

American Society of Missiology Series, No. 66

**FRANCIS OF ASSISI,
MOVEMENT MAKER**

The Unconventional Leadership of a Simple Saint

Howard A. Snyder

ORBIS  BOOKS
Maryknoll, New York 10545

Founded in 1970, Orbis Books endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit, and challenge the conscience. The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Maryknoll and Orbis Books, please visit our website at www.orbisbooks.com

Copyright © 2024 by Howard A. Snyder

Published by Orbis Books, Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

All Scripture references are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), unless otherwise indicated.

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Queries regarding rights and permissions should be addressed to: Orbis Books, P.O. Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

Manufactured in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Snyder, Howard A., author.

Title: Francis of Assisi, movement maker : the unconventional leadership of a simple saint / Howard A. Snyder.

Description: Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, [2024] | Series: American Society of Missiology series ; no. 66 | Includes bibliographical references and index. | Summary: "An overview of the life of St. Francis of Assisi, the movement he founded, and lessons today for leadership and mission"— Provided by publisher.

Identifiers: LCCN 2023048047 (print) | LCCN 2023048048 (ebook) | ISBN 9781626985742 (trade paperback) | ISBN 9798888660300 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: Francis, of Assisi, Saint, 1182-1226. | Clare, of Assisi, Saint, 1194-1253. | Christian saints—Italy—Assisi—Biography.

Classification: LCC BX4700.F6 S567 2024 (print) | LCC BX4700.F6 (ebook) | DDC 271/.302 [B]—dc23/eng/20240116

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023048047>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023048048e>

Contents

<i>Preface to the American Society of Missiology Series</i>	xi
<i>Preface</i>	xiii
<i>Introduction</i>	xv

Part I

The Man—and the Woman

1. Unsaintly Francis	3
2. Assisi and Clare	14
3. Conversion: A Drama in Three Acts	19
4. Called to Mission	32
5. Birth of a Movement	44
6. Francis and the Pope	58
7. Epidemic of Peace	67
8. The Role of the Rule	90

Part II

The Movement and the Motives

9. Movement Dynamics	105
10. Clare Elopes	132
11. Francis's Muslim Mission	152

12. The First Manger Scene	174
13. Francis's Failing Health	180
14. Marks of the Cross	194
15. Song of the Creatures	202
16. Francis's Final Days	210

Part III

Movements of the Spirit

17. Francis Wins the Universities	227
18. New Age of the Spirit?	253
19. The Franciscan Story of Genghis Khan and Christopher Columbus	283
20. Patterns of Renewal	308
21. Lessons in Lesserness	332
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	353
<i>Select Bibliography</i>	355
<i>Index</i>	361
<i>Previously Published in the American Society of Missiology Series</i>	372