

Franciscan Prophecy

Vision of Bro. James of Massa [1220]

[‘The Little Flowers of St. Francis’]

He saw in a vision a certain very beautiful and high tree, and its roots were of gold and its fruits were men, all were Friars Minor. The number of branches corresponded to the the provinces of the Order and each branch has as many fruits as there were Friars in that Province

He saw Brother John of Parma standing on the highest part of the central branch of the tree

After this he saw Christ sitting on a very great white throne. Christ called St Francis and gave him a chalice full of the spirit of life and sent him forth saying “Go and visit your Friars and let them drink from this chalice of the Spirit of Life, for the spirit of Satan will rise up and attack them and many will fall and will not rise again and Christ gave St Francis the Angels to go with him

Those who did take it reverently and drank it all suddenly became as bright as the sun

But those who spilled it or did not take it reverently became dark and deformed and horrible to see

After this a violent hurricane arose and struck the tree so strongly that he Friars began to fall from it and those who had completely spilled the chalice first, whilst those who had turned dark were carried away to the realm of darkness and pain. But those who had completely drunk the chalice were carried by the Angels to the realm of eternal life, light and glory.

Now as soon as the hurricane and storm stopped, from the root of the tree which was of gold, came forth another tree that was all of gold, depth, fragrance, beauty and virtue

It is better to be silent than speak, for he said that the way in which the Order would be reformed, because the working of the Holy Spirit, without there being a leader. Will choose uneducated, youths and simple, plain persons who are looked down upon. And without their having any example or teacher –even against the teaching and practicing of the teachers –the Spirit of Christ will select them and fill them with holy respect and the very love of Christ. And when there number has increased in various places, then he will send them an utterly pure and saintly shepherd and leaders. Wholly conformed to Christ