Franciscan Journey
Chapter 22
Foundations for the Kingdom
We are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world-

Any man who follows Jesus becomes more of a man himself.

1. RULE 14 – Act as a leaven where they live through witness of fraternal love and clear Christian motivation

2. Opt for relationships that give preference to the poor and those on the fringe of society – collaborate in overcoming the exclusion of others and poverty that is the fruit of inefficiency & in justice
RULE 14

- Vocations in both temporal situations and activities
- Live membership in both the Church and in society as inseparable reality
- Commit to general fulfillment of duties proper to our occupation and professional training that pertains to it.
- In the spirit of service, we assume social and civil responsibilities. (Const. art. 20.1, 20.2)
- All are invited into the Kingdom of God – even the worst of sinners
- Those who have a have humble heart to accept and to them mysteries of the Kingdom are revealed.
The Kingdom of God is present in Jesus, the Messiah

- A more Evangelical world would reflect Gospel values
- A more Fraternal world would help us live in caring and loving relationship with one – a Community
- Build – by words, actions and presence
- Will face opposition – continue to forge ahead and make inroads in society to make it responsive to human dignity and need
Gospel Vision – A Persistent Effort

Seek Solutions
- Community concerns will invite us to invest energy
- Inter-linking of people and needs, global ministries will also arise
- We will have to collaborate with people of different beliefs.
- Talk must move beyond words
- Work to diminish greed, selfishness & profit only way of looking at things

Work towards Building

Words
Society
Justice, Economy
Dignity of Human Person
Actions
Observe – Judge - Act

1. Examine actual situation

2. Evaluate the situation carefully in relation to these teachings

3. Decide what can & should be done in order that the traditional norms may be adapted to circumstances of time and place.

Christianity & Social Progress (Mater et Magistra)
Saint John Paul XXIII, paragraph 236
Justice - based on good relationships – Seek the good of another person

- Trinitarian spirit moves us to grow in ways of justice
- Negative words and attitudes are destructive
- Franciscans use positive words and actions
- We collaborate with others in challenging injustice
- We do not become a “one issue” people
- We are not bystanders – we get involved

"I know there is a God, and that He hates injustice and slavery. I see the storm coming, and I know His hand is in it. If He has a place and work for me—and I think He has—I believe I am ready. I am nothing, but truth is everything. ... Douglas don't care whether slavery is voted up or down; but God cares, and humanity cares, and I care, I may not see the end, and with God's help I shall not fail, but it will come, and I shall be vindicated, and these men will find that they have not read their Bibles aright." —Abraham Lincoln
Qualities to Seek Solutions

- LISTEN without prejudice
- Give yourself time to speak or respond and if you speak – accept responsibility for what you say
- Don’t blame others for your ideas & opinions
- Assumptions get in the way of understanding the issue
- Keep conversations confidential, if necessary – builds trust
- Dialogue doesn’t always end in a perfect solution – work for movement towards a more fraternal and evangelical world
The Beatitudes

The Kingdom of God increases
- Through sanctification in the Spirit
- Through commitment to justice and peace
- Knowing your personal gifts enables a fraternity to do what one person could not accomplish alone.
- Lay people ought to take on renewal of the temporal order
Social Issues – On Going Formation

- Need good knowledge and information about social issues
- Fraternity Discussions of social issues in on going formation may reveal ideas and motivation to do something
- Council develop a plan of action
- Be competent at what we volunteer to do, learn skills
- Take time to consider what can be done

CHRISTIAN SPIRIT OF SERVICE
Social Action links to Christ

- Focus on Need with Love
- Be as competent as you can
- Be realistic and aware of dangers and threatening possibilities
- Seek the help and work with people who “know the territory”
- Common sense is essential in providing personal involvement
- Pray - avoid violence in actions
God Gives Up on No One

- Be patient, seek God in each human being
- Give encouragement, do what you can and leave the rest to God.
- Cannot impose faith, but you can offer it
- Presence + Actions = Witness
- Public relations important
- Helps many searching for meaning to their lives.
- Make it possible for others to meet God
Franciscan Spirit

- Kingdom of God
- Peace
- Justice
- Friendship