

Franciscan  
Journey  
Chapter 12

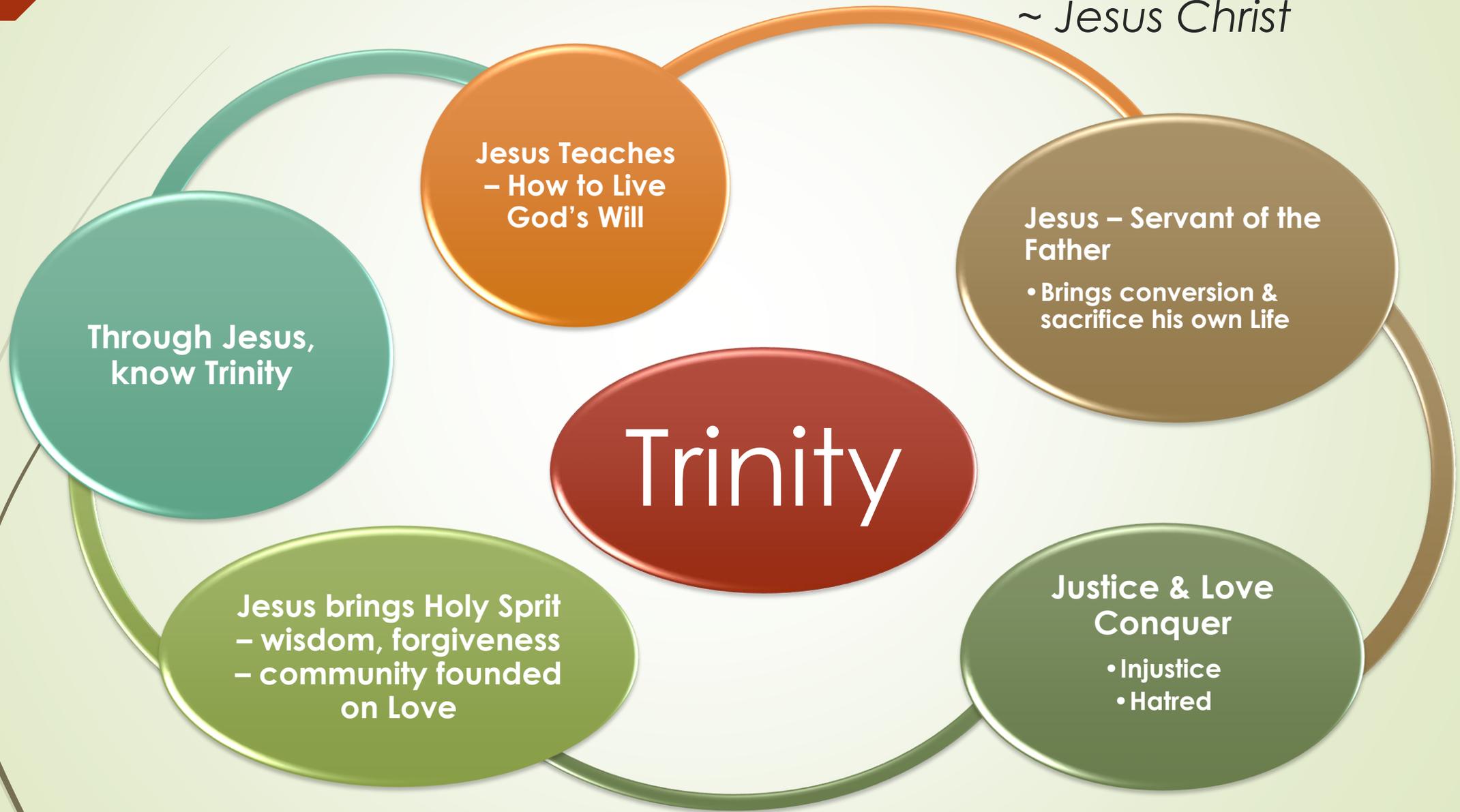
*A Focus on Christ – SFO Rule*

by Lester Bach OFM Cap



# “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life”

~ Jesus Christ



# Incarnation

## Christ Comes Among Us – Result of God's Love

Christ came to earth to live in human society to show our divine calling

*Communitarian character of Franciscans is fulfilled in perfected in work of Jesus Christ in ordinary life - humanity ties us together*

*Highest form of human ties is the family – the basis of social structures*

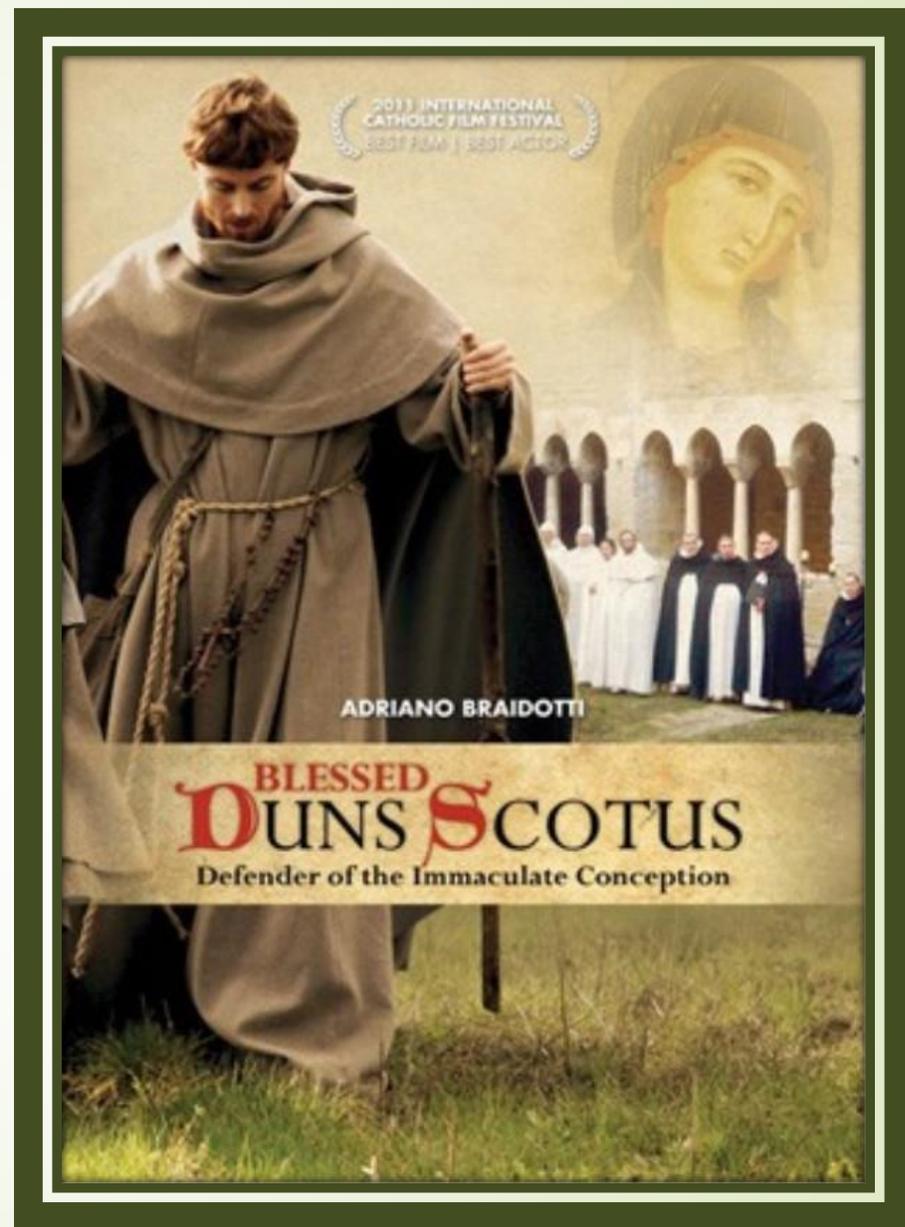
*Franciscans are obligated to treat each other as Brothers & Sisters, as in a family!*





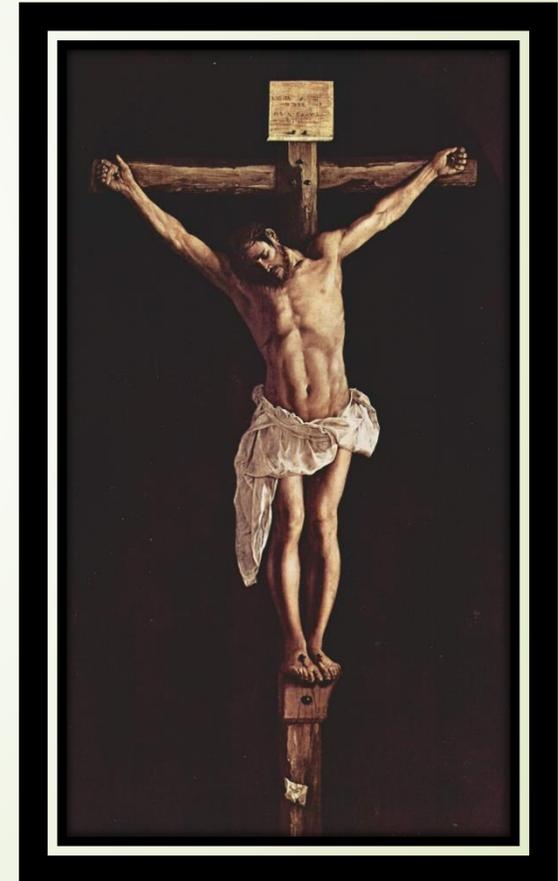
## LOVE is the Reason for the INCARNATION ~ *Duns Scotus' philosophy*

- Incarnation shows us what Love can accomplish
- Love, the heart of the Trinity is the reason for God sending Jesus to earth
- God brings ways to bring the Gospel way of acting, if we sin
- Gods looks for ways to free us from sin & experience the joy of unity with the Trinity

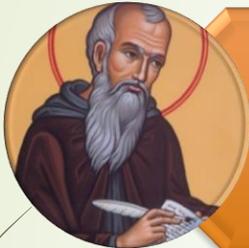


# Francis recognized God's Love in everything that Jesus said and did

- The Cross is a clear sign of God's Love for us
- The Gospels teach us how to live-
- SFO Rule calls for careful reading of the Gospels
- Lack of knowledge of the Gospels – we can easily lose our way



Gospels – Teach how to Live – On Going Formation –  
Share Good News – Build Relationships with Listeners



Ignorance of Scriptures is ignorance of Christ  
– St. Jerome



Careful reading and sensitivity to the community  
of the Church – Francis sought approval of Rule  
from Pope Innocent III

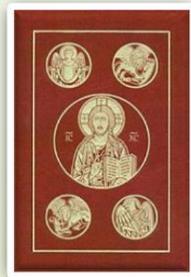


Discuss the Gospels – Conversations –  
Listen with an open heart

# The Holy Bible

## Catholic Bible

- ▶ **Old Testament** (Sometimes called the Hebrew Testament) – 46 books
- ▶ **New Testament** – 27 books
- ▶ **Total books = 73**



## Protestant Bible

- ▶ **Old Testament** – 39 books
  - ▶ Rejected 7 books:
    - ❖ Tobit
    - ❖ Judith
    - ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Maccabees
    - ❖ Wisdom
    - ❖ Sirach
    - ❖ Baruch (apocrypha)
- ▶ **New Testament** – 27 books
- ▶ **Total Books = 66**



# Sacred Scriptures – God's truth in language accommodating our nature



Franciscans face the task of linking scriptures & the life and words of Jesus Christ to their own lives.

Rule



Points the way to fulfill God's plan for us

Constitution



Points out the importance of Gospel study



SFO must personally & assiduously study the Gospel and Sacred Scripture



Fraternity & its leaders should foster love for the word of the Gospel

# Building of the Kingdom takes; planning, faith, courage, gentleness, understanding and compassion – need Scriptures & the Holy Spirit

## Jesus

- Welcomes Sinners
- Man's laws did not interfere with Father's mission
- Advised disciplines not to get bogged down with "things"
- Preached forgiveness of enemies
- Went to quiet places to pray
- Strong in the face of authorities who abused God's plan
- His death & resurrection – hope that new life is possible
- The Cross was example of Radical Love



## Francis

- Welcomed sinners
- Moved ahead when human laws tried to confine him
- Made choice for poverty "Lady Poverty"
- Told followers to forgive enemies
- Francis went to La Verna & to caves to pray
- Invited his beloved Church to show a Gospel face
- Francis gave example with his spirit that welcomed Sister Death

