

Ongoing Formation (3)

Reflection on last month's resolution:

Topic Scripture and Evangelisation



Francis lived the gospel in a radical way. We too can live the gospel in a radical way for the love of God. To soak up the gospel as if a sponge until we are saturated and the message of the gospel pours forth. To study the Bible, reflect upon it and, most especially to live it. (Padre Pio Centre)

Rule: Chapter Two Rule 4

The rule and life of the Secular Franciscans is this: to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of St Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the centre of his life with God and people.

Christ, the gift of the Father's love, is the way to him, the truth into which the Holy Spirit leads us, and the life which he has come to give abundantly.

Secular Franciscans should devote themselves especially to careful reading of the gospel, going from gospel to life and life to the gospel.

Constitutions: Article 9

- 1. The spirituality of the secular Franciscan is a plan of life centred on the person and one the following of Christ, rather than a detailed program to be put into practice.*
- 2. The Secular Franciscan, committed to following the example and the teachings of Christ, must personally and assiduously study the Gospel and Sacred Scripture. The fraternity and its leaders should foster love for the Word of the Gospel and help the brothers and sisters to know and understand it as it is proclaimed by the Church with the assistance of the Spirit.*

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct

you for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for corrections, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

Writings of St Francis:

Unconfirmed Rule of 1221 22:41-42

Let us, therefore, hold onto the words, the life, and the teaching and the Holy Gospel of Him Who humbled Himself to ask His Father for us and to make His name known to us, saying: Father, glorify Your name (John 12:28) and glorify Your Son so that you Son may glorify You (John 17:1). Father I have made Your name known to the men whom You have given to Me (John 17:6). The words which You have given to Me I have given to them; and they have accepted them and know truly that I came from You, and have believed that You sent me. (John 17:8)

Church documents:

Evangelisation in the Modern World Paul VI para 24

...the person who has been evangelized goes on to evangelize others. Here lies the test of truth, the touchstone of evangelization: it is unthinkable that a person should accept the Word and give himself to the Kingdom without becoming a person who bears witness to it and proclaims it in turn.

....Evangelization, as we have said, is a complex process made of varied elements: the renewal of humanity, witness, explicit proclamation, inner adherence, entry into the community, acceptance of signs, apostolic initiative. These elements may appear to be contradictory, indeed mutually exclusive. In fact they are complementary and mutually enriching. Each one must be seen in relationship with the others.

Points to ponder:

1. We are asked to spread the Gospel, to spread the Good News. What answer would you give to the question what is the Good News?
2. How do we go about spreading the Good News in our daily lives? Are we doing enough?

Resolution: For the next month, what is one specific thing that you could try to do in terms of spreading the Gospel?