



NAFRA-USA

NATIONAL FRATERNITY OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER-USA

National Minister's Message

by Jan Parker, OFS

What Does It Mean to Rise from the Dead?

The apostles were spellbound! Jesus had just been transfigured before them! You can only imagine their wonder at this sight! As they descended the mountain their amazement turned to perplexity as Jesus said to them, "Do not tell anyone about this, until after I have risen from the dead." Risen from the dead? What is he saying?

Scripture confirms that the apostles truly grappled with this question. I can imagine their bewilderment as they continued to ask each other, "What does it mean to rise from the dead?"

In this Easter season, we might be tempted to dismiss this question too quickly. Of course, we know what it means to rise from the dead! But like the apostles, let's grapple with this question a bit more — and let's think about it in relation to our Rule. Why? Because our Rule

in its entirety is all about dying and rising. If we are living what we have professed, we die and rise every day.

Beginning with the prologue and continuing in each Article, the Rule calls us to ongoing daily conversion — to die to self and rise each day being conformed to Christ. As we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of our Rule during this Jubilee year, let us look again at what we have professed. Let us study our Rule and ask ourselves, "What does it mean to rise from the dead?"

Come, Holy Spirit, inspire us anew with all the Rule means in our lives. Give us the grace to rise from the dead each day!

I have asked our former National Historian Bill Wicks to share with us the history of how the Rule of 1978 came about. May his article help us all in our appreciation of this gift we treasure!