The Franciscan Journey
Chapter 5

Secular Spirituality
Many Catholic Spiritualities with Different Gifts (Charisms) to the Church

Franciscans
• Pax et Bonum
• Peace and All Good

Jesuits
• Ad maioren Dei gloriām
• For the greater glory of God

Dominicans
• Laudare, Benedicere, Pradedicicare
• To Praise, to Bless, to Preach

Carmelites
• Zelo zelatus sum pro Domino Deo exercituum
• With zel have I been zealous for the Lord God of hosts
Many Catholic Spiritualties with Different Gifts (Charisms) to the Church

Augustinians
• Anima una et cor unum in Deum
• One heart and soul in God

Carthusians
• Stat crux dum volvit ur oderi
• The Cross is steady while the world is turning

Benedictines
• Ora et labora
• Pray and Work

Barnabites
• Caritas Christi
• The love of Christ compels us
Secular Spirituality

Seculars Embrace:
• Family Life
• Spousal Relationships
• Human Rights

Seculars daily life:
• Contemplative prayer
• Serve the Church & its people
• Find ways to affirm the Gospel in common life
• Remain in the world – but free from negative actions & values
• Bring positive viewpoint & perspective – from St. Francis
Secular Franciscans include Clerical and Lay Members

Order means fully participate in the discipline and penitential practices of Franciscan spirituality while being in the world

The 1st Order/TOR assists with the SFO while not dominating it or diminishing its autonomy

SFO is to develop a life-giving union within the Franciscan Family

Called to spread the Gospel & Influence the World & the Church

Profession reaffirms Promises of Baptism

Unity reaches beyond

Cultures

Countries / States

Languages

Social Classes

Languages
Public Profession

The Secular Franciscan proclaims commitment to follow Gospels

The Secular Franciscan must assume responsibility for following the Rule of 1978.
Structure of the Secular Franciscan Order

**Council**
- Minister – VM – Secretary – Treas – SA – FD – Councilors

**Regional Executive Council**
- Minister – VM – Secretary – Treas – FD – Councilor – RSA

**NAFRA Executive Council**
- Minister – VM – Sec – Treas – 4 Councilors – CIOFS councilor – Pres Conference of Nat. Spiritual Assistants

**Presidency**
- CIOFS Minister General – VM – Linguistic ICs – Youth Councilor – 4 Spiritual Assistants

**Local Fraternity**
- All professed members

**Regional Fraternity**
- Regional Ministers & Executive Council

**National Fraternity**
- Regional Ministers & Presidency

**International Fraternity**
- National Councilors & Presidency
- Sec – Treas (appointed)

**Local Spiritual Assistants**
- Conference of Regional Spiritual Assistants
- Conference of National Spiritual Assistants
- General Spiritual Assistants
- OFM, OFM Caps, OFM Conv. TOR
Francis Saw Power in Jesus’ Compassion

- Jesus led him to Scripture
- Francis embraced Biblical ideas
- Jesus led Francis to the Church
- Francis understood the Church’s role in revealing Jesus to the world
- Francis understood the meaning of penance & pain by walking the passion path with Jesus
- Francis saw that the Resurrection was a gift of the Father
- Francis embrace Sister Death as a pathway to new life
Gospels Invite Us to Change

Rule 4:
- Requirements of Conversion – Continual throughout Life
- Supported by Community

Rule 7:
- Journey of Conversion
- Sacrament of Reconciliation means to overcome old habits
- Face new challenges
Francis learned how to live from the Gospels

**Gospel to Life – Life to Gospel**

- His followers:
  - Should not – Carry gold/silver/carry a walking stick, sack/bread/shoes or a second tunic
  - Should – preach the Gospels, do penance, live according to the Gospels

- Franciscans Must:
  - Study the Gospels & Sacred Scriptures
  - **ON Going Formation** – courses, gatherings & sharing
    - Foster love for Gospels
    - Help brothers and sisters understand it
  - **RULE 4** – Listen, meditate, reflect on Word of God
Baptism is the Gate to Sacraments & Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- Fruit of the Holy Spirit
  - PEACE
  - LOVE
  - JOY
  - PATIENCE
  - KINDNESS
  - GENEROSITY
  - FAITHFULNESS
  - GENTLENESS
  - SELF-CONTROL
# KEY LESSONS FROM THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Matthew 5:3

In his longest recorded sermon, Jesus began by describing the traits he was looking for in his followers. He called those who lived out those traits blessed because God had something special in store for them. Each beatitude is an almost direct contradiction of society’s typical way of life. In the last beatitude, Jesus even points out that a serious effort to develop these traits is bound to create opposition. The best example of each trait is found in Jesus himself. If our goal is to become like him, the Beatitudes will challenge the way we live each day.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Beatitude</th>
<th>Old Testament anticipation</th>
<th>Clashing worldly values</th>
<th>God’s reward</th>
<th>How to develop this attitude</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Realize need for God (5:3)</td>
<td>Isaiah 57:15</td>
<td>Pride and personal independence</td>
<td>Kingdom of Heaven</td>
<td>James 4:7-10</td>
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<td>Gentle and lowly (5:5)</td>
<td>Psalm 37:5-11</td>
<td>Power</td>
<td>Receive the earth</td>
<td>Matthew 11:27-30</td>
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<td>Hunger and thirst for justice (5:6)</td>
<td>Isaiah 11:4-5; 42:1-4</td>
<td>Pursuing personal needs</td>
<td>See it happen</td>
<td>John 16:5-11; Philippians 3:7-11</td>
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<td>Merciful (5:7)</td>
<td>Psalm 41:1</td>
<td>Strength without feeling</td>
<td>Be shown mercy</td>
<td>Ephesians 5:1-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pure in heart (5:8)</td>
<td>Psalms 24:3-4; 51:10</td>
<td>Deception is acceptable</td>
<td>See God</td>
<td>1 John 3:1-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work for peace (5:9)</td>
<td>Isaiah 57:18-19; 60:17</td>
<td>Personal peace is pursued without concern for the world’s chaos</td>
<td>Be called children of God</td>
<td>Romans 12:9-21; Hebrews 12:10-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persecuted (5:10)</td>
<td>Isaiah 52:13; 53:12</td>
<td>Weak commitments</td>
<td>Inherit the Kingdom of Heaven</td>
<td>2 Timothy 3:12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Part of the Franciscan spirituality (not ours alone)

One in nature but three persons -
Each is fully God in a way distinct from one another

Relate to each other within the atmosphere of that relationship

Relationship with Love
All Human Activity

- Works together –
  - Rights & duties as members of the Church & those as members of human society

- Natural Reaction to Life & People -
  - Love in full measure
  - Strive for Perfect Charity
Personal Wisdom & Collaboration, Courageous Choices – Decisiveness & Serenity

- How we deal with daily problems required daily conversion
- Bring love to our Family Situations, Work, Church and the World is no easy task
- Avoid that which diminishes relationships
- Engage in that which enhances unity
- Move from exploiting creation to Franciscan concept of universal kinship (SFO Rule #18)
- Husbands & Wives in particular bear witness to love of Christ for his Church SFO Rule #17

Negative Feeling:
- Anger,
- Frustration,
- Indifference,
- Fear,
- Hate,
- Threatened

Maintain Relationship:
- Respect,
- Patience,
- Humility,
- Reverence,
- Love, Kindness

How we deal with daily problems required daily conversion.