



THE EARLY RULE 3

SESSION 6 –

PRAYER & FASTING

REVIEW – EARLY RULE

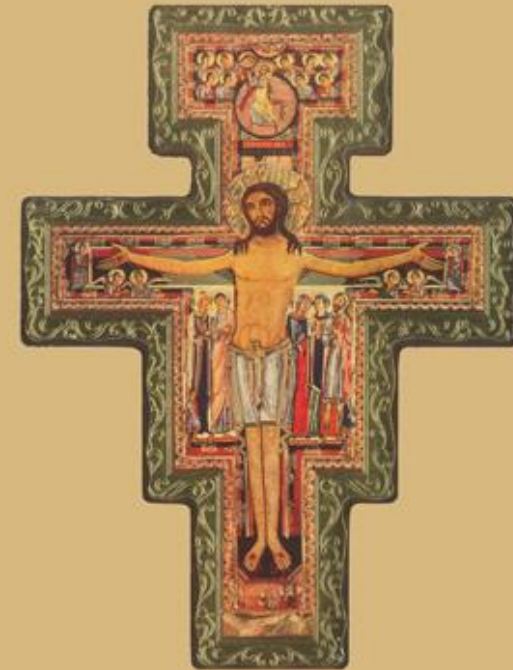
- CHAPTER 1 – BROTHERS PROPOSAL OF THEIR LIFE
- CHAPTER 2 – RECEPTION OF BROTHERS INTO THIS LIFE
- CHAPTER 3 – RHYTHM OF LIFE IN COMMUNITY



DIRECTION FOR BROTHERS ON PRAYER & FASTING, *ESPECIALLY LITURGICAL PRAYER, FASTING IN LITURGICAL SEASONS*

EARLY RULE 6 IS DIVIDED INTO 3 PARTS:

1. QUOTATIONS FROM GOSPELS, PRESENT JESUS, TEACHINGS
2. EXPLAINS HOW BROTHERS CLERICAL & LAY ARE TO PRAY THE DIVINE OFFICE /OR SUITABLE REPLACEMENT
3. DELINEATES THE FASTING SEASONS



Franciscan
Prayers

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER BEFORE READING

- WHERE HAVE YOU FOUND EXPERIENCES OF COMMUNAL PRAYER OR FASTING?
- WHAT HAVE YOU DISCOVERED BY PRAYING YOUR WAY THROUGH THE PSALMS IN THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS OR IN ANOTHER WAY?
- AS YOU HAVE COME TO KNOW ST. FRANCIS AS A MODEL FOR SPIRITUALITY, WHAT CONTRIBUTIONS HAS HE MADE TO THE WAY YOU PRAY?



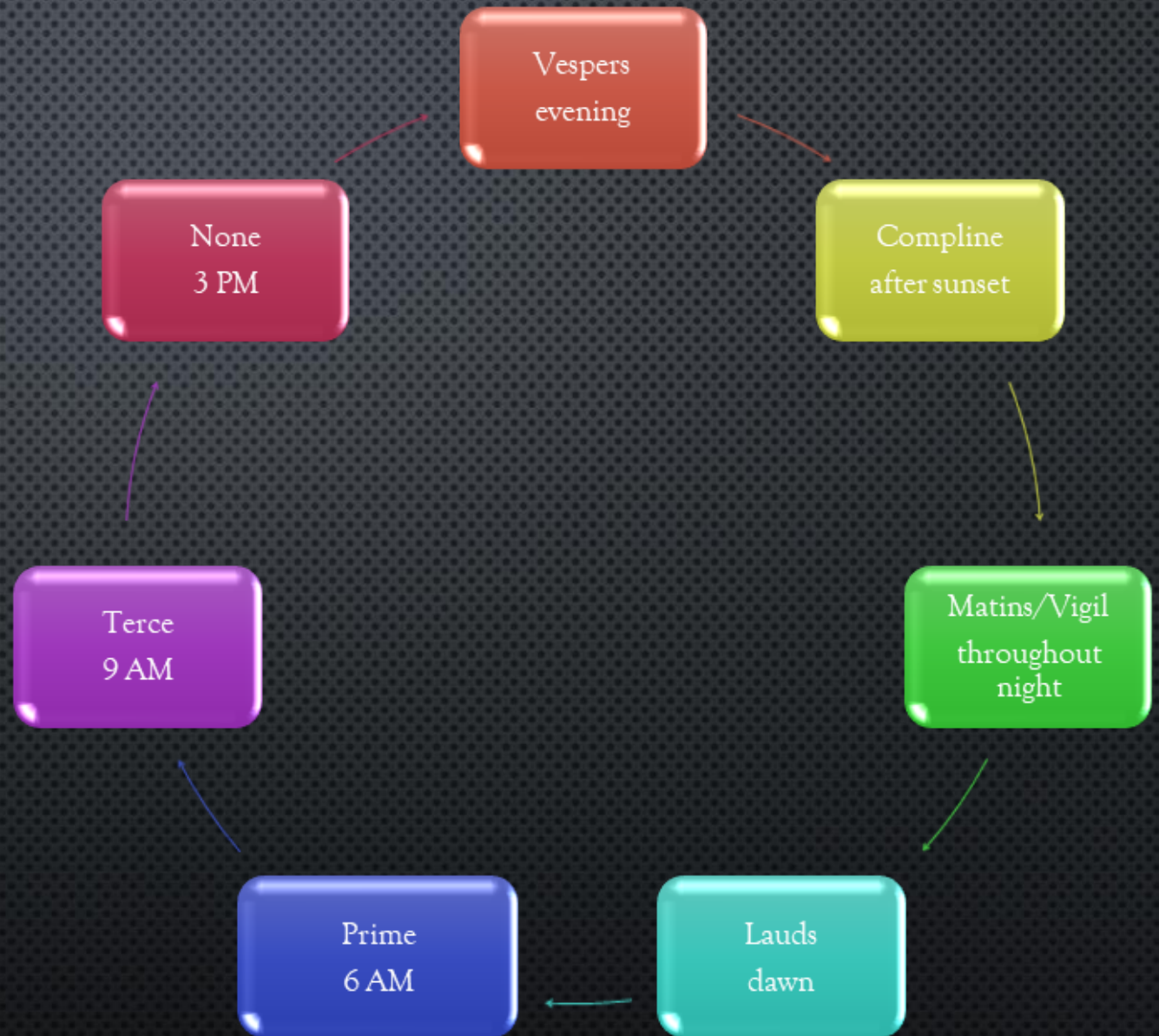


DIVINE OFFICE – LITURGY OF THE HOURS

- CENTRAL PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
- RECITATION OF PSALMS THROUGHOUT THE DAY WITH OTHER READINGS, HYMNS, ANTIPHONS AND RESPONSORIES IN CHANT FORM.
- IN THE WEST, GAVE RISE TO GREGORIAN CHANT
- HAS ROOTS IN JUDAISM.
- ST BENEDICT OF NURSIA DEVELOPED PATTERN OF PRAYING ALL 150 PSALMS EACH WEEK – 8 TIMES A DAY

St. Benedict's monks spread this practice

- Was adopted for clerics in western church
- Monasteries – monks could who could read became central action of their lives – along with Mass which was said after Terce



OFFICE PRAYED IN LATIN – BREVIARIES (BOOKS)

- PRINTING PRESS NOT YET DEVELOPED
- USED SHEEPSKIN, OR VELLUM
- BOOK REQUIRED LIFE OF ANIMAL OR WHOLE FLOCK – VERY COSTLY
- FRANCIS ALLOWED CLERICS THE COST OF THE NEEDED BOOKS TO SING THE OFFICE
- BROTHERS WHO COULD READ ABLE TO KEEP PSALTER
- ILLITERATE BROTHERS COULD SING PSALMS, RECITE CREED, OUR FATHER AND THE GLORY BE



HOW EACH GROUP OF BROTHERS PRAYED

Clerics

- Divine Office (LOH)
- Ecclesial Books for Mass & Sacraments
- Psalter

Lay Literal Brothers

- Divine Office (LOH)
- Psalter

Lay Illiterate Brothers

- NO BOOKS – Recite Memorized Prayers daily
- Recite - 8 Creeds, 76 Our Fathers, 8 Glory Bes,
- Recite for deceased brothers - 3 Our Fathers, & Eternal Rest



After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?” He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.” Mark 9:28-29



RULE 3 – MORE DETAILED

- 1. PRAYER & FASTING – JESUS' TEACHING: MARK 9:8, MATTHEW 6:16
- 2. PRAYER - BROTHERS' RHYTHM OF LIFE OF PRAYER
- 3. FASTING – TURN FROM SIN TO GOD, DRIVING OUT DEMONS, RELATES TO EXORCISM

ALL BROTHERS FAST THROUGHOUT THE LITURGICAL YEAR



- BROTHERS FASTED 5-6 MONTHS A YEAR
- IN ANTICIPATION OF JESUS'S BIRTH AND RESURRECTION
- LUKE 10:8



All Regular
days of fasting
– Fridays, etc.

January 6 –
March or April

All Saints to
Nativity
Nov 1- Dec 21



PRAYER & FASTING – POWER TO CONVERT

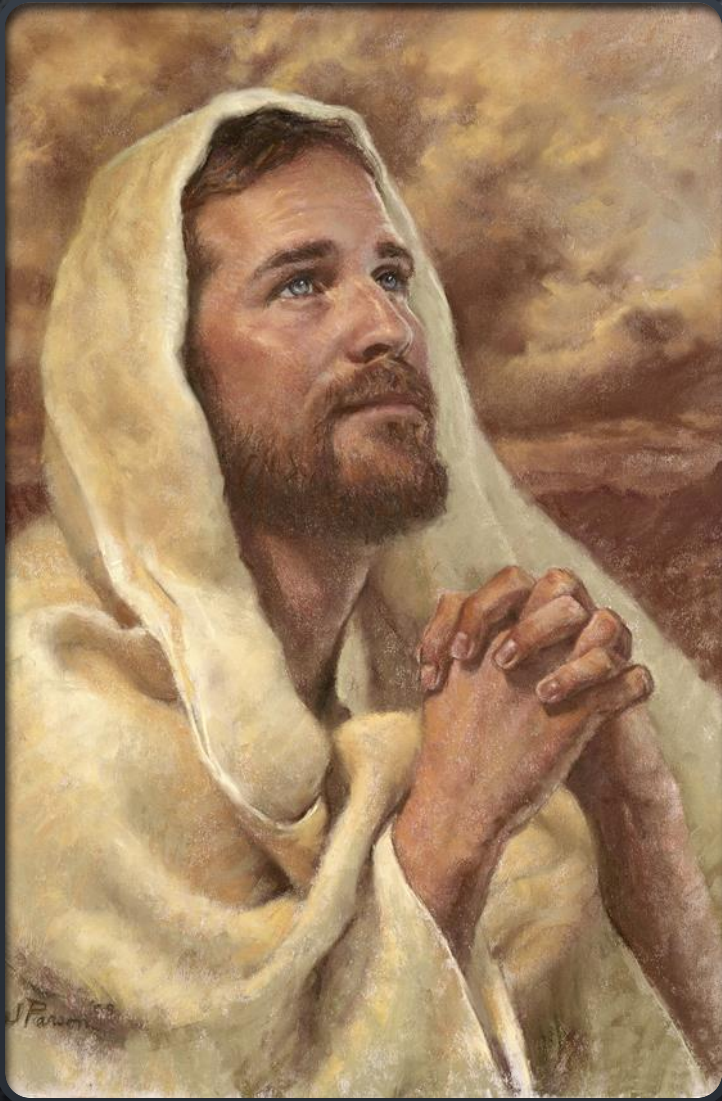
- **BY PRAYER BROTHERS WOULD BE ABLE TO –**
- LISTEN & SPEAK,
- HEAR VOICE OF GOD, EACH OTHER & THEIR LEADER
- ESTABLISHED BROTHERS IN THEIR CONVERSION
- LAY FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY LIFE
- DRIVES OUT EVIL SPIRITS OF DIVISION

CHAPTER 3

LITURGICAL LIFE OF THE BROTHERS

- LITURGICAL RHYTHM
- DEED (ACT) OF PRAYING THE DIVINE OFFICE-
 - FOLLOWED THE CUSTOM OF LOCAL CHURCH JOINED IN WITH LOCAL CLERIC IN PRAYING DIVINE OFFICE
- BASED UPON MONASTIC LIFE, BECAME KNOWN AS THE HOURS
- BUT ACTUALLY CAME FROM JEWS AND EARLY CHRISTIANS



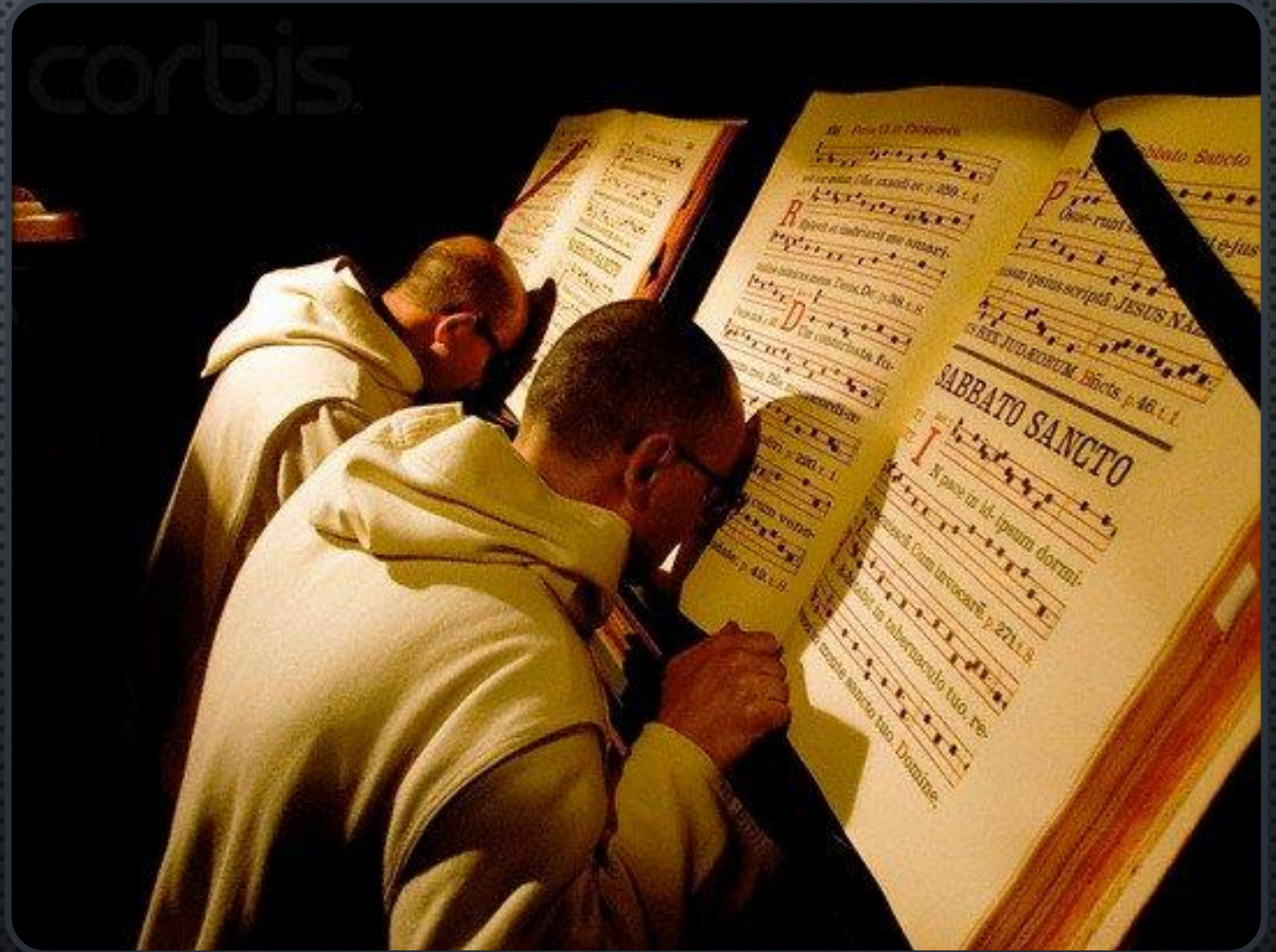


GOSPEL LIFE OF GIVING ALL TO THE POOR DEMANDS DAILY STRUCTURED PRAYER

- DEED (ACT) OF PRAYER FOLLOWS THE PRAYERS THAT JESUS PRAYED – PSALMS AND THE OUR FATHER
- DIVINE OFFICE WAS MODIFIED ACCORDING TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BROTHERS.

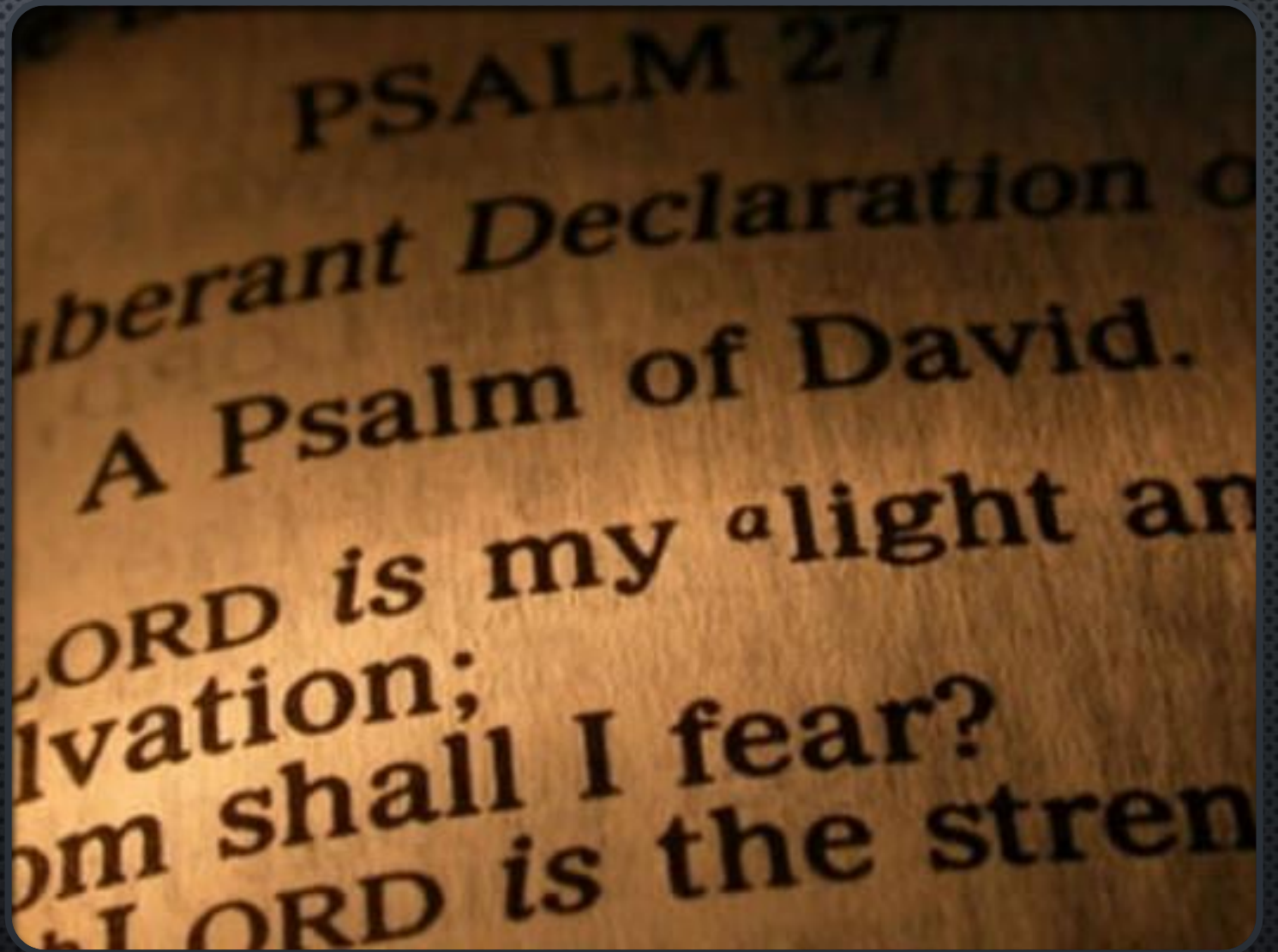
JOY OF THE GOSPEL – BEAUTY OF THE LITURGY

- CHURCH EVANGELIZES AND WITNESSES
- WE HEAR AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL
- SHARED PSALM PRAYERS SO AS NOT TO ISOLATE BROTHERS
- ESSENTIAL FOR THE RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR A SENSE OF THE MYSTICAL
- AVOIDANCE OF INDIVIDUALISTIC DEVOTION BASED UPON PRIVATE REVELATIONS, ESPECIALLY THOSE NOT CORRESPONDING TO POPULAR PIETY



DIVINE OFFICE - PSALMS

- PRAISE & THANKSGIVING
- RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER
- REINFORCES PERSONAL BONDS
- SPIRITUAL DESERTS OF OUR CITIES



QUESTIONS

- HOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE ER'S (EARLY RULE) ASSOCIATION OF PRAYER WITH EXORCISM?
- WHAT IS THE VALUE OF RITUALIZING PRAYER AND FASTING?
- WHY WOULD FRANCIS ALLOW A PSALTER TO BE KEPT BY A LITERATE BROTHER GIVEN ITS COSTLINESS?

