

## Topic: Incarnation



The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. To seek to encounter the living and active person of Christ; to embrace the divine seed in our brothers and sisters; to love Jesus and to imitate Him as closely as possible. (Padre Pio Centre of Australia)

**Rule:** Prologue Chapter One p1

*Oh, how happy and blessed are these men and women when they do these things and persevere in doing them, because “the spirit of the Lord will rest upon them” (cf Isa 11:2) and he will make “his home and dwelling among them” (cf John 14:23) and they are sons of the heavenly Father (cf Matt 5:45) whose works they do and they are the spouses, brothers and mothers of our Lord Jesus Christ (cf Matt 12:50)*

Rule Chapter 2 Article 5 p11

*Secular Franciscans, therefore, should seek to encounter the living and active person of Christ in their brothers and sisters, in Sacred Scripture, in the Church and in liturgical activity.*

### **Constitutions:**

Article 9.1 p 47

*The spirituality of the secular Franciscan is a plan of life centred on the person and on the following of Christ.*

### **Scripture:**

2 Timothy 2: 11-13

*If we have died with him, then we shall live with him,*

*If we hold firm, then we shall reign with him.*

*If we disown him, then he will disown us.*

*We may be unfaithful, but he is always faithful,*

*For he cannot disown his own self.*

## Writings of St Francis:

### II Letter to All the Faithful 48-60

*And upon all men and women, if they have done these things and have persevered to the end, the Spirit of the Lord will rest (Is11:2) and He will make his home and dwelling among them (cf John 14:23). They will be children of the heavenly Father (cf Matt 5:45) whose works they do. And they are spouses, brothers, and mothers of our Lord Jesus Christ (cf Matt 12:50). We are spouses when the faithful soul is joined to Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. We are brothers when we do the will of His Father Who is in Heaven (cf Matt 12:50). (We are) mothers when we carry Him in our heart and body (cf 1 Cor 6:20) through a divine love and a pure and sincere conscience; we give birth to Him through (His) holy manner of working, which should shine before others as an example (cf Matt 5:16)*

*Oh, how glorious it is, how holy and great, to have a Father in heaven! Oh, how holy, consoling, beautiful and wondrous it is to have a Spouse! Oh, how holy and how loving, pleasing humble, peaceful, sweet, lovable, and desirable above all things to have such a Brother and Son, Who laid down his life for His sheep (cf John 10:15) and (Who) prayed to the Father for us saying: Holy Father, protect those in your name whom you have given to me (John 17:11). Father, all those whom you gave me in the world were yours and you have given them to me (John 17:6). And the words which you gave to me I have given to them; and they have accepted them and truly know that I came from you and they for the world( cf John 17:9); bless and sanctify them (John 17:17) and I sanctify myself for their sakes so that they may be holy (John 17:19) in being one as we are (John 17:11). And I wish, Father, that where I am they also may be with me so that they may see my glory (John 17:24) in your kingdom (Matt 20:21)*

### Points to Ponder:

1. The usual definition for Incarnation is that it “refers to the embodiment of the Son of God in human flesh as Jesus Christ”.
2. The challenge in the Rule is that we are being called upon to bring Christ to birth in our lives, in the everyday. In this way Incarnation is much more than a once in history event. How is it that we can bring Christ to birth in the present world, in our own particular circumstances?
3. Where does the Rule tell us that we can find the living and active person of Christ? What does this tell us about how we should treat with all those whom we meet?

**Resolution:** For the next month, what is one specific thing that you could do to make Christ more present in the world, for those around you?