

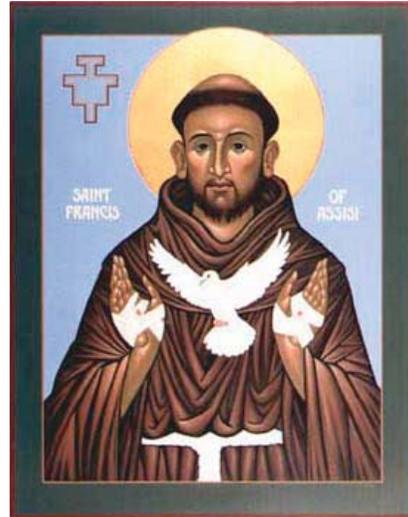


# RECOLLECTION GUIDE

Franciscan Province of San Pedro Bautista-Philippines

NOVEMBER 2013

## SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI: THE NEW EVANGELIZER



### OPENING SONG

#### RESTORE MY CHURCH

Restore my Church is God's command, he speaks to me and you.  
And like St. Francis we must go to build and to renew.  
And make the ancient edifice a modern structure too  
Once more to communicate the word for ever new.

The body is God's Temple, let the heart the altar be.  
Our love the votive lamp that burns for God eternally.  
We must adorn the sanctuary with faith and hope and love.  
The order of tranquility that comes from God above.

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Illumine the interior\_ with holy works and prayer  
So that the light may shine and draw all men everywhere.  
Sing joyful songs of love and praise but make our actions grow,  
imitating Jesus Christ as in his steps we walk.

Let's return like Francis\_ to the gospel as our way.  
Have the Scriptures be the light that brightens every day.  
We must make the Gos-pel the rule to follow by.  
Obedient to the word of God until the day we die.

**Opening Prayer:**  
*(Prayer before the crucifix)*



### GOSPEL READING

*Matthew 28, 16-20*

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

**Sharing:**  
*(Please take time)*

- For friar priests, what do you preach?
- As friars-in-mission, what are the concrete evangelizing activities in your areas of apostolate, aside from delivering sermons?

- As friars, are you involved in the ongoing formation of your parishioners/students? Do you teach them how to live the gospel vis a vis “the signs of the times?” or JPIC issues?

- Do you make the people aware of the recent papal or church’s documents like “Verbum Domini,” “The Light of Faith,” etc.?



## FRANCISCAN READINGS

In every sermon you give, remind people about penance and that no one can be saved unless he receives the most holy Body and Blood of the Lord. When it is sacrificed on the altar by a priest and carried anywhere, let all peoples praise, glorify and honor on bended knee the Lord God living and true. May you announce and preach His praise to all nations in such a way that praise and thanks may always be given to the all-powerful God by all people throughout the world at every hour and whenever bells are rung. *(The First Letter to the Custodians 6-8)*

Let no brother preach contrary to the rite and practice of the Church or without the permission of his minister. Let the minister be careful of granting it without discernment to anyone. Let all the brothers, however, preach by their deeds. No minister or preacher may make a ministry of the brothers or the office of preaching his own, but, when he is told, let him set it aside without objection.

In the love that is God, therefore, I beg all my brothers- those who preach, pray, or work, cleric or lay- to strive to humble themselves in everything, not to boast or delight in themselves or inwardly exalt themselves because of the good words and deeds or, for that matter, because of any good that God sometimes says or does or works in and through them, in keeping with what the Lord says: Do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you. We may know with certainty that nothing belongs to us except our vices and sins. We must rejoice, instead, when we fall into various trials and, in this world, suffer every

kind of anguish or distress of soul and body for the sake of eternal life. *(Regula non Bullata 17)*

### Sharing:

- Do your evangelizing activities lead people to conversion and transformation?
- Does your guardian know where you are preaching?



## CVM

By living and proclaiming the Gospel in the cultural patterns of the people we live with and serve and by re-ponding to the missionary dimension of our Franciscan calling inter gentes and ad gentes (Mission 4).

Living the Gospel is the best method of evangelization. Proclamation of the Gospel is our mission. We fail in our mission if we don’t proclaim the Gospel. The proclamation of the Gospel is non-negotiable for a Christian missionary. He is not silent about Christ, his values, the sacraments and his teachings on the Kingdom of God.

We respect the culture of the people. We learn the cultural patterns of the people, when we enter into their lives. When we are truly immersed with them, we learn how they enjoy life, how they grieve, how they struggle in the midst of conflicts and crisis, how they solve their problems. We learn how to appreciate their history, myths and legends. We also learn to appreciate their food, music, dance and other forms of arts.

We evangelize them in the manner which they understand. We use their language, vocabularies, expressions and symbols to communicate God’s Word to them.

## Sharing:

- Do you try to learn the language of your people?
- Are you appreciative of their artistic expressions?
- Can you communicate with the youth?

**CHURCH**

*Saint Francis of Assisi* – we learn from Thomas of Celano – “upon hearing that the disciples of Christ must possess neither gold, nor silver nor money, nor carry a bag, nor bread, nor a staff for the journey, nor sandals nor two tunics ... exulting in the Holy Spirit, immediately cried out: ‘This is what I want, this is what I ask for, this I long to do with all my heart!’”. *Saint Clare of Assisi* shared fully in the experience of Saint Francis: “The form of life of the Order of Poor Sisters – she writes – is this: to observe the holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ”. (*Verbum Domini, Part I*)

Pope John Paul II, taking up the prophetic words of Pope Paul VI in the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, had in a variety of ways reminded the faithful of the need for a new missionary season for the entire people of God. At the dawn of the third millennium not only are there still many peoples who have not come to know the Good News, but also a great many Christians who need to have the word of God once more persuasively proclaimed to them, so that they can concretely experience the power of the Gospel. Many of our brothers and sisters are “baptized, but insufficiently evangelized”. In a number of cases, nations once rich in faith and in vocations are losing their identity under the influence of a secularized culture. The need for a new evangelization must be valiantly reaffirmed, in the certainty that God’s word is effective. The Church, sure of her Lord’s fidelity, never tires of proclaiming the good news of the Gospel and invites all Christians to discover anew the attraction of following Christ. (*Verbum Domini, 96*)

## Sharing:

- What are your activities/programs to evangelize the baptized?
- What are your activities/programs to transform your intoxicated or Viva La Virjen Church to a committed Church along BEC line?
  - intoxicated = only interested in the receiving the Holy Eucharist, not in the Word of God;
  - “Viva La Virjen” = so much interest in the images of saints (vesting, processions, pilgrimages and exhibits , never in the Word of God
  - Committed = pastoral activities inspired by the Word of God (*Verbum Domini* 110)
- Do you work with other Christian religions in your locality?

**INTERCESSION***Leader:*

Let us pray to the heavenly Father who wills that all men and men of our times encounter Jesus through his word and sacrament.

Lord, we feel the need to revive a faith that risks eclipse in cultural contexts that hinders its taking root in persons and its presence in society, help us to revive that faith. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, the New Evangelization is not about starting again, but entering into the long path of proclaiming the Gospel, give us the

apostolic courage of Paul, that we may also say, “Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!” (1 Corinthians 9:16). Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, changing societies and cultures call us to something new, help us to live our communitarian experience of faith in a renewed way and to proclaim it through an evangelization that is “new in its ardor, in its methods, in its expressions” (John Paul II). Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, the new evangelization is an evangelization that is directed “principally at those who, though baptized, have drifted away from the Church and live without reference to the Christian life, inspire us to make these people encounter the Lord, who alone fills our existence with deep meaning and peace and favor the rediscovery of the faith, which brings joy and hope to personal, family and social life”. Let us prayer to the Lord. *(Based on Message of the Synod of Bishops 2012, #2)*



## FINAL PRAYER

### Our Father:

Heavenly Father, our fraternity is missionary and shares in the mission of the Church, following the example of St. Francis and the desire he expressed in the Rule. Help us therefore, to be conscious of our responsibility to play our part in missionary work.

The reason why we exist as an Order is to bring the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ among peoples or groups where that joyful News has never been heard, and to assist those who have accepted the Gospel in building up the particular Church.

Help us also to employ all modern means of evangelization so as

to speed up our work as demanded by the Church of today in the New Evangelization. All these we ask you through Christ our Lord. Amen. (based on GGCC 116-117)



## FINAL SONG

### GO TELL EVERYONE

God's Spirit is in my heart  
He has called me and set me apart

This is what I have to do, what I have to do.

He's sent me to give the good news to the poor  
Tell pris'ners that they are pris'ners no more  
Tell blind people that they can see  
And set the downtrodden free.  
And go tell everyone the news that the kingdom  
of God has come. And go, tell everyone the news  
that God's kingdom has come.

Just as the Father sent me, so I'm sending you out to be  
My witness throughout the world, the whole of the world.