

FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY



THE PRAYER BEFORE THE CRUCIFIX AT SAN DAMIANO



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.



St. Francis is known as the man who was most like Christ, "the first after the only one", the universal brother, a man of peace and reconciliation, the Poverello, the lover of the poor, the troubadour of creation. It is true. Francis of Assisi, however, was first and foremost a mystic, a real contemplative, enamoured with the poor and crucified Christ. Francis was not only a man who prayed, but, as his biographer Thomas of Celano says, he was "a man become prayer". The presence of God transfigured him until He made him "another Christ".

FRANCISCAN FAMILY

- FIRST ORDER-FRIARS

OFM; OFM CAPUCHIN; OFM CONVENTUAL

- SECOND ORDER- POOR CLARE'S

CLOISTERED ORDER OF RELIGIOUS WOMEN

- THIRD ORDER REGULAR

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES OF MEN AND
WOMEN WHO FOLLOW THE FRANCISCAN RULE

- SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

LAY MEN AND WOMEN AND DIOCESAN CLERGY
WHO FOLLOW THE FRANCISCAN RULE



Throughout the world, young Catholic men and women , single or married between the ages of 18 and 30 are able to embrace the spiritual vision of St. Francis of Assisi by forming Franciscan Youth Communities. Through initial and ongoing formation, the members of these communities deepen their love for God and for others by going from gospel to life and life to gospel.

**YOUFRA FRATERNITIES ARE INDEPENDENT GATHERINGS
OF YOUNG PEOPLE GUIDED AND ANIMATED BY A
SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT AND MEMBERS OF THE OFS**



FRANCISCAN YOUTH
DEEPEN THEIR FAITH IN COMMUNITY



INTERNATIONAL COUNCILLOR,
WESTERN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA



**Franciscan Youth speak out on issues of justice,
peace & integrity of creation**

International Councilor, Philippines



***Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront
in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives
and their courageous initiatives.***

SFO Rule #15

**Through prayer and worship we deepen our love
for God and commit ourselves to go from 'gospel
to life...'**



INTERNATIONAL COUNCILOR, BRAZIL

VOCATIONAL JOURNEY

Members of the YouFra deepen their own vocation in the light of the message of St. Francis through an itinerary of progressive formation. Vocational discernment will be the main focus during this journey. Normally, this vocational journey is made up of the following stages:

a) *Initiation*

b) *Formation for the promise in YouFra*

c) *Deepening the personal call*

**A Franciscan Youth Fraternity
consists of...**

At least five Franciscan Youth

A Secular Franciscan fraternal animator

A Spiritual Assistant

ARTICLE 97

1. The SFO will seek the most appropriate means to promote the vitality and the spreading of the Franciscan Youth. It will stand by the youth to encourage them and to procure the means which can help them to progress in their journey of human and spiritual growth.

Prayer for Franciscan Youth

Creator God, You call us to proclaim your Gospel with our lives. Raise up leaders among us who are open to Your grace to introduce young Catholics to the spirituality of St. Francis and St. Clare through the formation of Franciscan Youth in Canada. Inspire many Catholic youth to embrace your call to go from gospel to life and life to gospel. We ask St. Francis, St. Clare and all the Franciscan saints to pray with us that YOUFRA can be a way for our young people to deepen their love for You and for each other. We ask this prayer in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

FRANCISCAN YOUTH MEET MONTHLY FOR FORMATION AND
MAKE PLANS FOR ACTIVITIES THAT BUILD UP FRATERNITY

WE ARE CURRENTLY BEGINNING A FRATERNITY IN CENTRAL
ALBERTA AND INVITE YOU TO SHARE IDEAS OF THINGS THAT
MIGHT ENCOURAGE YOU TO BE PART OF THIS GROUP.



FRANCISCAN YOUTHFEST



Mt St. Francis Retreat Center
Cochrane, Alberta
July 22-24, 2013

OBJECTIVES:

CAN YOUTH REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?....

Yes! You can make a difference! Governments may set policy and agree on programs for action, but people need personal support in times of change and many situations require significant change.



St. Francis said,

**“Let us begin for up to now we have
done nothing”**

The End

David Bouchard, sfo

Blessing of St. Francis (1226)

May whoever observes all this be filled in heaven with the blessing of the most high Father, and on earth with that of his beloved Son, together with the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.



Created by David Bouchard, sfo