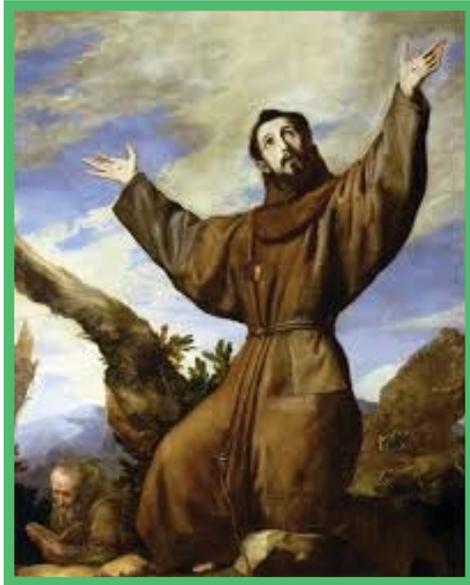




RECOLLECTION GUIDE

Franciscan Province of San Pedro Bautista-Philippines

OCTOBER 2013



SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI: THE POVERELLO



OPENING SONG

COME BUILD MY CHURCH

Come build my church, it's falling to ruin.
That's what the Father tells me to do. Give stones and mortar,
Let's build together this lowly house of God.

To every town and village and valley, preach what the good Lord

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has done for us
Tell of his mercy sing of his love.
Let man glorify his name
Be poor in spirit and in your living.
Live like the larks and doves up above.
Care not for what this world can provide us.
Trust in God's loving care
Praised be the Lord
Praised be the Lord
Praised be the Lord, O my soul
O praise the Lord, praise the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER

Prayer before the Crucifix
Text: St. Francis of Assisi

Most High, Glorious God
Illumine the darkness of my heart. Give me a right faith, a certain
hope and a perfect charity. And grant me the insight and wisdom.
So I can always observe your holy and true command.



GOSPEL READING

MARK 10,17-22

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before
him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eter-
nal life? Jesus answered him, "why do you call me good? No one is
good but God alone. You know the commandment. You shall not

kill, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not bear false witness, you shall not defraud, honor your father and your mother. He replied and said to him. “Teacher all of these I have observed from my youth. “Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, “You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me. “At that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

SHARING

As a friar what have you sold and given to the poor?



FRANCISCAN READINGS

The grace of our God our Savior has appeared in these last days in his servant Francis to all who are truly humble and lovers of holy poverty... in an outpouring of kindness, the Most High God looked upon him, a little, poor, and contrite man, [and]... not only lifted the needy man from the dust of a worldly life; but also gave him as a light for believers, a practitioner, a leader and a herald of gospel perfection, that by bearing witness to the light, he might prepare for the lord a way of light and peace to the hearts of his faithful. (*Bonaventure LMj Prol 1*)

SHARING :

As a friar, can you also die poor like Francis? No one will find out that you have been keeping such huge amount and those properties?



CVM

By promoting justice, peace and reconciliation among ourselves, with peoples and all creation through humble and joyful service, preferably living in solidarity with the marginalized and the poor of society. (*Mission 3: Minority, Solidarity and Poverty*)

By living and proclaiming the gospel in the cultural patterns of the people we live with and serve and by responding to the missionary dimension of our Franciscan calling inter gentes and ad gentes. (*Mission 4: Mission and Evangelization*)

SHARING :

As a friar, do you have personal contacts with the poor in your parish? can you name them? Do they tell good stories about you?

Why are they poor?



CHURCH

CHURCH: THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

The symbol of authenticity of the new evangelization has the face of the poor. Placing ourselves side by side with those who are wounded by life is not only a social exercise, but above all a spiritual act because it is Christ's face that shines in the face of the poor. Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (*Mathew 25:40*)

We must recognize the privileged place of poor in our communities, a place that does not exclude anyone, but wants to reflect how Jesus bound himself to them. The presence of the poor in our communities is mysteriously powerful: it changes persons more than a discourse does, it teaches fidelity, it makes us understand the fragility of life, it asks for prayer: in short, it brings us to Christ.

The gesture of charity, on the other hand, must also be accompanied by commitment to justice, with an appeal that concerns all, poor and rich. Hence, the social doctrine of the Church is integral to the pathways of the new evangelization, as well as the formation of Christians to dedicate themselves to serve the human community in social and political life. (*Paragraph 12*)

SHARING:

As a friar, do the poor teach you fidelity and help you develop compassion?

Are you involved in the establishment of BECs?



INTERCESSION

Based on the Message of the Synod of Bishops 2012, #7

Leader:

Heavenly Father, you have called us to live the poor and simple like your Son Jesus Christ and our Holy Father St. Francis. Help us to trust in your loving providence. – *Lord, hear our prayer.*

You have called us as consecrated people to give witness to higher values in the Church and in the world, free us from greed and attachments to material things. **R.**

Lord, in the exercise of poverty, chastity and obedience, we become the sign of a future world that relativizes everything that is good in this world. Spare us from being swallowed by the values of this world and make us truly promoters of your kingdom. **R.**

Lord, you commend the religious who never compromise their principles to what is evil and worldly. Help us always to be faithful

to as Franciscans called to live radical lives. R.

Lord we pray for those who are living difficult conditions in these times of change, that they may have hope and that they may establish themselves as witnesses and promoters of the New Evangelization. R.

OUR FATHER



FINAL PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we are bound to obey Brother Francis and his successors just as he promised obedience and reverence to his holiness Pope Honorius and his lawfully elected successors and to the Church of Rome. Help us to follow the Rule and Life of the Friars Minor, that is, to observe the holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by living in obedience, without property, and in chastity. Amen.



FINAL SONG

PEACE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Verse 2:

Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness only light,
And where there's sadness ever joy.

Refrain:

Oh Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console.
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Verse 3:

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.