The Franciscan Journey
Chapter 18

Being Faithful

By Lester Bach OFM Cap
Rule 10 – With Jesus, seek to know and do the Will of the Father

- In the Gospels, Jesus summoned others to accept, live and share the Kingdom of God.
- The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God was fundamental to Jesus’ preaching.
- The Kingdom of God is HIS presence among – calling all to a new way of life as individuals and community.
- It is the GOOD NEWS that results in love, justice, and mercy for the whole world.
- Kingdom of God is realized partially on earth and fully in heaven.
- We enter this Kingdom through faith in Christ, baptismal initiation into the Church and life in communion with all her members.
All Christians Called to Build the Kingdom of God

- Follow Rule of 1978, vocation to OFS family – better our knowledge of this the better our contribution
- Obedience – actively listening, self-surrender, God's Word
- Prayer – listen to God's Word in heart & mind, Open to the call of the Holy Spirit
- Friends – competent friends help us reach decisions about God's desire for us - "seeing from the outside" - can give us courage to take difficult steps
- Community – people who share common vision, ministry or calling – help us make important decisions, choices. Common scriptural reflection may shed light on what we are called to do
All Christians Called to Build the Kingdom of God

**Personal experiences** – good/bad can influence our decisions. Awareness of others & their needs develop within us, fresh ideas influence decisions.

**Signs of the times** - sensitive spirit develops, alerts us to God at Work within us, the Church, the World. An honest look at the signs of the times invites creative and critical thinking in order to maintain a Franciscan Spirit.
Spiritual Direction

- Sharing the melody of our inner life with a qualified spiritual director can assist in knowing God's desire for us.
- Revealing ourselves to someone we trust gives us courage to deal with personal qualities that either need enhancement or deletion...or somewhere in between
- Spiritual Directors are not answer machines - You are still in charge of your life
- Spiritual directors – offer alternatives, suggestions, or clarifications that recommend fresh choices

Discovering What God Desires of You

**KEY** – Willingness to use the help that is available & common sense

*We can be united to the Redemptive obedience of Jesus (RULE #10)*
Reflecting the Gospels

- Grow accustomed to making choices that reflect Gospel values
- We develop ordinary & common sense ways of responding to God
- Gospel values & ideas influence our decisions
- Become part of our personal identity
- Identity as Franciscans grow – influence daily lives
Fulfilling Our Vocation:
RULE 10 – Witness to the Poor & Crucified Christ

- No matter what our life circumstances be faithful to the duties of life -
- Requires Personal Reflection – put things in perspective to develop the Franciscan Spirit
- Even in difficulties & persecution
- Need a vibrant fraternity life to keep us on course – not alone
- Holy Spirit & community support
Personal Conversions – Personal Honesty

- Difficulties & Persecution - some brought on by ourselves
- Negative attitudes – fertile soil for conflict
- Stubborn, unfeeling perspectives - we are responsible
- Domineering & arrogance - lose friends in our attempts at creeping infallibility
When We Always Seek Peace – you will not go unnoticed

- Caring for the Poor
- Forgiving Enemies
- Praying for those who persecute you
- Opening up to dialogue with those who disagree with you
- Showing concern for the lonely & marginalize
- Giving life and flesh to the Beatitudes
- Showing Integrity – through way of life
- Seeking justice
- Fulfilling duties required by our way of life

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Personal Integrity as Franciscans
Witness to Christ in all aspects of our lives – influences others

- Those living in darkness – bring light
- Those who are isolated & marginalized – bring companionship
- The sick and lonely – bring compassion
- If people want to dance – dance with them
- If people want to sing – harmonize with them
- If they want to proclaim the wonders of God – join as a witness
In addition, let us produce worthy fruits of penance. Lk 3:8
And let us love our neighbors as ourselves. Mt 22:39
And if anyone does not want to love them as himself, let him at least not do them any harm, but let him do good.
Let whoever has received the power of judging others pass judgment with mercy, as they would wish to receive mercy from the Lord. For judgment will be without mercy for those who have not shown mercy.