

VISIONING

SEEKING GOD'S VISION FOR FORMATION

“Throw open the windows of the [Secular Franciscan Order] and let the fresh air of the spirit blow through.”

~ Pope John XXIII ~

COMMENTARY ON

Gather the Wisdom, Weave a Dream: Transformative Visioning as a Refounding Process

(Ted Dunn, Ph.D. in Human Development)

But first, let me tell you a story.

Note: Story of the Great White Rabbit from the book

“In Pursuit of the Great White Rabbit” by Edward Hays pp. 10, 11

TRANSFORMATIVE VISIONING IS . . .


- A communal faith journey.
 - **The power of the journey lies in how we walk it.**

WHY

- **Because** the journey will test our willingness to step out in faith and leave behind that which no longer has meaning, and
- **Ideally**, if we commit to the process and see it through to completion, eventually we will develop a prophetic vision, which is --
 - **God's path for the future of formation.**



TRANSFORMATIVE VISIONING IS . . .

- A process of deciding and choosing the appropriate course of action to pursue in our relationship to the will of God.
 - If we are willing to be open and receptive to the Holy Spirit, God will reveal His will through special graces and insights.
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Ted Dunn says we are to:

- Gather wisdom.
- Weave a powerful dream that awakens our collective souls.
- Provide our sisters and brothers with a dream that will bring forth deep and radical change,

**SO THAT
NEW LIFE CAN EMERGE.**



Ted Warns Us of Pitfalls:

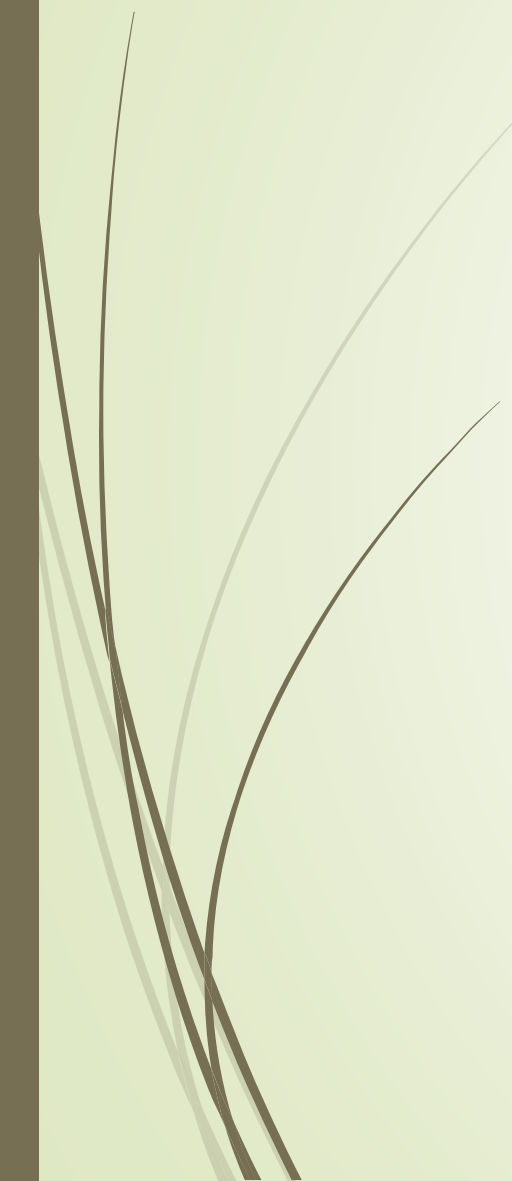
- **Less than All-out Effort** – Maintenance vs What can be
- **Insufficient Depth** – Commitment to the shoreline or the depths of the ocean
- **Limited Ownership** – Commitment by a few or by the OFS as a body
- **Resistance** – Another word for it is Conflict – the choice to avoid resolution or encounter it in dialogue.
- **Glorification of the Past** – Calls for a both/and approach



SIMPLY ANNE'S THOUGHTS ON VISIONING



I BELIEVE VISIONING IS . . .

- The exercise of the gift of *Wisdom* by which the Holy Spirit enables us to see things from God's point of view.
 - Using the gift of *Counsel*, the Holy Spirit inspires us to know God's will.
 - *Wisdom* and *Counsel* work together; pray for these gifts.
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IN ADDITION, I BELIEVE VISIONING CAN BE . . .

- The process by which we discover the dream God has for us in regard to formation.

- If,

the essential components of the formative process are present, primarily the spirit and essence of the Rule, I believe there is substantial assurance that this is God's will for our Order.




SUGGESTED VISIONING TOOLS

- Primary: **Pray** for guidance.
- Having studied your homework, **reflect** on the relevant data provided.
- Be **aware** of your own preconceived ideas and agendas. They could distract you.
- **Listen** to others' points of view.
- Finally: **Choose options** that are in accord with the Gospel and our Holy Rule

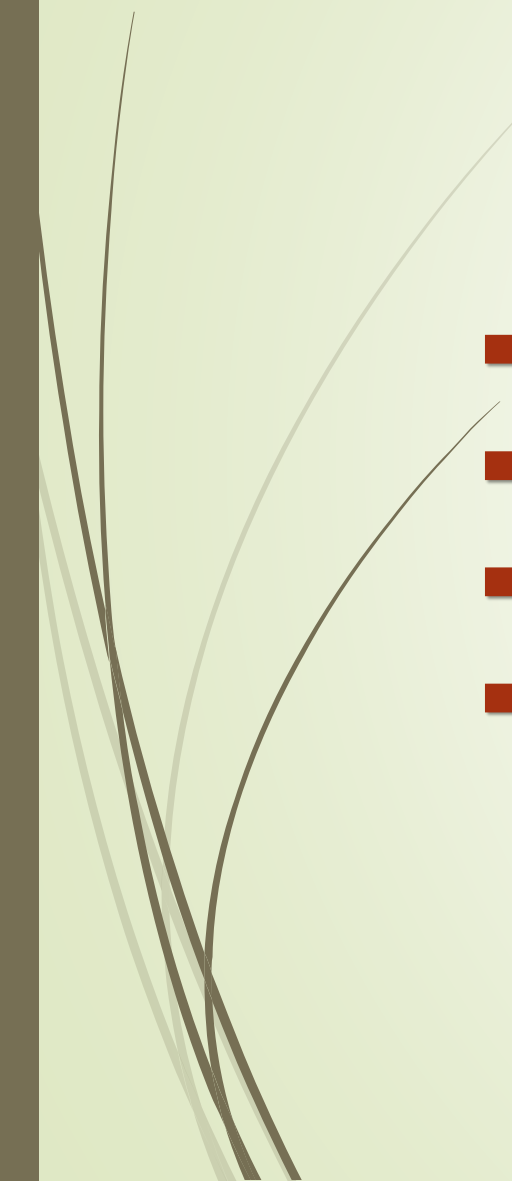


I DO BELIEVE THAT

- Visioning is NOT easy and there will be some uncertainty.
 - All that can be expected of us is to use whatever gifts we have to arrive at *a degree of* consensus and then be willing to share what we believe God is saying to us as a visioning body.
 - And I do believe, the Spirit of Truth is available to all and our trust in God is sufficient for us to be at peace without having to have all the pieces in place.
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FINALLY, IN EVALUATING THE VISION, IT SHOULD ...

- Reflect love
 - Express truth
 - Promote unity
 - Reflect harmony and goodness
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BLAST FROM THE PAST

15th Congress—Newark, Delaware—1997

- The theme was *Now is the Time - The Kingdom of God is at Hand*. Secular Franciscans, friars and religious gathered together to face the upcoming millennium with a strategy of leadership, an authentic experience of community, and a vision to build a world based on Christ's values. It was a challenge to Secular Franciscans to return to the excitement of its founding story.
 - Sr. Brenda Hermann, MSBT, facilitated sessions on *Refounding*.



The End

Let us END with just a moment
of quiet reflection.
Let us close our minds to the
distractions and reflect on God's
presence,