

# Bearers of Peace

Franciscan Journey  
Chapter 27

By Lester Bach OFM Cap

*Fly little bird over all borders,  
Over barbed wire and minefield,  
fly and sing everywhere a song of peace*



Rule 19 –  
Peace is the  
work of justice  
& the fruit of  
reconciliation  
& of fraternal  
love

Bearers of Peace must be built up unceasingly



Messengers of Perfect Joy in every circumstance

They strive to bring joy & hope to everyone



They must seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony

Through direct dialogue

Trusting in the presence of  
the divine seed in  
everyone

And in the transforming  
power of love & pardon

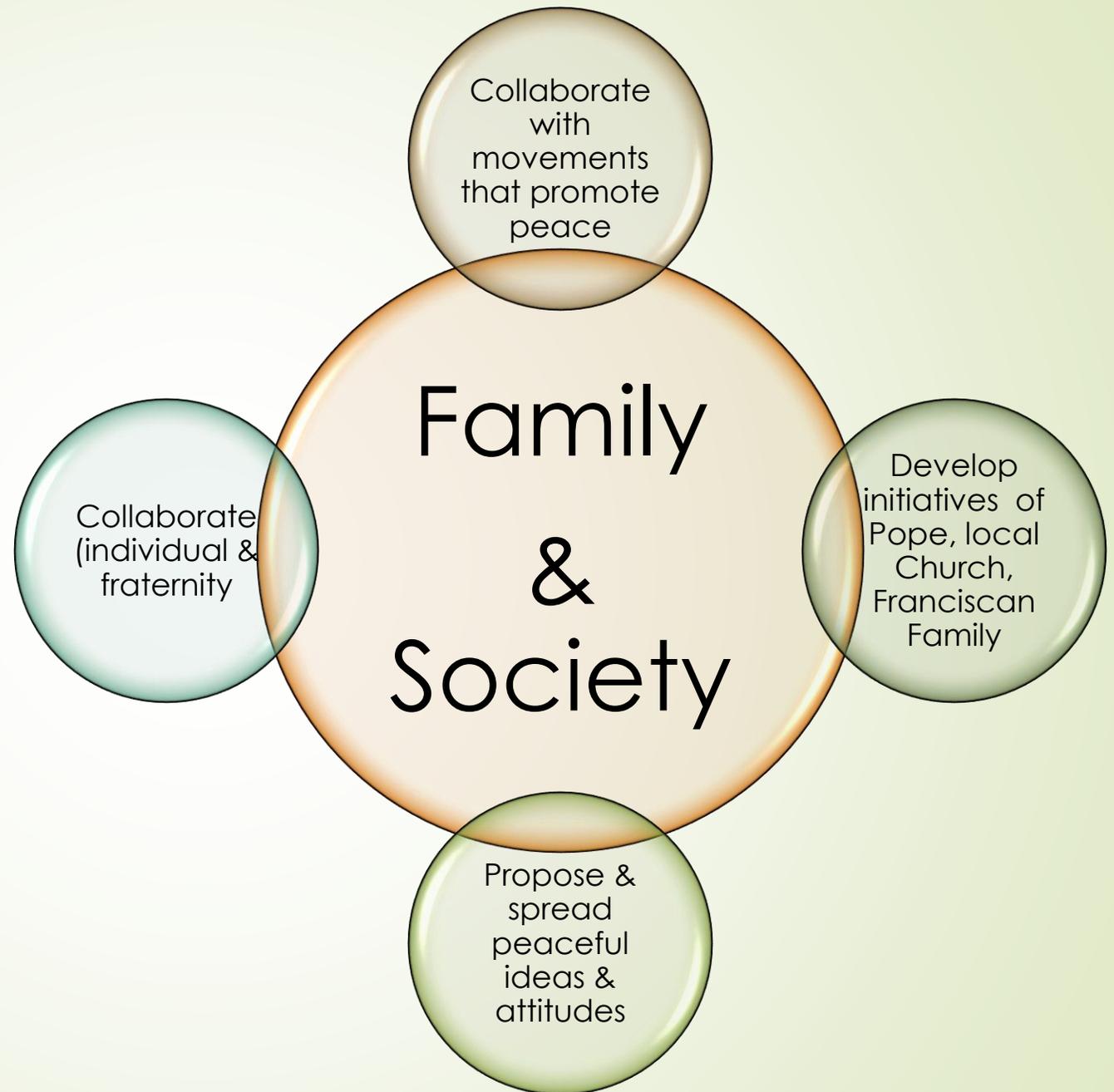


# Resurrection of Christ – *True Meaning of Sister Death*

Serenely tend toward the  
ultimate encounter with  
the Father



## Rule 19 – Bearers of Peace



# Personal & National Right to Defense

Respect the choice of those who, because of  
conscientious objections, refuse to bear arms



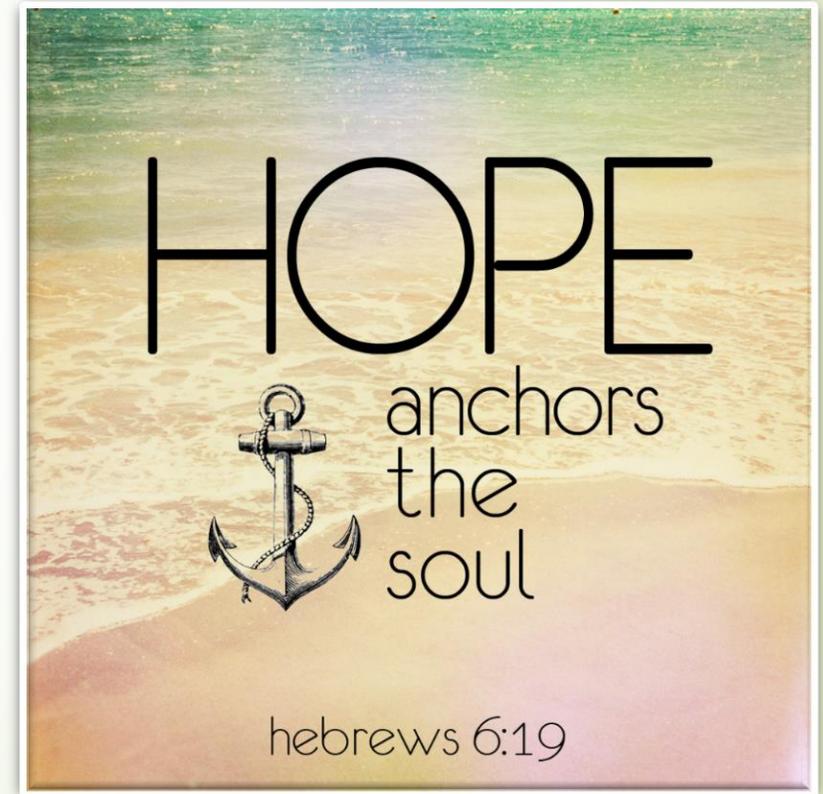
# LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

## Make a Last Will & Testament

To preserved peace in a family

# Even in Suffering...Confidence & Joy

- Experience of Fatherhood of God
- Invincible faith of rising with Christ to eternal life
- Experience of being able to meet & praise the Creator in the universal fraternity of all creatures
- Franciscans affirm their hope & joy in living
- Make contributions to counter the widespread distress & pessimism, preparing a better future





## In the Fraternity – Atmosphere of Joy & Faith

- Promote mutual understanding & encourage one another
- Brothers & Sisters, progressing in age should accept illnesses and difficulties to give deeper understanding of life
- We all go forth into eternal life as the “Communion of Saints”
- Sister Death is a passage to the Father – prepare in serenity (*constitution-article 27.1m 27.2*)

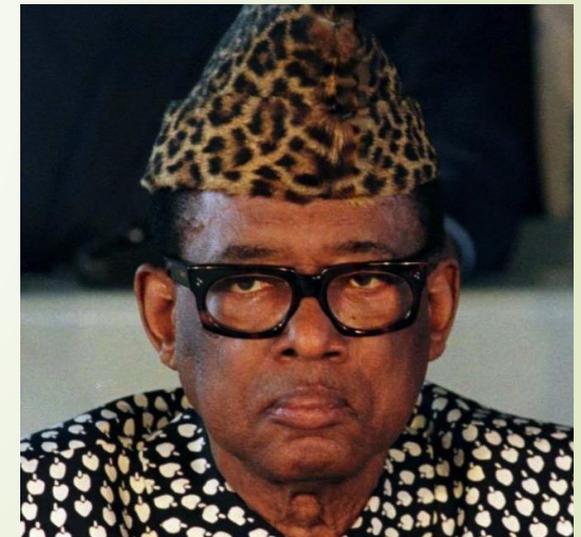
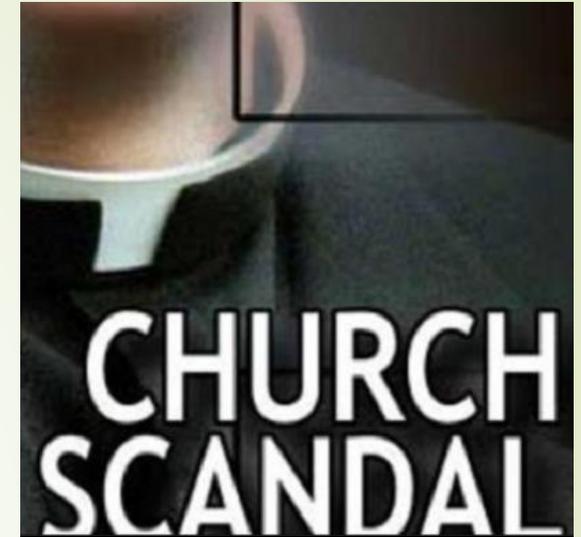
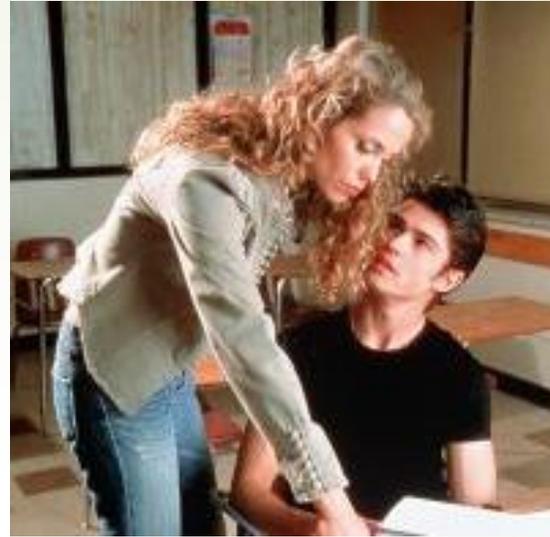


# PEACE – not easy to achieve

- Nations at Wars – serious consequences on individuals, families & property
- Violence in cities & neighborhoods – power struggles, fear
- Families – violence of absence, non-caring attitudes
- Many things in world kill spirit of hope and bring despair
- Many are ashamed of themselves because of treatment in homes or society that is dysfunctional.

# PEACE – Difficult with out Trust & Respect

- ▶ Church suffers from people in authority abusing the young
- ▶ Politicians abuse trust & allow corruption
- ▶ Makes it difficult to trust teachers, police public officials & others.



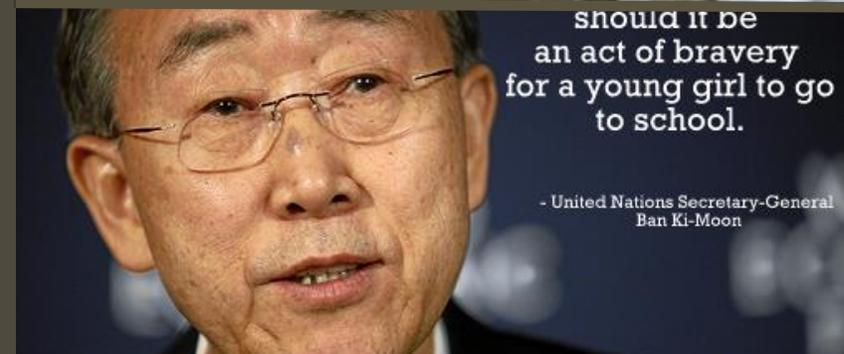
# OFS Rules – Work of Justice & Effect of Charity

- ▶ Respect for & development of human life require peace
- ▶ More than absence of war, not limited to maintaining a balance of powers
- ▶ Must safeguard the goods of people, free communication, respect for dignity of persons
- ▶ Peace is “tranquility of order” (St. Augustine, De Civ. Dei, 19, 13, I:PL, 42, 640)



ON INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT,  
RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS,  
THE PROTECTION OF CREATION."

DOPE FRANGIS



should it be  
an act of bravery  
for a young girl to go  
to school.

- United Nations Secretary-General  
Ban Ki-Moon



Create a society where  
relationships are more  
important than wealth &  
power

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Respect for Dignity of people

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Develop Processes for  
reconciliation

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Change Hearts & Minds

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Forgiveness

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Develop Jobs & Wages

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Dialogue instead of violence





Rule 19: We should seek out ways of unity & harmony through dialogue

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Trust in Divine Seed in every person – imagine of Christ

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Franciscan spirit of Peace is our readiness to recognize the transforming power of love & pardon

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Feelings of animosity, anger, hatred, & “getting even” can overwhelm people/nations

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It take TIME to tame these feelings

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Clinging to them, makes us controlled by them – We are NOT free

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Allowing transforming power of love & pardon to enter, moves us to freedom

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Creates a place of peace for others

# Gospel to Life

- ▶ Do not judge – you will not be judged
- ▶ Do not condemn – you will not be condemn
- ▶ Forgive – you will be forgiven
- ▶ Give – it will be given to you

*"Do not judge others  
and God will not judge you.  
Do not condemn others  
and God will not condemn you.  
Forgive others and God will forgive you.  
Give to others and God will give to you."*

*- Luke 6: 37-38*

# JOY – Mission & Challenges

Franciscans are Messengers  
of Perfect Joy in every  
circumstance

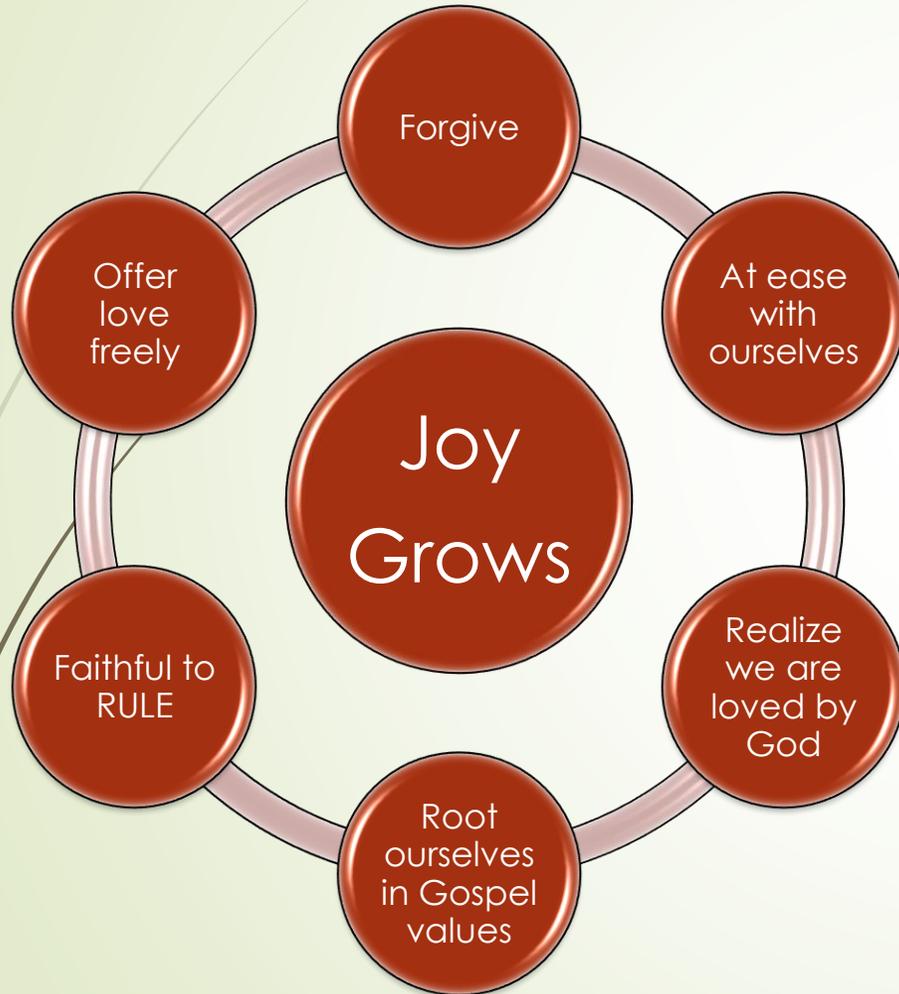
Joy is connected with a  
peaceful spirit, allowing us to  
see God-at-work in our lives –  
a sense that we are cared for  
and loved

We are loved by God – **no  
matter how poorly we  
respond to God's love**

Inner sense of peacefulness  
that is partner with joy



# Joy Comes When Trust in God



- Profession invites us to give whether there is recognition or not
- Seek positive solutions
- Collaborate & reconcile in doing good
- Joy comes when we view wonders of creation – the smile of a baby



# Hope – Fear not, for God is with you

- ▶ Hope is another expression of the wonder of being in God's hands
- ▶ Hope, like faith & charity, relies on the gracious love of God
- ▶ Hope relies on God's faithfulness of his promises – his covenant
- ▶ Scripture points out the source of Hope
- ▶ Hope gives us strength & nourishes us

Hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Romans 8:24-25

# Sister Death ~ Resurrection

- Sister Death invites death to “pass over” to resurrection – gives us HOPE
- Belief in the Resurrection is a matter of faith
- Mary Magdala gives witness to the empty tomb
- Disciples witnessed the Risen Christ
- The Ascension reveals Christs’ return to the Father





AT THE ELEVATION OF THE CHALICE

# Death is not the end

- Jesus' passion, death and resurrection – meaning of His life – touches all human life & death
- Death is a doorway to a new life accompanied by Sister Death
- Fulfills our trust in a Loving God
- Assurance that God is with us in pain & suffering
- With the Trinity, we offer the challenges of life in the chalice that makes it redemptive in its union with Jesus

# Redemptive Power of Suffering

- ▶ Jesus bore the full weight of evil & removed its power over us
- ▶ By grace, we unite our pain to His redemptive power
- ▶ Franciscans deal with suffering with wisdom and faith
- ▶ Death is passage way to new life
- ▶ With faith & love, serenely deal with coming of Sister Death

