

Formation Friday – December 17, 2021 (en español abajo)

Please share with your local fraternity (All three parts together will work well for fraternity ongoing formation at any time of year.)

During Advent we wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We know that he walked on this earth. We know that he is always with us in the Eucharist. But now, we wait for Him to come again.

For three weeks we will focus on the prayer that St. Francis prayed as he knelt before the Crucifix of San Damiano. Each part of it has significance during this time of waiting and conversion.

Most High,
glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart
and give me
true faith,
certain hope,
and perfect charity,
sense and knowledge,
Lord,
**that I may carry out
Your holy and true command.**

Part Three: Living the Charism

"...that I may carry out Your holy and true command."

CONSIDER:

+Our Rule: Article 2—*"The Secular Franciscan Order holds a special place in this family circle. It is an organic union of all Catholic fraternities scattered throughout the world and open to every group of the faithful. In these fraternities the brothers and sisters, led by the Spirit, strive for perfect charity in their own secular state. By their profession they pledge themselves to live the gospel in the manner of St. Francis by means of this rule approved by the Church."*

+Our Rule: Article 10—*"Uniting themselves to the redemptive obedience of Jesus, who placed his will into the Father's hands, let them faithfully fulfil the duties proper to their various circumstances of life¹⁷. Let them also follow the poor and crucified Christ, witness to him even in difficulties and persecutions¹⁸."*

+Our Rule: Article 14—*"Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively. Mindful that anyone "who follows Christ, the perfect man, becomes more of a man himself", let them exercise their responsibilities competently in Christian spirit of service²⁵"*

+Admonition XVII: The Humble Servant of God

¹*Blessed is that servant^{Mt 24:46} who no more exalts himself over the good the Lord says or does through him than over what He says or does through another.*

²*A person sins who wishes to receive more from his neighbor than what he wishes to give of himself to the Lord God."*

<https://franciscantradition.org/francis-of-assis-early-documents/the-saint/writings-of-francis/the-undated-writings/the-admonitions/150-fa-ed-1-page-134>

+ During Advent, we focus on how well we carry out what we are called to do in our lives as Secular Franciscans. Now is the time to ask ourselves how familiar we are with our Rule and with what we promised at Profession.

Questions for discussion or to answer in your journal

+As Franciscans, we are called to intensify our baptismal promises through our profession.

--What were the promises made for us at our Baptism?

--Which articles of our Rule present the greatest challenge to me?

--Do I read and pray some portion of Scripture each day? How do I carry out what I am being asked to do by Jesus in the Gospel?

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Durante el Adviento esperamos la venida de nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Sabemos que caminó sobre esta tierra. Sabemos que él está siempre con nosotros en la Eucaristía. Pero ahora, esperamos que Él regrese.

Durante tres semanas nos centraremos en la oración que rezó San Francisco mientras se arrodillaba ante el Crucifijo de San Damián. Cada parte tiene un significado durante este tiempo de espera y conversión.

Tercera parte: Vivir el carisma

"...para que cumpla tu santo y verdadero mandamiento."

Sumo, glorioso Dios,
ilumina las tinieblas de mi corazón
y dame fe recta,
esperanza cierta
y caridad perfecta,
sentido y conocimiento, Señor,
para que cumpla tu santo y verdadero mandamiento.

CONSIDERE:

+Nuestra regla: Artículo 2—*"En el seno de dicha familia, tiene un puesto peculiar la Orden Franciscana Seglar, la cual se configura como una unión orgánica de todas las fraternidades católicas esparcidas por el mundo entero y abiertas a todo grupo de fieles, en las cuales los hermanos y las hermanas, impulsados por el Espíritu a alcanzar la perfección de la caridad en su estado seglar, se comprometen con la Profesión a vivir el Evangelio a la manera de San Francisco con la ayuda de la presente Regla confirmada por la Iglesia⁵."*

+Nuestra regla: Artículo 10—*"Asociándose a la obediencia redentora de Jesús, que sometió su voluntad a la del Padre, cumplan fielmente las obligaciones propias de la condición de cada uno en las diversas circunstancias de la vida¹⁷, y sigan a Cristo, pobre y crucificado, testimoniándolo aún en las dificultades y persecuciones¹⁸."*

+Nuestra regla: Artículo 14—*"Llamados, juntamente con todos los hombres de buena voluntad, a construir un mundo más fraterno y evangélico para la edificación del reino de Dios, conscientes de que "quien sigue a Cristo, Hombre perfecto, se hace a sí mismo más hombre", cumplan con competencia las propias responsabilidades con espíritu cristiano de servicio²⁵."*

[Cap. XVII: Del humilde siervo de Dios]

+ Admonición XVII: *"¹Bienaventurado aquel siervo (Mt 24,46) que no se exalta más del bien que el Señor dice y obra por medio de él, que del que dice y obra por medio de otro. ²Peca el hombre que quiere recibir de su prójimo más de lo que él no quiere dar de sí al Señor Dios."*

<http://franciscanos.org/esfa/adm-ae.html>

+ Durante el Adviento, nos enfocamos en qué tan bien llevamos a cabo lo que estamos llamados a hacer en nuestras vidas como franciscanos seglares. Ahora es el momento de preguntarnos qué tan familiarizados estamos con nuestra Regla y con lo que prometimos en Profesión.

Preguntas para platicar o para responder en su diario

- + Como franciscanos, estamos llamados a intensificar nuestras promesas bautismales a través de nuestra profesión.
- ¿Cuáles fueron las promesas que nos hicieron en nuestro bautismo?
- ¿Qué artículos de nuestra Regla me presentan el mayor desafío?
- ¿Leo y oro alguna porción de las Escrituras todos los días? ¿Cómo llevo a cabo lo que Jesús me pide que haga en el Evangelio?

During Advent, we focus on preparing for the coming of Christ. Our Rule asks that we live the gospel each day. Now is the time to ask ourselves if we are “going from gospel to life and life to the gospel.” (Rule-Article 4)

Anne’s suggestions

Wake Up Call! - Francis’ conversions in preparation for embracing the incarnate Christ. Also Jesus’ first words at beginning of ministry. Mark 4 - Time is now, the Kingdom is at hand, REPENT and believe the good news.

Confronting our WICKED ways: Francis: Prayer of enlightenment. John the Baptist call to conversion.

Waiting for God: Mary, Elizabeth, Zechariah, Simeon, Anna. We, too, wait for the second coming. Also the wise men anticipating Christ

Advent and Mary: Annunciation: The troubling words of the Angel Gabriel, "Hail, full of Grace the Lord is with you. But she was greatly troubled in her mind what sort of greeting this might be."

The Humility of God in the Incarnation —

Advent and John the Baptist: "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.

Admonition 12 on accepting correction (conversion).

Humility: Admonition 7

Who are we seeking during Advent — a baby born 2000 years ago or Christ the King who was, who is, and who will be forever.

<https://franciscantradition.org/francis-of-assisi-early-documents/the-saint/writings-of-francis/the-prayer-before-the-crucifix/58-fa-ed-1-page-40>

Consider: *"...and give me true faith, certain hope, and perfect charity, sense and knowledge, Lord,"*

Our Rule: Article 19—*"Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon.*

Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others."

During Advent, we strive to imitate our Blessed Mother who brought joy and hope to the world through her "YES." Now is the time to ask ourselves if we are saying yes to what the Lord is asking of us and to what we promised at our Profession.

Consider: "...that I may carry out Your holy and true command."

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