The Franciscan Journey
Chapter 14

By Lester Bach OFM Cap

A Rebuilding Task
**Rule 6 – Called to work together in building up the Church**

- Secular Franciscans proclaim Christ by their life and words.
- Their preferred apostolate is personal witness in the environment in which they live & situations in the world.
- Preparation for spreading the gospel is in ordinary circumstances of the world and in collaborating catechesis within ecclesial communities.
- Presiders of these communities should make the love of Francis for the Gospels as their own, as well as the faith.
- Participation in the service of sanctification – liturgy, prayer, and works of penance & charity – with their families, fraternity and Church.
Baptism and Profession are intimately connected
Baptism

- We are brought into the Family of the People of God
- We become Sons and Daughters of God
- Makes us New Creatures loved by God
- Our sins are freely forgiven
Profession – Rule 6

• Deeper Intimacy with God
• God gives us a gift calling us to follow the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi
• We give our faithfulness to the SFO Rules as our return gift to God
Baptism & Profession & Rule

Rule show the way
Franciscans witness to
God through Baptism
and Profession

Witness to the
Message of Jesus
Christ

Active deliberate
choice to be Gospel
Persons

Reiterates the call to
bring the Good
News to all
Francis and Clare - Loyalty to the Church

- Privilege of Poverty
- Rule - Way of Life
- Full Communion with Church

Pope
Holy Spirit
Pope, Bishops, Priests
• Foster Open Trusting Dialogue
  Apostolic Effectiveness & Creativity
  Common Beliefs & Differences
Franciscans accept the task of fostering an open & trusting dialogue of apostolic effectiveness & creativity

- Surrender control of what the conclusion may be
- Respectful conversations with those in authority and others
- Avoid actions that would separate us from one another (Trinitarian Spirituality)
- Book of Wisdom – ways of Wisdom come from God
Jesus made Love of God visible to all

Fed the Hungry
Talked to Pilot – teaching his power came from God
Healed the Sick

Judas Iscariot & Thomas
Pharisees & Tax Collectors
Gospels reveal Jesus’ contact with ordinary people

Spent time in solitude communing with his Father
Samarian Woman
Lepers
Roman Authorities
Good Thief
Task of Rebuilding the Church

- Rebuilding Faith in people, ourselves and others
- Rebuilding Hope in people who feel betrayed and depressed
- Bringing Love to people who only experiences its shallow expression or are objects of hate and violence by others
- Seek to diminish anger, resistance and sadness because we respect others

Things that keep us apart

Name calling, disrespect

Injustice
The More Successful we are at creating a hospitable space, the better we will be at re-building the Church.