

A Call to Prophetic Creativity

By Sr. Agnes Marie Regan, OSF

Discussion Questions for Discernment

- 1) “The function of servant leaders... is not limited to administration or bureaucracy but, most importantly, applies to... the full realization of the Secular Franciscan life...”
“This goes beyond the “day to day” running of the fraternity. We should always seek new ways that help the development of the... spiritual life of the sisters and brothers.”
 - How can we help “... the development of the spiritual life of the sisters and brothers” at all levels of the fraternity?
 - “What future world do we wish to hand to those who will come after us (CL, p.3)”
 - What specific gifts can we offer them? How would they like to be gifted toward a deeper spiritual life? ““What will its values, lifestyle and thought look like?(CL, p.3)”

- 2) “What is prophetic creativity? ... It is innovative action we take in response to the Holy Spirit working within us.” “This “full realization” is the renewal we long for.”
 - Would you agree that prophetic creativity requires personal interaction to bear fruit?
 - What specific ways might we an Order be more responsive to the voice of the Holy Spirit? How might we be more proactive in limiting the effects of competitive voices from our surrounding culture?
 - “Our hearts are restless until...” and our Franciscan hearts are also restless. Identify specific ways we as an Order and bring about the renewal we long for. “Where can we learn the notes of this new piece of music? (CL).”

- 3) In the quote at the end of the article, Pope Francis says this: “We will never move forward if we do not have the courage to break the molds, for our God impels us to do the following: to be creative about the future.”
 - Are you open to “breaking molds” in order to better serve your members?
 - Being creative is not easy. Not everyone is gifted in that area. If you are a leader, but you are not sure how to implement **prophetic creativity**, dialogue with your brothers and sisters to find some common ground and innovative ideas.
 - If you are willing to engage in “a season of **prophetic creativity**,” brainstorm with your brothers and sisters a list of possibilities –don’t be afraid to list what seems to be impossible and incredulous. Don’t forget: **HOPE IS BOLD!**

- 4) We are offered some wonderful wisdom from our good Fr. Christopher Panagoplos, TOR – showing that prophetic creativity is deeply rooted in the Rule of 1978 – there is no escaping its demands . . .

Empowered by the words of the Secular Franciscan Rule we already possess a blueprint of how the “message of Jesus” can be creatively proclaimed to the whole world.

Secular Franciscan Rule

- where “the Holy Spirit leads us” (4)
- ” going forth as witnesses and instruments... ” (6)
- “united...” and “motivated by the dynamic power of the Gospel” (7)
- “by means of that radical interior change...” (7)
- In “prayer and contemplation” (7)
- “going from Gospel to life and life to Gospel (10-12)
- “selfless service” (14)
- “promoting justice be the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives: (15)
- “mindful that they are bearers of peace” (19)
- “messengers of perfect joy (19)