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
Franciscans are **GOSPEL** People

*Ignorance of Scripture is Ignorance of Jesus Christ*

### Authors
- **Mind Sets**
- **Personal background**
- **Times in which they lived**

### Most Important Life-Death-Passion of Christ
- **Matthew**
- **Mark**
- **Luke**
- **John**

### Literary Styles
- Historical
- Prophetical
- Poetical
- Song
- Parable
- Symbol
- Prayer
Scripture
Inspired by the Holy Spirit

- Role of Salvation
  - God’s Plan for Man

- Unity
  - Connections to Living Traditions

- Catechism
  - Guidelines for reading and understanding scripture
Influence pressure those around us

Labels used to isolate or dismiss

Manipulating words to fit interpretation

Domination or Arrogance

Sharing - Listening & Speaking

Calls to Conversion

Dialogue - Spirit of Openness

Maintain Relationships

Influence pressure those around us

Franciscans:

- Differences need to be bridged
- Seek unity no matter what our bend might be - Fundamentalist Evangelical Liberal Conservative

Trinitarian Spirituality
Fundamentalist
May be literal interpretation of each word as written
May find text that exclude others from God’s love
Private revelation may be a priority, may have theological differences among themselves

Catholic Church
holds that the book of Scripture is Truth without error
At the same time, interpretation needs to attend to the literary forms in which it is written.
Look for meaning – given time & culture of writer
Franciscan approach with LOVE, not insults

Evangelical
Some are strictly religion in response to Scripture
Others concern for social issues
Some concerned about religious practices
Concern for poor and marginalized is growing

Catholic Church
Assumptions and resumptions are roadblocks
Franciscans are called to a respectful approach to people
Choose to attract rather than winning!
Dialogue without argument
Attitude and perspective takes regular conversion

Share Faith by Life & Work
Rebuilding the Church – Evangelization
Bringing the Good News to All

Evangelii Nuntiandi – Pope Paul VI

- Variety of Elements:
  - Renewal of Humanity
  - Witness
  - Explicit proclamation
  - Inner adherence
  - Entry into the community
  - Acceptance of signs
  - Apostolic initiative

Rule #19

- Messengers of Perfect Joy in every circumstance strive to bring joy & hope to others
- Local fraternity should be a privileged place to develop a sense of Church & the Franciscan vocation (we are all a work in progress)
- The “meat” is the life we live
- Live the Gospel – Love One Another!