



**A Reflection**  
**From Gospel to life**  
**HOW THE GOSPEL SUPPORTS**  
**OFS RULES 15,18 & 19 (JPIC)**

by

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**Precious Blood, Cloverdale, BC**

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# N.B. Five sources of Franciscan JPIC

1. The Bible
2. Catholic Social Teaching/  
Doctrine
3. Franciscan Intellectual  
Tradition
4. OFS Rule and General  
Constitutions
5. Prayer and Action

# Nota Bene

1. Non sola scriptura
2. The Gospel includes Old Testament

# Nota bene: non sola scriptura

- “82 As a result the Church, to whom the transmission and interpretation of Revelation is entrusted, "does not derive her certainty about all revealed truths from the holy Scriptures alone. Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honoured with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence."44”

(1992, CCC)

# The Magisterium of the Church

- “85 "The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God, whether in its written form or in the form of Tradition, has been entrusted to the living teaching office of the Church alone. Its authority in this matter is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ."47 This means that the task of interpretation has been entrusted to the bishops in communion with the successor of Peter, the Bishop of Rome.” (1992, CCC)

# Rule 15

15. Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith.

# about Rule 15

- **“Your love is for justice; your hatred for evil.” Ps 45**
- **“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” Jas 1:22**

# about Rule 15

**14**What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him?

**15**If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food

**16**and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit?

**17**So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead

**24**You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.

(Jas 2: 14-17, 24)



# about Rule 15

**“Little children, let us stop just saying we love people, let us really love them, and show it by our actions.” (1 John 3:18 )**

**“From those who have received much, much will be required.” (Luke 12:48)**

# Tradition - Magisterium

“Lay people, whose particular vocation places them in the midst of the world and in charge of the most varied temporal tasks, must .... exercise a very special form of evangelization..... Their own field of evangelizing activity is the vast and complicated world of politics, society and economics, but also the world of culture, of the sciences and the arts, of international life, of the mass media. But evangelization would not be complete if it did not take account of the unceasing interplay of the gospel and of man’s concrete life, both personal and social.”

(Pope Paul VI, 1975, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 70 & 20 emphasis added)

# Tradition - Magisterium

- For the OFS as laity our role is clear: “The Church ..... cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice.....The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society, ..... is proper to the lay faithful.” (Benedict XVI, 2006, *Deus Caritas Est*, n. 28, emphasis added)

# about Rule 15

“It is not from your own possessions that you are bestowing alms on the poor, you are but restoring to them what is theirs by right. For what was given to everyone for the use of all, you have taken for your exclusive use. The earth belongs not to the rich, but to everyone. Thus, far from giving lavishly, you are but paying part of your debt.” (St Ambrose, 340- 397, emphasis added)

Conclusions from the  
XIII General Chapter of the OFS  
October 22-29, 2011:

- “Franciscans must be agents of social transformation.” (1.1)
- “Since “the lay faithful are never to relinquish their participation in ‘politics’” (*Christifideles Laici*, 42), it is necessary to underline the importance of political education for citizen advocacy, based on the social doctrine of the Church.

# Conclusions cont'd

“This Chapter urges OFS Councils, at all levels, to organize regular political education classes that will help members to acquire the skills necessary to respond without delay to what the church asks of us at this time.” (n.4)

NOT CONVINCED???

THESE GUYS ARE >>>>>>>



Quezon City, Philippines 4 October 2011

# Rule 18

18. Moreover they should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which bear the imprint of the Most High, and they should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship.



# about Rule 18

- "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till and keep it." (Genesis 2:15)
- "And if you defile the land, it will vomit you out as it vomited out the nations that were before you." (Leviticus 18: 28)
- "You shall not pollute the land in which you live.... You shall not defile the land in which you live, in which I also dwell." (Numbers 35:33-34)

# Rule 19

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.

# about Rule 19

“According to its Hebrew etymology, peace means being complete and intact, restored to wholeness. It is the state of those who live in harmony with God and with themselves, with others and with nature. ... Peace is justice (cf. *Is* 32:17) ... the Church wishes to overcome every difference of race, sex and social condition (cf. *Gal* 3:28 and *Col* 3:11) in the knowledge that all are one in Christ, who is all in all.” (Benedict XVI, 2012, *Ecclesia in medio oriente*, n.9)

# about Rule 19

“And the work of justice shall be peace, and the service of justice quietness, and security for ever.” (Is 32:17)

“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” (Gal 3:28)

# about Rule 19

“In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all.” (Col 3:11)

# about Rule 19

“Yet the Church does not lose sight of the fact that, before all else, peace remains a fruit of the Spirit (cf. *Gal* 5:22), one which must constantly be implored from God (cf. *Mt* 7:7-8).” (Benedict XVI, 2012, *Ecclesia in medio oriente*, n.10)

# about Rule 19

“By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” (Gal 5:22)

“Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.” (Mt 7:7-8)

# about Rule 19

“Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”

(Romans 12:16-18)