

# The Franciscan Journey

## Chapter 13



### *Encounters with Jesus*

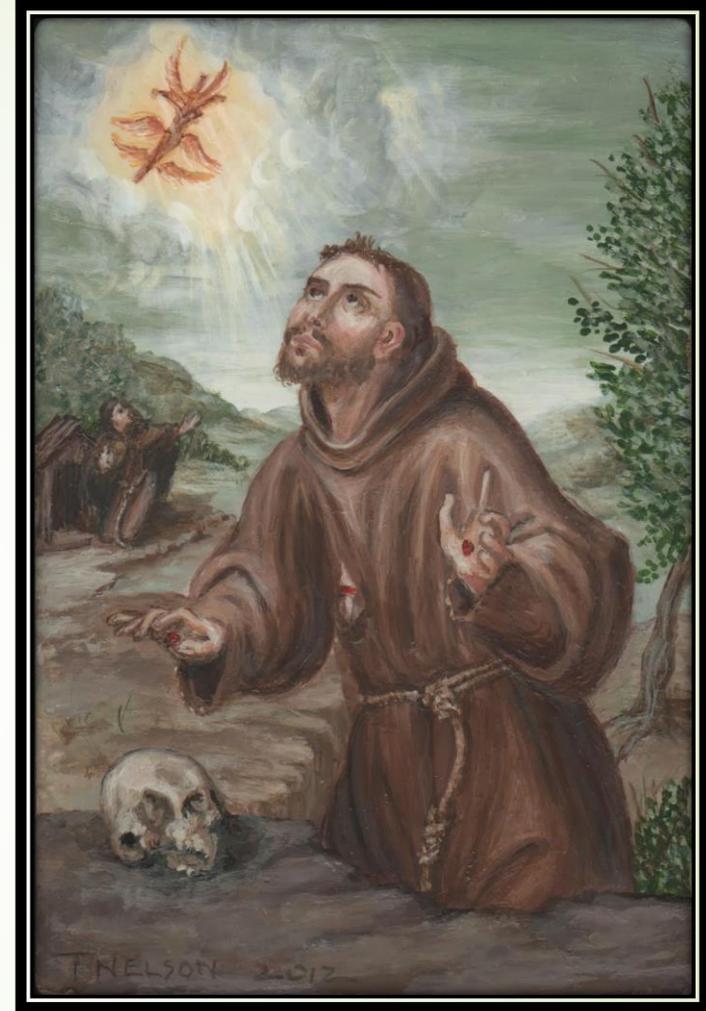
By Lester Bach OFM Cap



# Encountering Jesus

## - Daily Life

- Recognize Christ in everyone (when difficult – look at yourself – put on the mind of Christ – how does He love me?)
  - When you feel someone is an enemy change your heart
    - from suspicion to welcoming
    - From hostility to hospitality
    - Enemy becomes our guest & offers a “safe place” to speak about what is in their heart
    - Takes personal conversion respond to the Holy Spirit – allows us to hear others
    - Other experiences acceptance and relationship can grow.
    - Object is not to get the other to change
    - Holy Spirit is the change agent –
    - Requires personal growth and show us parameters of Love



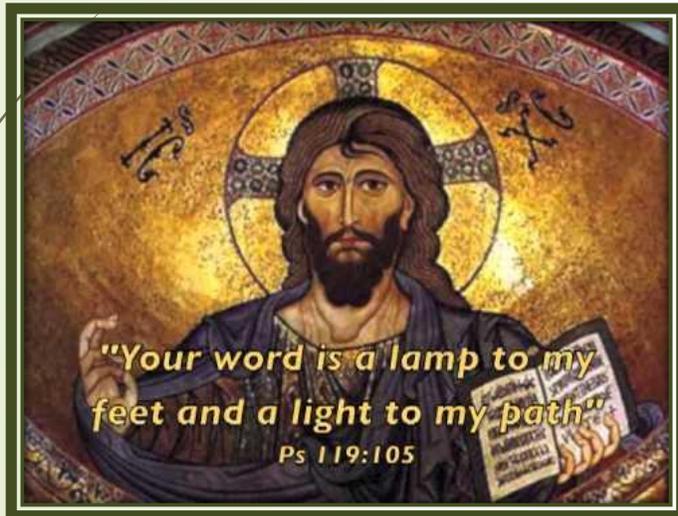
“I see nothing bodily of the Most High Son of God in this world except His most holy body and blood” – St. Francis

# Encountering Jesus

## - Sacred Scripture – Word of God

Finding the active person of Jesus Christ in Scripture is faith-filled.

- Accept the inspiration of Scripture
- Accept the Gospels as a record of the life of Christ



- Interpretation of Scripture of ultimately subject to the judgement of the Magisterium...

### Literal

Literary forms:

History

Psalms

Wisdom sayings

Poetry

Parable

Figurative language

### Spiritual - Unity of Divine Plan

1. Allegorical sense (understanding of events by recognizing significance in Christ)

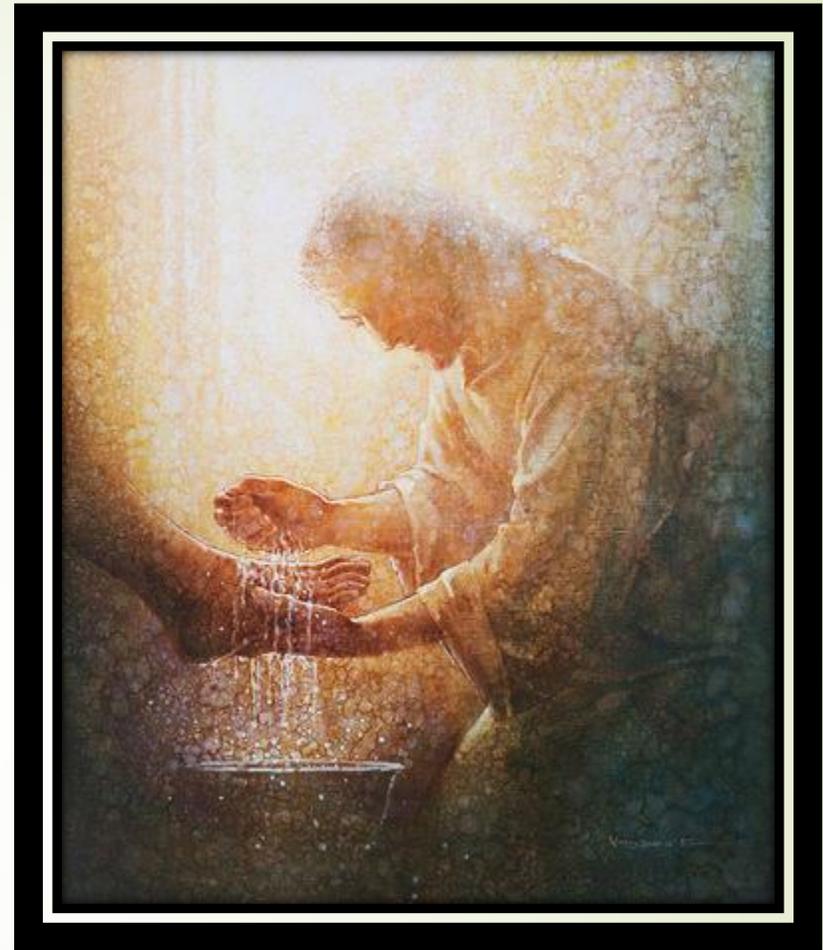
2. Moral sense (lead us to live & act justly)

3. Anagogical sense (view realities & events in terms of eternal significance)

# Encountering Jesus - in the Church

Searching for the face of Jesus in the Church is demanding

- Not easy to form relationship with all – differences are common among us
- Large number of people, human situations, opinions, practices, & ideas
- Variety of influences – family values, friends, professors/teachers, editorials, security needs, lack of time to pursue issues surrounding our faith
- May find yourself in disagreement with others in the Catholic Church
- **Franciscans seeks ways to relate to all** – don't try to “prove them wrong” Accept them as they are – not the same as agreeing with them – create a space for dialogue



*“ This is my commandment: love one another  
As I have loved you.” (John 15:12)*

*“Let us not love in word or speech, but in deed  
and truth.” ( 1 John 3:18)*

# Encountering Jesus

## - in Liturgical Activity

Liturgical activity draws believers together in common praise of God, gratitude of god, petitions to God, glory to God – **Perfect expression in the Eucharist**

- Called to faith and conversion to liturgy
- Liturgy is source from which all power flows
- Spiritual life not limited to liturgy – all should pray in private and with others
  - Devotions should harmonize with liturgical seasons & lead us to liturgical prayer
  - Devotions should lead us to union with Jesus

Liturgy celebrations deepen our relationship with Jesus – moves us to Gospel Living



In the mystery of the Eucharist inspires and impels us to work courageously in our world to bring about renewal of relationships which has an inexhaustible source in God's gift...(*Sacramentum Caritatis Benedict XVI – paragraph 13*)

