

Ongoing Formation (7)

Reflection on last month's resolution:

Topic Fraternal life/ simplicity and poverty



To prioritize finding practical ways to live out both our commitment to Christ and our love for our brothers and sisters. To take the benefit, the product of prayer and infuse the life of the community. To set aside all prejudice and hatred. To be family with one another. To love one another as brothers and sisters. (Padre Pio Centre)

Rule: Chapter Two Rules 12 + 13

12. Witnessing to the good yet to come and obliged to acquire purity of heart because of the vocation they have embraced, they should set themselves free to love God and their brothers and sisters.

13. As the Father sees in every person the features of his Son, the firstborn of many brothers and sisters, so the Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ.

A sense of community will make them joyful and ready to place themselves on an equal basis with all people, especially with the lowly for whom they shall strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ.

Constitutions: Article 15

15.1 Secular Franciscans should pledge themselves to live the spirit of the Beatitudes and in a special way the spirit of poverty.

15.2 Secular Franciscans who must provide for their own families and serve society by means of their work and material goods, have a particular manner of living evangelical poverty.

15.3 Secular Franciscans should pledge themselves to reduce their own personal needs so as to be better able to share spiritual and material goods with their brothers and sisters, especially those most in need.

15.4 They should love and practice purity of heart, the source of true fraternity.

Scripture: Matthew 20:25-28

'You know that among the pagans the rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to be great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be your slave, just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

Writings of St Francis:

Fragments 54

Let us refer all good to the Lord, God Almighty and Most High, acknowledge that every good is His, and thank Him "form whom all good comes for everything." May He, the Almighty and Most High, the only true God, have, be given, and receive all honour and respect, all praise and blessing, all thanks and glory, to Whom all good belongs, He Who alone is good.

Church documents:

Fratello Tutti Pope Francis paragraph 94

Love then is more than just a series of benevolent actions. These actions have their source in a union increasingly directed towards others, considering them of value, worthy, pleasing, and beautiful apart from their physical or moral appearances. Our love for others, for who they are, moves us to seek the best for their lives. Only by cultivating this way of relating to one another will we make possible a social friendship that excludes no one and a fraternity that is open to all.

Points to ponder:

1. How would you describe 'servant leadership'? Why is it so important to the life of the Secular Franciscan Order?
2. What attitude towards creation is essential to the growth of poverty of spirit?

Resolution: For the next month, what is one specific way in which you could better serve your family, the fraternity and the world at large?