Servant Leadership Franciscan Journey Chapter 29

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Rule 21 - Fraternity animated by Council & Minister

- Office of minister or councilor is a fraternal service,
- A commitment to hold oneself available & responsible in relation to each brother & sister
- And to the fraternity so that each one will realize his/her own vocation
- Each fraternity will be a true community, ecclesial Franciscan
- Actively present in the Church & in society

Elected by Professed

Service lasts for a period of time

Council & Minister

Guided by Constitutions

Willing Spirit

Duty of Responsibility to each member & Community
Servant Leaders …

- Must be perpetually professed
- Convinced of validity of Franciscan evangelical way of life
- Attentive to the life of the Church & of society
- Have a broad & encompassing vision
- Be open to dialogue
- Be ready to give & receive help & collaboration
Leaders – should...

- See to the spiritual & technical preparation & animation of meetings
- Seek to inspire life & soul by their own witness
- Suggest appropriate means for development of apostolic activities
- See that decisions made will be carried out
- Promote collaboration among brothers & sisters (Constitutions – article 31.1, 31.2, 31.3, 31.4)
Ministers & Council

- Live & foster the spirit & reality of communion
  - Among brother & sisters
  - Among various fraternities
  - Between them and the Franciscan family
- Cherish peace, reconciliation in & around the fraternity
- Rule 21 – Lead is temporary – be prepared to serve & relinquish the offices (Constitution – art. 32.1, 32.2)
Fraternities of the Order – Guide & Co-ordinate

- Promote personality & capacity of -
  - Individuals / Fraternities
- Respect -
  - Plurality of expression of Franciscan ideal & cultural variety
Councils of Higher Levels –

- Should not do what can be adequately carried out by local fraternity or council of lower level
- Supports councils at lower levels
- Respect & promote their vitality so that they can do their duties properly
- Local fraternities and councils should commit themselves to carry out decisions of the international & other higher level councils – to implement programs, adapting them when necessary (Constitution – article 33.1, 33.2)
Sharing Interests, needs, choices

- Where the situation and needs of members require it – sections or groups may be established within a fraternity under the guidance of the council.
- However - firmly remaining faithful to requirements which arise from membership in the one fraternity.
- National statutes may establish criteria suitable for the formation & functioning of these sections or groups (Constitutions – article 34).
Leaders

- Issues of leadership are addressed in constitutions & statutes
- Check job descriptions (Constitutions-articles 49-52)
- Competence is important
- Genuine servant leaders use empowering words such as - “Thank you” and “What do you think?”
- Leadership programs – training programs should be on-going
- Workshops are helpful to fraternity life
- Creativity - new ways of accomplishing a task is a gift for the OFS
Spirit of a Leader

- The spirit of the servant leader is like that of Christ at the Last Supper – washing the feet of the disciples
- Does not use power or authority to lead
- Christ modeled how to lead by being a servant
- Power or authority is used to common good, not for personal purposes or needs
As Franciscan Spirit Grows - So does Loving Service

- Authority of office and power of the council in OFS is real
- Power & authority are gifts from God use them to serve others in fraternity and in life beyond the fraternity
- Power of the Council possesses the authority/power to serve the membership
- Elections in fraternity do not confer the power to do what s/he wants
- It is serve the brothers & sisters and implement the decisions of the fraternity & council
- Animate & Guide – not Command & prescribe

The world tells us to seek success, power and money; God tells us to seek humility, service and love.

Pope Francis
Principle of Subsidiarity

- Councils are expected to handle fraternity issues that arise at their level – must check constitutions & statutes
- If level of authority is unable to handle the situation - can appeal to higher level
- Constrictions or National Statutes offer direction for dealing with ordinary issues within fraternity life
Leaders help to develop the vision of Group’s Mission

- Vision – requires clarity & dialogue & input from group
- Vision bring together a symphony of ideas & attitudes
- Everyone needs to be affected by vision
- Can inspire, motivate, stretch & challenge, broaden & deepen purpose
- Clear vision helps leaders make practical decisions about Franciscan life – both individually & as a fraternity
- Fraternity gradually become attuned to decisions that clearly give life to the vision
Leaders must be flexible

- Some decisions, made with vision in mind, can move the group towards embracing & giving flesh to the vision
- Constantly evaluate decisions to be sure that they support the vision – adjust & refine decisions if needed
- Assemblies or Chapters discuss questions regarding its own life & organization – every 3 years (Constitutions – article 49.2)
Approach to Issues

- Seek “both/and” solutions, not “either/or”
- Seek where differing ideas are joined in a beneficial manner to the fraternity
- Seek involvement of fraternity members with special skills
- Invite whole fraternity into well-prepared dialogue about issues or other needs that surface in fraternity
- Open dialogue gives ownership
Possible Issue for Regional Council

- Small local fraternity unable to develop slate of nominees for their council
- Regional Spiritual Assistant & another Regional Council member visit and dialogue with the fraternity – offer alternatives, encourage them to decide on alternative that fits their situation
- Regional council then approves the alternative
- If a fraternity is deactivated or joins another fraternity – it is good to have a ritual to celebrate the change
- Regional & local councils develop ways to continue communication and support with each other
- Continue Franciscan life in the life of the new fraternity
Profession in OFS ultimately involves individual in leadership roles

- Accepting nominations to an office on the council should happen only after at least 3 years of experience in the fraternity life
- Each member contributes to the fraternity
- Newly professed use their skills on committees or other ministries – then when nominated they will be competent for their role