



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** September 6, 2022

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- ❖ St. Francis Day Celebration & Blessing of the Animals
- ❖ Mayor Jane Castor to Unveil Historical Marker—50th Anniversary of the Franciscan Center

October 7, 2022

3010 N. Perry Avenue Tampa, FL 33603  
Riverside Heights Neighborhood

**Event Description:** The Franciscan Center is combining the Annual St. Francis Day Celebration & the Blessing of the Animals with the historic occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Spirituality/Conference Center established on donated land and developed by the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY as a place of peace, healing, community, and joy. The Blessing of the Animals is an annual event in honor of St. Francis of Assisi who is the patron Saint of animals and the environment. This year's event features several celebratory opportunities:

**4:00 p.m.**

***God's Good Earth:*** An interfaith prayer & music program is part of an international observance of The Season of Creation initiative and is a part of this year's theme "*Listen to the Voice of Creation*".

**6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Jane Castor will unveil a historical marker provided by the [ STATE AND COUNCIL INFO}. Dignitaries, community partners, neighbors and the general public are invited to celebrate this milestone event.

**6:30 p.m.**

Pets of all kinds and their owners will be blessed by Franciscan Friars from Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Tampa. This annual "Blessing of the Animals" for all furry, finned, and feathered friends is a Franciscan Tradition in celebration of St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of animals and the environment.

This event will feature live music by Ray Gurka music, pet friendly vendors, community partner information exhibits, food, and activities for the whole family on the beautiful riverfront grounds of the Franciscan Center at 3010 N. Perry Avenue Tampa, FL 33603.

The Franciscan Center, 3010 N. Perry Ave., Tampa, FL 33603, is a non-profit, 501(3)(c), private retreat house sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, NY with dedicated laity who are committed in carrying out the mission. More information about the Center, upcoming retreats, and events, and venue bookings, visit: [Franciscancentertampa.org](http://Franciscancentertampa.org).