



Adult Formation in the Secular Franciscan Order

Behold, I make all things new.


Rev. 21:5

Our Formation Toolbox...






Review of Guidelines for Adult Learners:

- ▶ Engage adult students with empathy
 - ▶ Use flexible format
 - ▶ Avoid lecture
 - ▶ Maintain mature adult environment
 - ▶ Promote dialogue and sharing
 - ▶ Material should have practical applications to their life and build on their past experiences
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Recap:

- Lose the lecture!
 - Develop a formation team
 - Sessions centered on sharing and dialogue are most effective
 - Adults remember 90% of what they say and do
 - Keep organized and consistent
 - Promote listening and engagement
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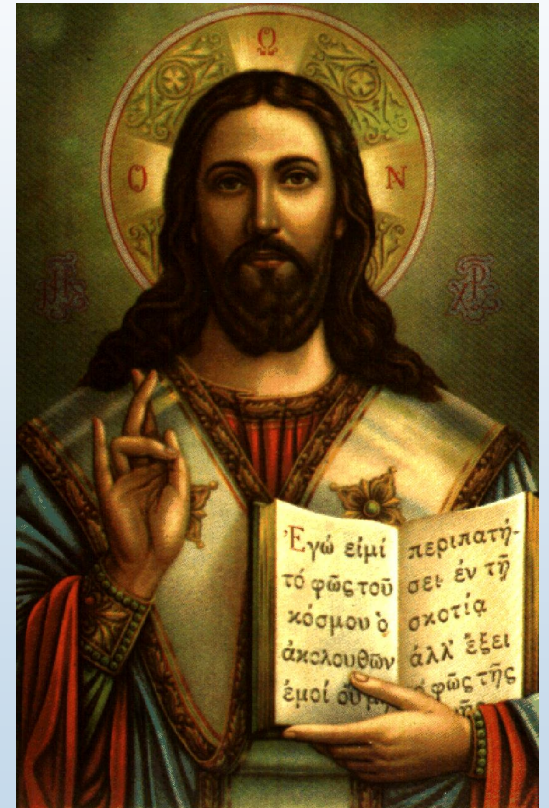


What else is helpful?

- Create a prayer center; engaging environment
- Provide snacks
- Include material from other sources, newspapers, you-tube, etc.
- Obtain frequent feedback
- Engage other fraternity members for personal witness
- Invite speakers

Indispensible features of faith-filled adult formation program:

- ▶ **Witness**; you can't share what you don't have
- ▶ Process of adult formation is about forming **relationships modeled on our life with Jesus.**







Basic Concepts:

Literacy:

- Def. The degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process and understand basic information needed to make appropriate decisions.



What is 'Faith Literacy?'

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- Go back to the definition of literacy...
 - Faith literacy is the ability to take in the teachings of our faith and apply it in our lives.
 - (Reflect: What is faith 'illiteracy?')
 - **A goal of Formation is to teach us how to 'take in' the Gospel and apply it to our lives as Franciscans in the world.**

Hallmark: Radical Conversion



The Formation Journey (as pilgrims and refugees)





Prepared for Mission



dis·ci·ple·ship

n. to turn all people into
fully devoted, mature
followers of Christ

Go, Rebuild my Church...

Formation prepares us for the work of the gospel life.

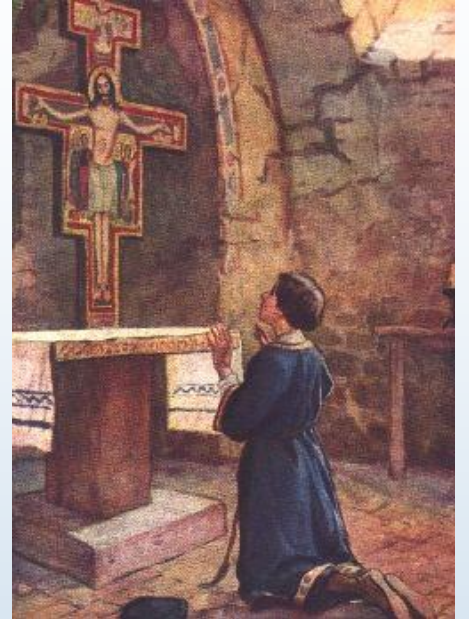


St Francis and St Clare: radical conversion of their lives (witness)




Fiat of St Francis

- Then one day in the church of San Damiano, a chapel right outside of Assisi, he heard the invitation of Jesus: “Francis, go rebuild my Church, which you see is falling into ruins.”
- **“Yes!”** said Francis. **“This is what I want, this is what I long for with all my heart.”**



Fiat of St Clare...death's door





“As you contemplate further His ineffable delights, eternal riches and honors, and sigh for them in great desire and love of your heart, may you cry out: Draw me after You! We will run in the fragrance of your perfumes, O Heavenly Spouse.”


-St Clare of Assisi

Primary Agent of Formation: Holy Spirit



Pentecost: Acts 2:13 ...new wine






Tertullian (155-240AD) documented
pagan description of the early
Christian community:

“See how they love one another.”

We must recover our
culture of joy...
Fr Matt Pravetz



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- To some extent, *love is all you need*. The church must be known for what it does and who it is. A church geared for mission needs to travel lightly, ready for the journey.

-Edmund Gordon Fall 2008 Lifelong Faith

Joy of the gospel



Great Example of Gospel Joy!



Sample Template for Formation Session

- Topic: Ex. **Penance and Conversion**
- Article of the rule (corresponds to topic) **Art. 7**
- **Words from St Francis and St Clare**, stories from their life, words of Franciscan fathers or Franciscan sources, etc.
- **Scripture** references
- **Catechism** references
- Examples/stories from current culture, media, etc.
- Material from formation sources: FUN, Fully Mature, etc.
- Faith-sharing about the topic (starter questions are helpful!)

Article 7: Penance

➤ Sacred Scripture

➤ Mt 16: 24-27

➤ Mk 8:34-35

➤ Lk 9: 23-26

➤ Eph 4: 17-24

➤ Is 55: 6-9


➤ Ps 51

Catechism

- The Conversion of the Baptized #1427-1429
- Interior Penance #1430-1433
- The Many Forms of Penance in the Christian Life #1434-1439



Strong Suggestion:

- ▶ Pray the Liturgy of the Hours at every formation session and fraternity meeting.
 - ▶ It is liturgical.
 - ▶ LOH is the public prayer of the Church; brings us into closer communion with the global Church.
 - ▶ Praying the Hours is part of our way of life.
 - ▶ Teaches candidates how to pray the hours.
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Liturgy of the Hours

