

Lived the Rule of the Brothers and Sisters of Penance

- I. “We must confess our sins to a priest and receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus”
 - A. Attended Mass daily
 - B. Had Franciscan, Dominican and Trinitarian priests commonly in his company
- II. “We must hate our bodies with their vices and sins”
 - A. Wore a hair shirt
 - B. Practiced flagellation.
- III. “Let whoever has received the power of judging others pass judgement with mercy”
 - A. Banned “trial by ordeal” and introduced the presumption of innocence in criminal matters.
 - B. Allowed anyone recourse to himself.
- IV. “Let us, therefore, have charity and humility and give alms”
 - A. He fed over 100 poor people every day.
 - B. He built hospitals and a house for reformed prostitutes and a house for the blind.
- V. “We must never desire to be above others, but, instead, we must be servants and subject to every human creature”
 - A. Fed beggars from his table and washed their feet.
 - B. He ministered to lepers.

Although we could interpret some of his life inconsistent with the rule of the Brothers and Sisters of Penance.

- I. “Let us love our neighbor as ourselves”

Expanded the scope of the inquisition and ordered the burning of Talmuds and other Jewish books.
- II. “Let him not become angry with the fault of a brother but, with all patience and humility, let him admonish and support him”

Severely punished blasphemy and heresy with mutilation of tongue and lips.
- III. “We must love our enemies and do good to those who hate us”

Participated in the 7th and 8th Crusades (Memoriale Propositi)

A fitting Patron for the OFS considering the Rule of 1978?

- I. Regular participation in the Sacramental life of the Church.
Articles 5, 7, 8
- II. Lived in communion with the hierarchy of the Church.
Articles 5, 6
- III. Was motivated to rule in light of his Christian faith
Articles 4, 10, 14, 15, 16
- IV. Lived a life of detachment from temporal goods
Articles 11
- V. Lived a life of service to others, especially those at the margins of society
Articles 10, 11, 13
- VI. Fostered a holy and loving family life
Article 17