

**OUR LADY OF ANGELS
REGIONAL WORKSHOP
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**Vocation, Mission,
Charism**

Bob Fitzsimmons, OFS

Fun Manual reference chapters:

Vocation

Vocation, Mission, Charism

Vocation

Special calling, special gift

I have called you by name.

You are mine because you are precious in my eyes, you are honored and I love you” (Isaiah 43:1)

- God’s initiative – based on desire for relationship

Why?

- Love desires union!

Franciscan Call (vocation)

“When Francis looked back, he saw Christ; when we look back, we see Francis. The difference between him and us is all there, and it is enormous.

Question: In what, then, does the Franciscan charism consist?

*Answer: Looking at Christ with the eyes of Francis!
We do not cultivate the Franciscan charism by looking at Francis, but by looking at Christ through Francis' eyes.^{[10](#)}*

Vocation

- It is God who calls. We are not the ones who choose.
- Called to life in Christ. Called to **Holiness/sanctity**, which is sharing in the Life of God
- Called to a state: *lay/ordained, religious/secular*.
- Called to the Franciscan way. Gospel to life, Life to gospel
- Our Rule = Observe the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
- Discernment of vocation. ***Individual, council, fraternity***

A starting point to discern

- ⦿ Are we attracted to Francis?
 - (friend of Francis)

- ⦿ Or

- ⦿ Are we inspired by Francis, his vision and his legacy?
 - (Possible vocation)

Vocation is a gift, a calling that empowers us

- To bind ourselves to a consecrated life
- To surrender ourselves to the Father
- To view all creation are gifts of love
- To see Jesus as Francis did

Questions

1. How did you experience your call to become a Franciscan?
2. Now, after reflection, why do you stay?

Charism

- ⦿ is the gift of perceiving life and the world around us, in a typical specific way.
- ⦿ The Rule of the SFO begins saying (article 1):
The Franciscan family, as one among many spiritual families raised up by the Holy Spirit in the Church, unites all members of the People of God – laity, religious and priests – who recognize that they are called to follow Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi.

Our Charism & unique Gift

- ◎ Understanding of being daughter/son
 - Experience
 - Seeing with the eyes of daughter/son
 - Thinking with the mind of daughter/son
 - Loving with the heart of daughter/son

- ◎ Why?

Jesus is the Beloved Son

Francis desire and legacy is to love and be loved by the Father as the Father loves the Son.

Francis wanted his family to actively seek this depth of relationship with the Father.

Jesus is the only mediator of God's love for all creation.

Imitate and be Christ-like be a beloved daughter/son

How?

Francis suggests:

- ⦿ Imitating the Father's expression of self-giving (kenosis)
- ⦿ Love and care for all creation as part of our family
- ⦿ Living the Gospel with sisters and brothers (fraternity)

See -- desire -- embrace:

- The poor God (emptying poverty of Incarnation)
- The humble God (who desires relationship w/us)
- The servant God (kneels and washes our feet)

Finding Jesus by embracing minority (littleness)
making this the foundation of our lives

For Francis this is living *sine proprio* and *sine glossa*.

Mission – “Go Francis repair my house”

- ◎ **“Make present the charism of Saint Francis in the life and in the mission of the Church (Rule 1)**
 - Become sacrament of Christ and make visible the Father’s Love
- ◎ **Evangelize - to build a more just and fraternal world -- *The Church and the world is waiting for a courageous and effective response from us.***

- **to be builders of a civilization of love**, “witnesses and instruments of the redemptive mission of the Church, announcing Christ both by word and their own example

The Church expects from the unique Franciscan Secular Order a great service to the cause of the Kingdom of God in the world today. . . . so as to present yourself to the world as a "community of love" (SFO, Rule, art. 26).

John Paul II 22 November 2002

Our Charism is our Gift

⦿ Our Mission (**gift**) for the Church

- **Witness to a God who loves unconditionally**
- Spread the Gospel through our actions
- Build bridges with all and keep dialogue open
- Love and respect the dignity of all creation
- Esteem other more than self



discussions

- 1. As fraternity animators, how can we reawaken our Franciscan Charism in our own fraternities?**
- 2. How can we present our Franciscan Charism as gift to the World and Church?**