

The JCFU
WELCOMES
YOU!



JOINT COMMITTEE OF FRANCISCAN UNITY

- ♦ **Catholic Order of Secular Franciscans - OFS**

Donna Hollis, OFS and María Bianca, OFS

- ♦ **Order of Lutheran Franciscans - OLF**

Andrew Chavanak, n/OLF and Mark Molter, n/OLF

- ♦ **Order of Ecumenical Franciscans - OEF**

Ron Nuss-Warren, OEF and Debra Snider-Scott, OEF

- ♦ **Episcopal Third Order, Society of St. Francis - TSSF**

Masud Ibn Syedullah, TSSF and Beverly Hosea, TSSF

MISSION STATEMENT

For the sake of Creation, we are called to bear witness to the essential unity of the church, the Body of Christ, by working towards Franciscan unity in all of the expressions. We will achieve this through dialogue and collaboration among the Orders which follow Christ in the traditions of Francis and Clare.



ELEMENTS OF FRANCISCAN UNITY

BAPTISM

VOCATION

CHARISM

CHRIST CENTERED SPIRITUALITY

PROPHETIC VOICE



LET US PRAY

O GRACIOUS AND LOVING CREATOR, HAVING BROUGHT US INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST AND HAVING CALLED US TO FOLLOW FRANCIS AND CLARE; LET YOUR HOLY SPIRIT INSPIRE ALL IN THE FRANCISCAN FAMILY TO BE OF ONE HEART AND MIND IN LOVE WITH YOU AND ONE ANOTHER. GRANT, WE PRAY, THAT OUR COMMON CHARISM AND VOCATION SHARED BY ANGLICAN, CATHOLIC, LUTHERAN, AND ECUMINICAL ORDERS MAY HELP BUILD UP THE BODY OF CHRIST AND HEAL THE FRANCISCAN FAMILY, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

AMEN





Graymoor Friary (now Holy Mountain Retreat Center), New York, where in November 2021, the JCFU, along side Roots and Branches: Programs for Spiritual Growth, hosted an interfaith conference for Muslims, Jews, and Franciscans.



Presenters: Imam Mohammad Bashir Arafat, PhD; Rev. Stephen Holton, STM; Rabbi Shefa Gold; Rev. Masud Ibn Syedullah, TSSF & a JCFU member; standing with Donna Hollis, OFS, member of the JCFU.

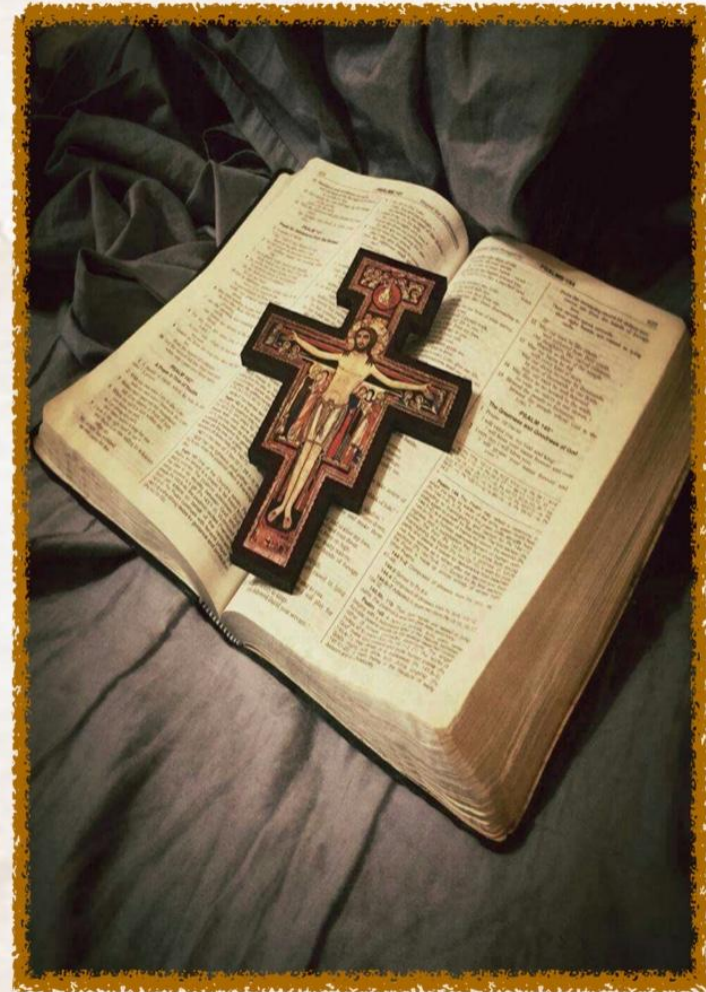
VOCATION

The Second Element of Franciscan Unity



Our call to Franciscan vocation implies being conformed to the image of our Lord, Jesus Christ by means of the radical interior change that the Gospel defines as conversion -- taking up our cross daily to follow Christ. Our particular vocation is to observe the Gospel by following the examples of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi.

As members of Franciscan Orders, we pledge ourselves, with life long intent, to live out our Franciscan vocations in community with our brothers and sisters.



Baptismal Covenant

- ◆ Continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers.
- ◆ Persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord.
- ◆ Proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ.
- ◆ Seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself.
- ◆ Strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.



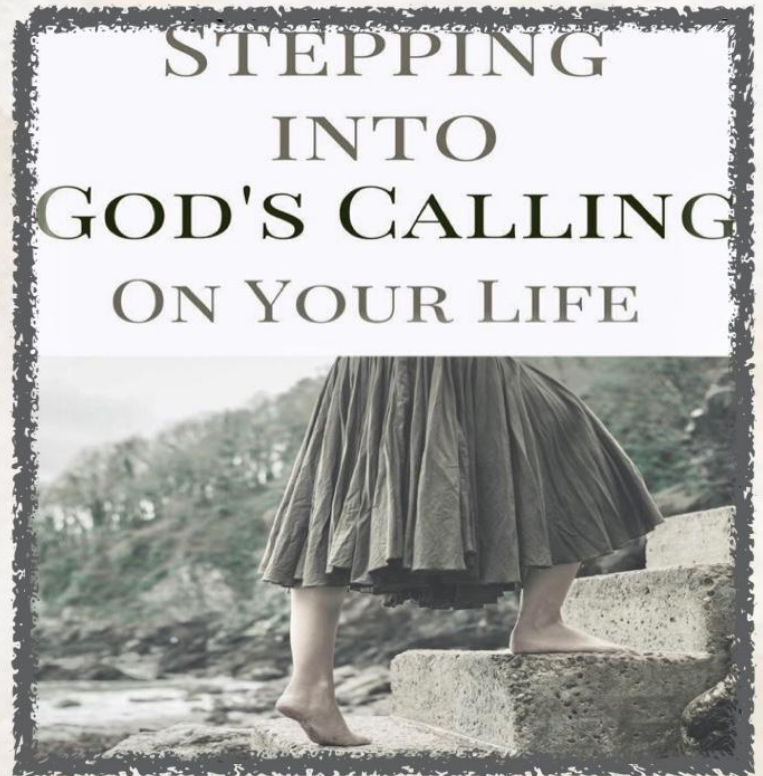
Gifts of the Spirit
+



Instruction



Pray, Study, Work



STEPPING
INTO
GOD'S CALLING
ON YOUR LIFE

Listen, Learn, Apply



Humankind/Creation



Franciscans
United in
Love

Vocation is Relational

Common Threads of Franciscan Orders

- Answered a special calling
- Took vows into Orders inspired by Francis & Clare
- Follow a Rule of Life
- A shared reverence of the Gospels
- Embraced Lady Poverty (emptying of self)
- Dedicated to Purity of Heart (Chastity)
- Dutiful & Reverent to the Word, our home Church & our Franciscan Order (Obedience)
- Commitment to follow in the footsteps of Francis & Clare.



Metanoia

- Heard Something
- Touched & Transformed
- Spiritual Experience
- Changing a way of life
- Vocation is a matter of the Heart
- Given a heart full of Love
- A new life has begun



Whom Shall I Send?

- Conversion of Paul
- January 25
- Acts 9: 5: "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."
- Isaiah 6: 8 "Whom shall I send?"
- We have been chosen



Rebuild My Church

- Francis & the Leper
- He kissed the face of Jesus
- Luke 10: 27-37 “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
- Who is my neighbor?
- See Christ in ALL people
- Mercy & Compassion
- We have been chosen to rebuild the Church



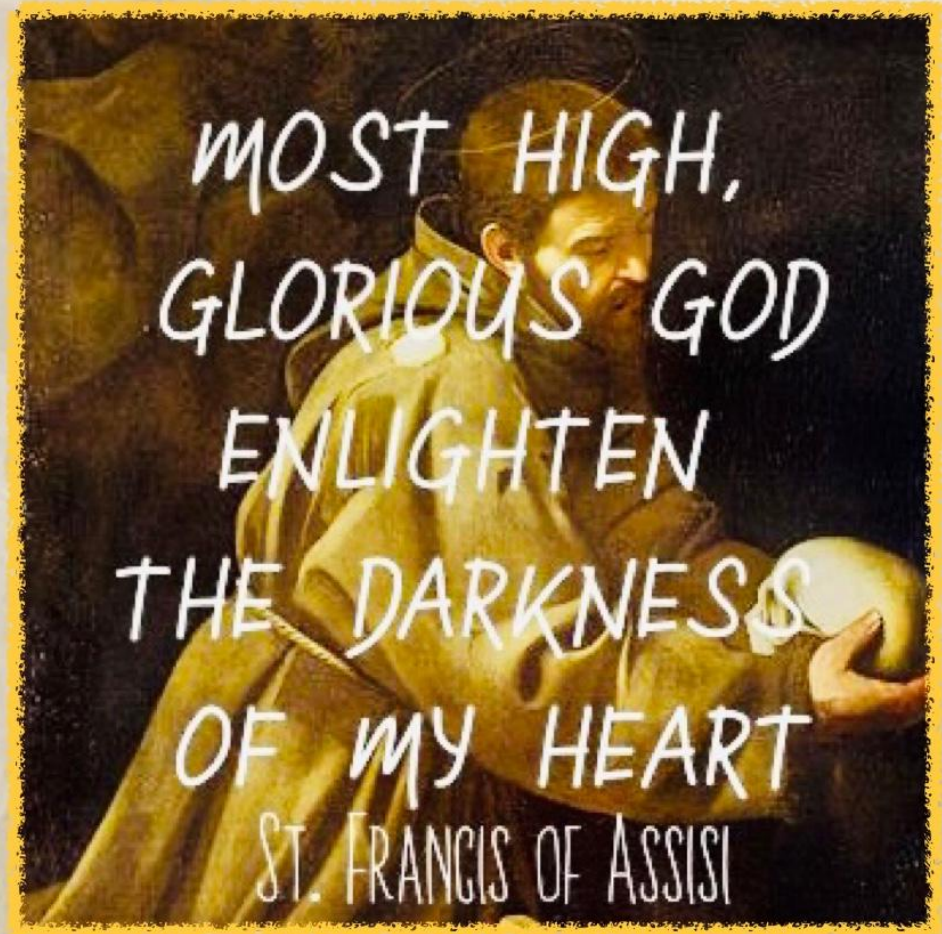
Take Up Your Cross

- Matthew 16: 24-26
- Look into the eyes of the persecuted
- Look into the eyes of the disinherited
- Gaze upon the Cross
- Take up your cross and follow me
- **BE** Christ in the World



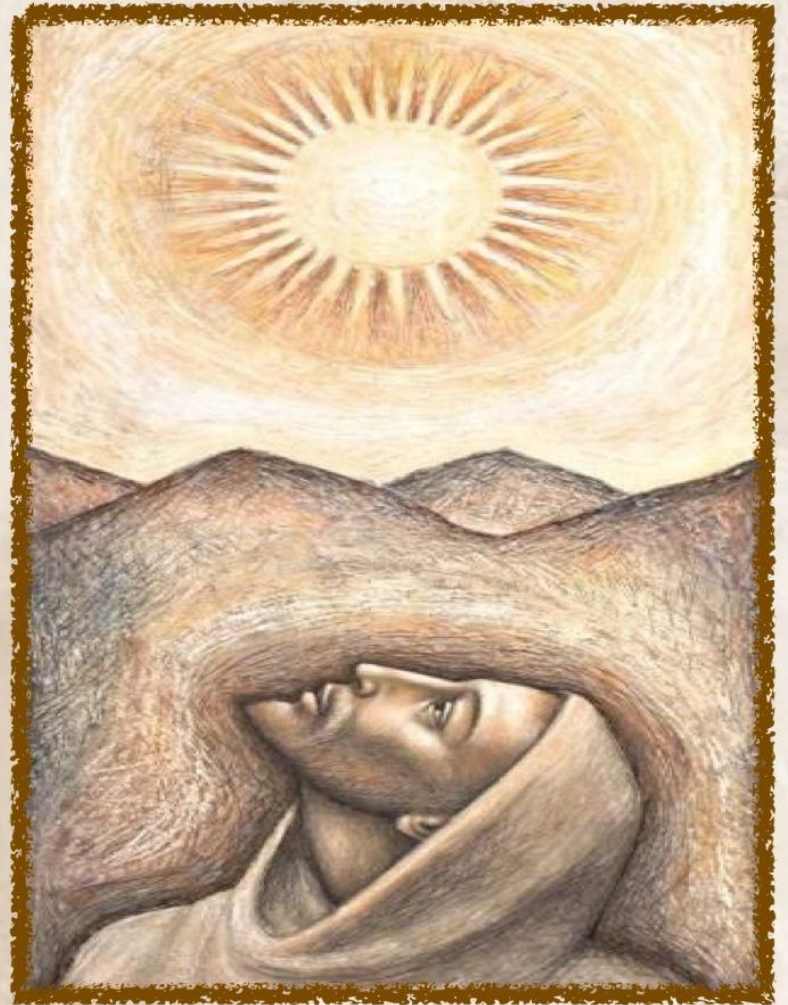
Let Us Pray

Most High, Glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of our
hearts. Give us true Faith,
certain Hope, and perfect
Charity, sense and knowledge
that we may carry out Your
Holy and true command. AMEN



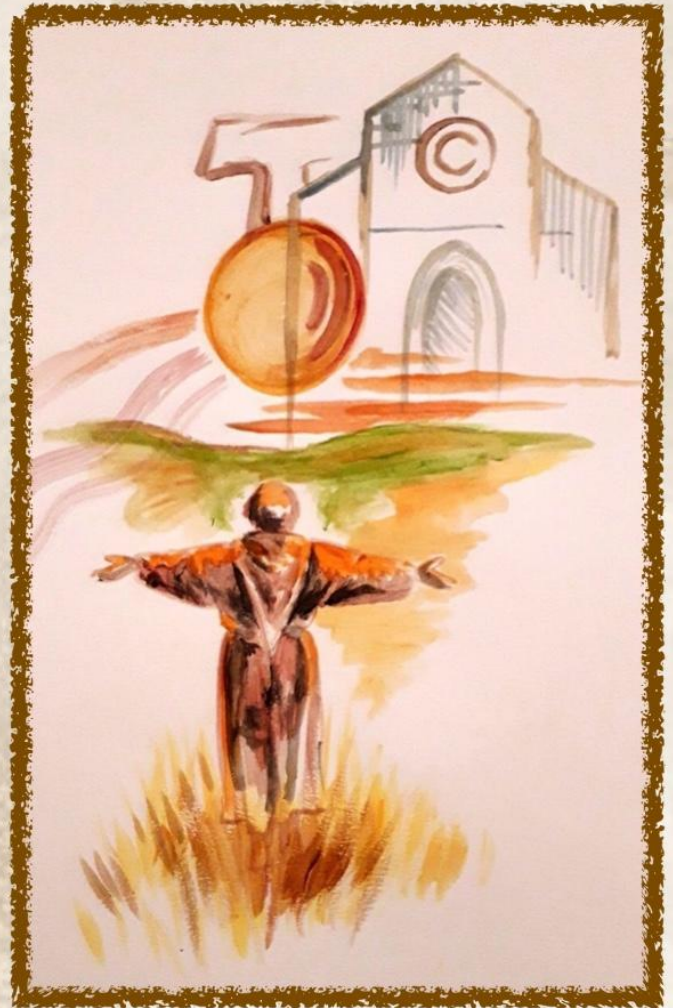
Reformation

- The Voice of God calling all people
- We become Children of God
- A call to Repentance
- A call to Reformation



Martin Luther: “When our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, said ‘Repent’, He willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.”

Pope Pius XI on St. Francis: “.....was sent by Divine Providence for the reformation (not only for the turbulent age in which he lived) of Christian society of ALL times.”



EVANGELICAL VOWS

POVERTY

CHASTITY

OBEDIENCE



Poverty

Transforming relationships from personal material wealth/possessions to one of Stewardship

Transforming from individualism to Sharing, caring and community.

Transforming of inner self which will reflect outer self.



Chastity

Transforming our intentions toward others.

Transforming to pure, honest, and loving relationships.

Transforming to purity of heart that reflects God's Love.

Be truly Brothers and Sisters in Christ.



OBEDIENCE

Transforming our will to that of Christ.

Discipleship, willingness to be near the heart of God. Our will is God's will.

A vocation of Prayer, Discernment, and Action

A Franciscan vocation of reformation, repentance
Repairing and rebuilding ourselves, the church,
And the World.



Francis & Clare Roots to Vocation

“Hold nothing back of yourself so that God, who gives Himself totally to you, may receive you totally.”

Theme

Listening attentively to the Holy Spirit dwelling within us gives us courage and direction for our lives.

OFS Annual Theme for 2023

Listen, Discern, and Go Forth



If we live by the Spirit,
let us also walk by the Spirit.
Galatians 5:25

Let Us Pray

Spirit of Wisdom, influence my thoughts.

Spirit of Understanding, enlighten me.

Spirit of Counsel, direct my decisions.

Spirit of Fortitude, support me in
adversity.

Spirit of Knowledge, help me overcome
ignorance.

Spirit of Piety, quicken my fervor.

Spirit of Fear, keep me from evil.



- ◆ Wholehearted commitment to God
- ◆ Stepping out in Faith
- ◆ Taking action
- ◆ Giving all to service
- ◆ Building bridges



Coworkers with God

Transformed

Francis through Action in the World

Clare through Prayer and Monastic
Service

Different, yet United

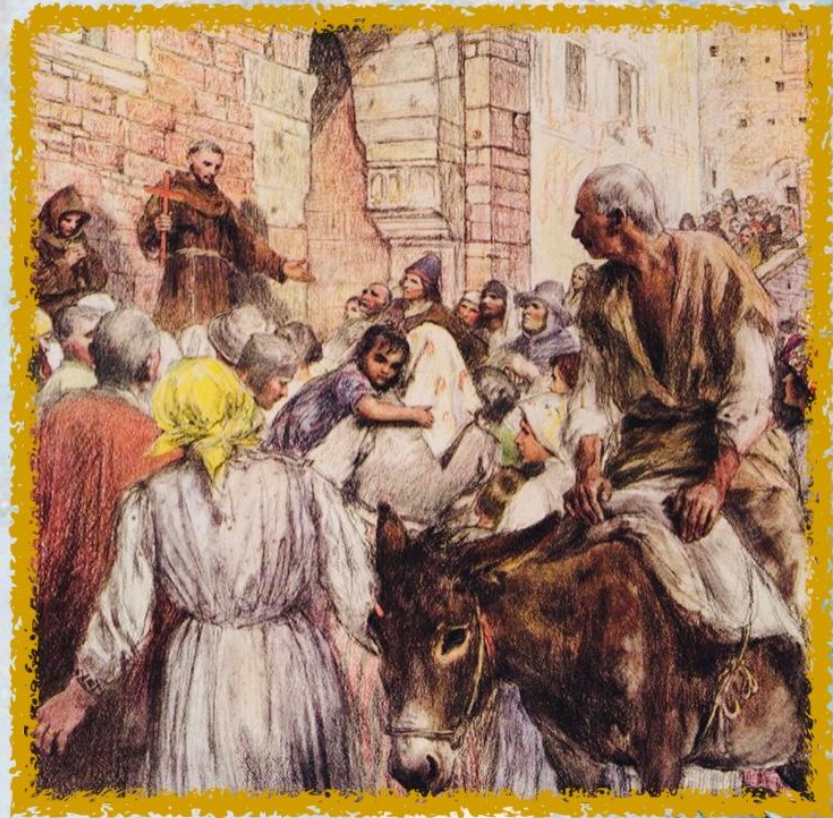


St Clare

*"Love him totally
who gave himself totally
for your love."*



Prayerful Discernment
Holy Spirit is always with us



Life of Action
Becoming the hands & feet of Christ

LISTEN
DISCERN
GO FORTH

WE ARE FAMILY
THIS IS OUR VOCATION
THIS IS OUR LIFE

GIVE YOUR ALL



Discussion Questions

1. In one sentence, try to define your mission, calling or vocation.
2. How are you a “coworker” of God?
3. How can I be actively involved with those in most need?
4. As you reflect further, write out your own ‘mission statement’ at sometime.