

Franciscan Journey chapter 18 notes

Being Faithful

Rule Article 10

United themselves to the redemptive obedience of Jesus, who placed His will into the Father's hands, let them faithfully fulfill the duties proper to their various circumstances of life. Let them also follow the poor and crucified Christ, witness to Him even in difficulties and persecutions.

Commentary

The first phase of evangelizing shows how the Secular Franciscans live in this world (10–12). Those who go “from gospel to life” have simple living (10–12), an experience of togetherness (13), and selfless service (14) as qualities of everyday living.

Simple living begins with the choice to unite with Christ so intensely that one is willing to share even his passion: the burdens of hardship and pain within oneself or from outside sources.

Constitutions - article 12.2

- Seek to know and do the will of the Father.
- Accept help offered by the Church.
- Take the risk of courageous choices in their life in society, with decisiveness and serenity.

Poverty and Joy

- We do not re-create the experience of Francis and Clare.
- Francis: “I have done what was mine to do, may Christ now show you what is yours.”

Redemptive obedience

- We are called to build the Kingdom of God.
- Rule that describes our part in the building process.
- “Obey” is based on the idea of listening i.e. *ob-audire* = to listen to.
- Listening includes a sense of self-surrender while we listen.
- The key to active listening is to hear what the other is trying to communicate.
- Obedience requires us to listen to God's words inviting us to move in a certain direction.
- Listen: prayer, friends, community, personal experience (awareness of needs), signs of the times, spiritual direction.
- Gospel ideals become part of our personal identity.
- Our identity as Franciscans grows in its ability to influence daily life.
- Vibrant fraternity life helps keep us on course.
- We witness to Christ and his message in all the circumstances of life.

Engaged Spirituality - Joseph Nangle OFM

- The Spirit promised by Christ continues to challenge, console, inspire and direct the work of furthering God's reign on earth through us – flawed human beings.
- Our task is to recognize the graces given for our times and to respond to them in obedience.

Saved in Hope (*Spe Salvi*) - Benedict XVI, Paragraph 31

- This great hope can only be God, who encompasses the whole of reality and who can bestow upon us what we, by ourselves, cannot attain.
- God's Kingdom is present wherever he is loved and wherever his love reaches us.

The Franciscan Tradition Today – *Poverty & Joy* – Wm Short, OFM

- What can the medieval Francis and Clare mean today?
- And what is there in the long Franciscan tradition that merits attention today?
- Forms of spirituality can sometimes be the search for religious experience that takes us away from ourselves, the daily activities of life, the world, the mundane.
- To this type of spirituality the Franciscan tradition can offer its disservice by pointing to feet. These are the 'dirty feet' of the incarnate Word.
- A spirituality with consistent emphasis on the God who is revealed in Christ enfleshed can offer a point of dialogue with those who see in much of the contemporary religious quest a denial of responsibility for the world in which we live.
- The Spirit of Assisi' is a spirit of respectful and attentive dialogue among members of differing religious traditions.

Romans 12:1-21

- Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (Relate to profession.)
 - The hand must give alms; the mouth must bless the one who curses; and the ear must listen to the reading of Scripture (St. John Chrysostom, *Homilies on Romans*)
- "Renewal of your mind" related to OFS rule article 7 "people of penance... daily conversion." (*Anchor Yale Bible* translates as "a renewal of your **whole way of thinking**")
- For as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.
- Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another.