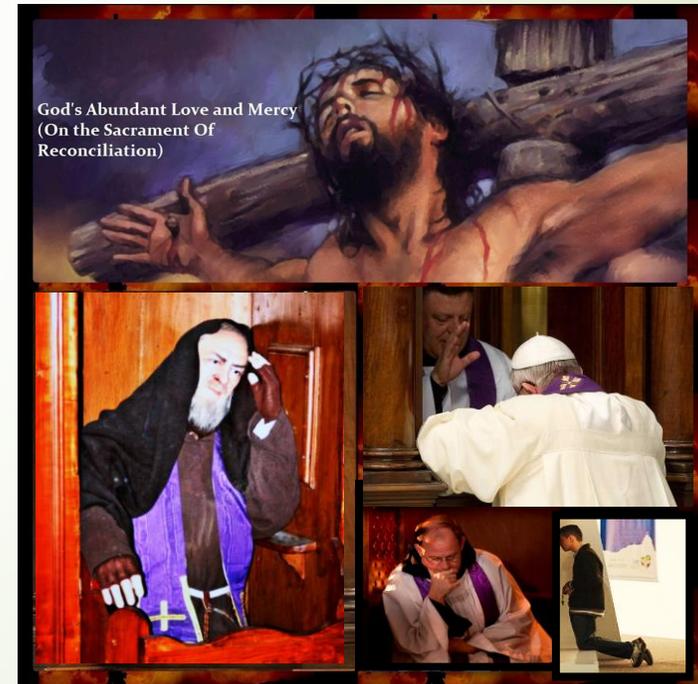


# The Franciscan Journey

## Chapter 15

By Lester Bach OFM Cap

*Gospels, Conversion &  
Reconciliation*



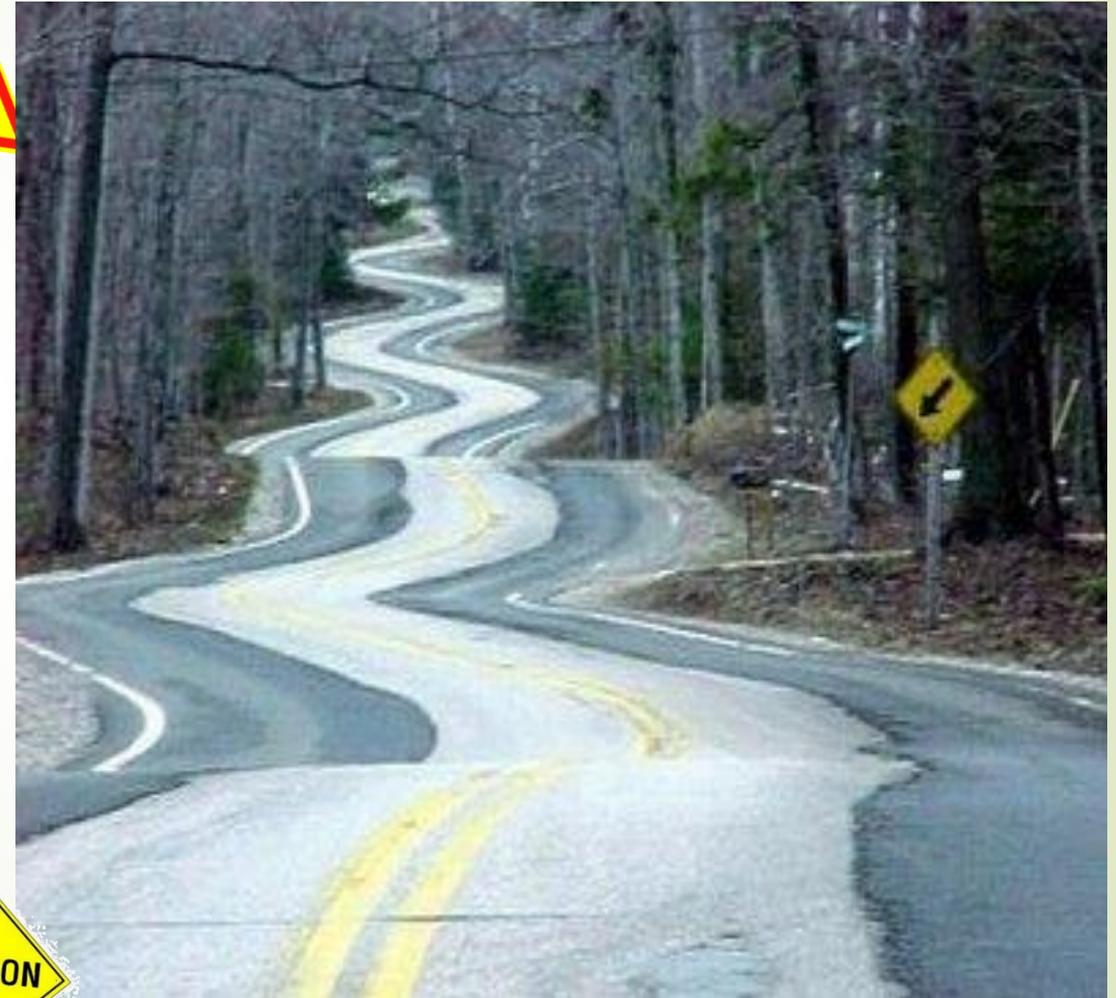
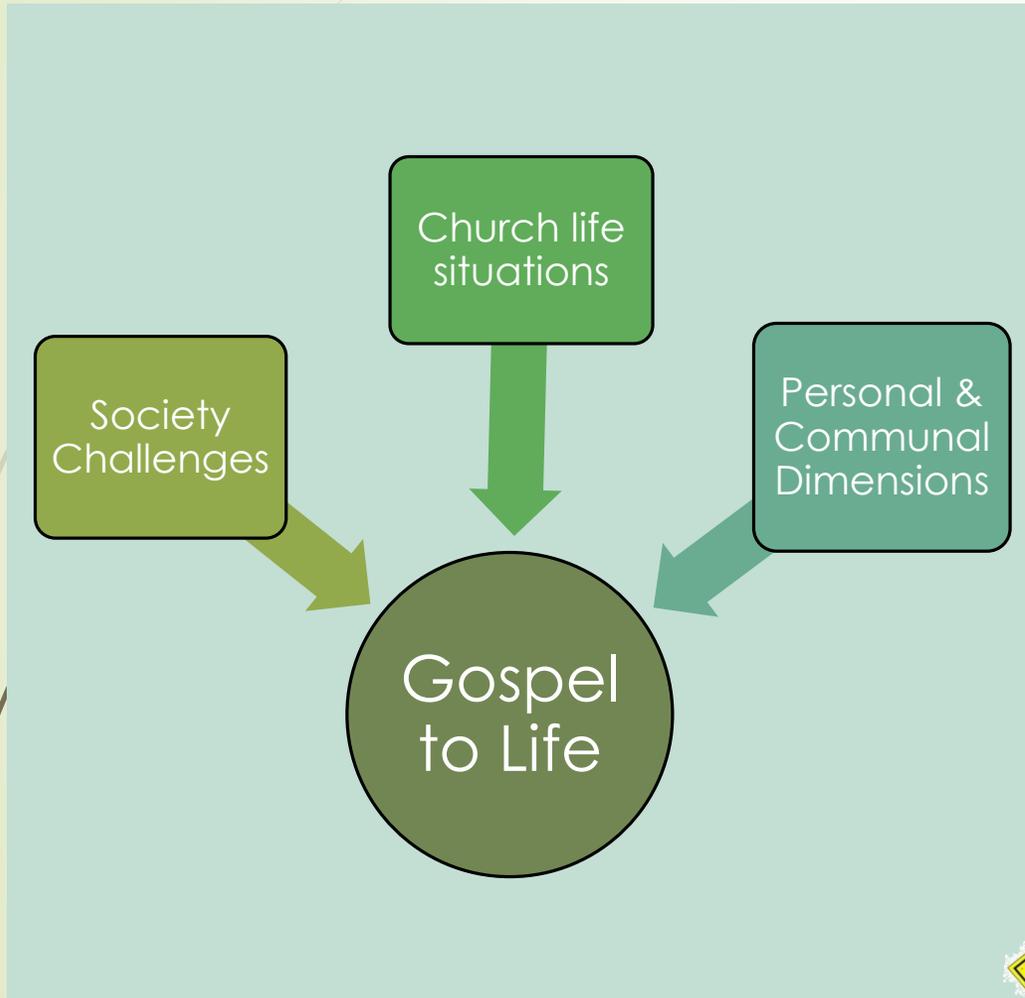
## Continual Journey of Conversion and Formation – Rule 7

- United by our vocations as Secular Franciscans & motivated by the Gospels, let us conform our thoughts and deeds to Christ – by means of **RADICAL CONVERSION.**
- Commit to live the **Gospel**
- Seek to deepen, in the light of faith = **values & choices** of evangelical life – according to the RULE



***“Let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and truth.” John 3:18***

# Journey of Conversion and Formation

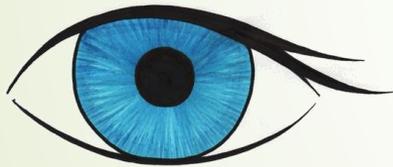


## Radical Interior Change - Conversion

We are Brothers & Sisters of Penance

“Not giving up Chocolate for Lent “ – not that difficult & temporary

- But acknowledging a need to a PERMANENT change.
- Life has need to **radical interior change** which Gospel calls conversion



• Must have clear vision to see our need for conversion



*Paul on the road to Damascus*

## Rule 7 –Daily conversion

If we feel that we have no need for change – the RULE has the answer

The Gospels!

Francis saw God deliberately and lovingly choose to come among us

In **POVERTY**

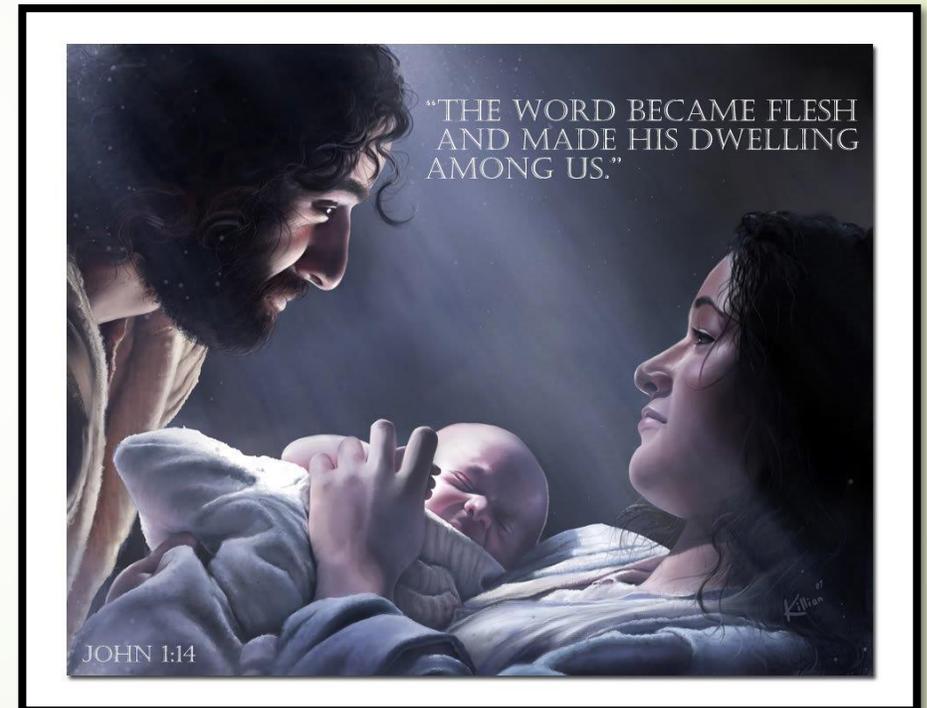
**without the trappings of POWER**

To become like us in ALL things – except for SIN

***Such Poverty struck Francis as the Greatest kind of LOVE!***

Francis knew that he could never give a sufficient response – but to TRY to be totally generous in response to God's Love.

**Can only do this with the Holy Spirit**



# Francis' Favorite Gospel – The Gospel of John



Samaritan Woman at the well -  
Changed relationships because Jesus touched their lives

Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life! John 4:5-30, 39-42

*The one who rejects me and does not receive my word has a judge; one the last day the word I have spoken will serve as judge, for I have spoken not on my own, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak."*

John 12: 47-48



Pick up your mat and walk

John 5:12

Dynamic power – "See you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you."

Jesus reminds us of the importance of remaining faithful to his Father

Jesus answered,  
"Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him."

-John 9.3



## Reconciliation – Sacrament of Mercy & Grace

Jesus said to Peter, "...not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy times seven"  
Matthew 18:22 (God's compassion for us)

Our personal lives need conversion.  
Intimacy with Jesus brings us light that reveals obstacles to growth.

Sacrament – helps to conform our thoughts and deeds to those of Christ  
(SFO Rule # 7)

While this sacrament includes the idea of sin, it's focus is upon God's gracious love for us.

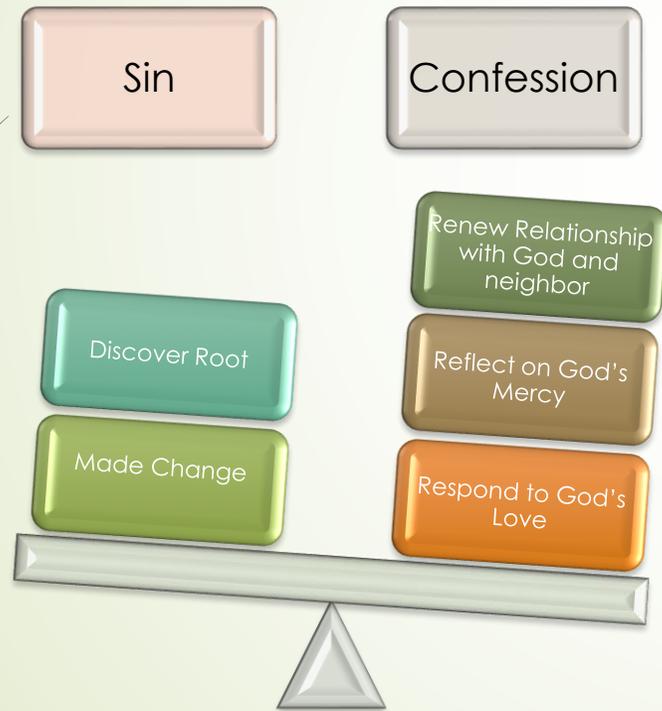
No sin is bigger than God's forgiveness!



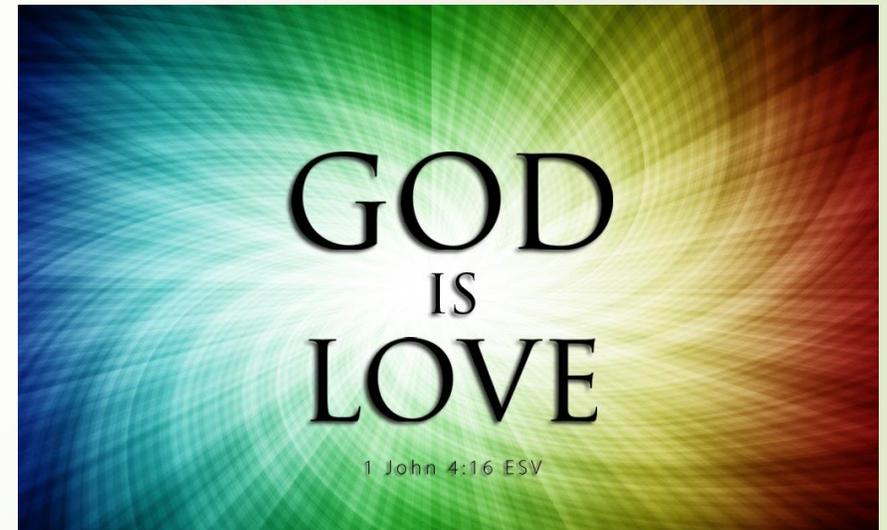
Prodigal Son

# Franciscans are Gospel People

Reflect on the Word of God  
in Reconciliation



Love is always a gift from God



We honor God by a life of holiness,  
which is a reflection in our life of  
the very holiness of God.

# Brothers & Sisters of Penance

Secular Franciscans were called the brothers and sisters of penance.

- Spirit of continual conversion
- Cultivate this individually & in fraternity
- Review of life, spiritual retreats, spiritual advisors, penitential celebrations
- Frequent Sacrament of Reconciliation
- **Fruit of Conversion** – works of charity in interactions with brothers and sisters



Picturing the Franciscan Family