



April 1

Servant of God Caesar of Speyer

Good day, good people. May the Lord give you peace!

Today we welcome a prominent guest, Caesar of Speyer. Caesar was a companion of St. Francis. He was one of the first twenty-five friars to be sent to Germany as the Order began to expand. He was elected the Provincial Minister in Germany. Later, Caesar returned with one of the early chroniclers of the Order, Thomas of Celano, to Assisi for one of the yearly gatherings. At his request, he was relieved of his office and very little is recorded on the duration of his life.

This is not to say that he was inactive. It has been suggested that he was one of the scribes collaborating with Thomas of Celano on the Rule of 1223 and the Testament of Saint Francis. There was some unrest in the Order after the death of Saint Francis and Caesar was not spared the tensions and conflicts.

Our Servant of God brings to us today a stunning example of one who followed the lead of the Spirit of God in his life. He clearly followed the promptings of the Spirit at every moment. It is good for us during this Lenten season to consider our following of the Spirit. At every moment the Spirit of God is moving in us to draw us ever-closer to God. Let us use these days to respond to these urgings and take those steps toward a deeper and more intimate relationship with our God.

Let us pray.

God, ever faithful, help us to open our eyes, our ears, our minds and our hearts to the invitations of love that you send to us. We know that you are always initiating your abiding relationship with us. May we have the courage and the faith to respond to these invitations. We ask this of you through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives with you and the Spirit as one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Servant of God Caesar of Speyer is a friend of God and the company we welcome today.