

WHO DO WE SAY WE ARE?

*“Let them be meek, peaceful, modest, gentle, and
humble.” St. Francis--Later Rule*

A Reflection on being a Secular Franciscan

According to our Rule

- We are followers of the gospel. (Art. 4)
- We are seekers of Christ (Art. 5)
- We are witnesses and instruments of Christ's mission (Art. 6)
- We are penitential people seeking daily conversion (Art. 7)
- We are prayerful and contemplative (Art. 8)
- We are givers of ourselves...(Art. 9)



According to our Rule



- We are detached from possessions and power (Art. 11)
- We are pure of heart (Art. 12)
- We are accepting of others (Art. 13)
- We are promoters of justice (Art. 15)
- We are peacemakers (Arts. 17 and 19)
- We are lovers of all creatures and all creation (Art. 18)

How do others see us?

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- St. Teresa of Ávila, gives us food for thought:

"Christ has no body now but mine. He prays in me, works in me, looks through my eyes, speaks through my words, works through my hands, walks with my feet and loves with my heart."

How do others see us?

- “Communication has the power to build bridges, to enable encounter and inclusion, and thus to enrich society. How beautiful it is when people select their words and actions with care, in the effort to avoid misunderstandings, to heal wounded memories and to build peace and harmony.”

(Pope Francis-Message for World Communications Day 2016).



Franciscan Pledge:

Commitment to **Civility in Discourse**

- **F**acilitate a forum for difficult discourse.
- **R**espect the dignity of all people.
- **A**udit myself.
- **N**eutralize inflamed conversations
- **C**ollaborate with others
- **I**dentify common ground
- **S**upport efforts



Franciscan Action Network

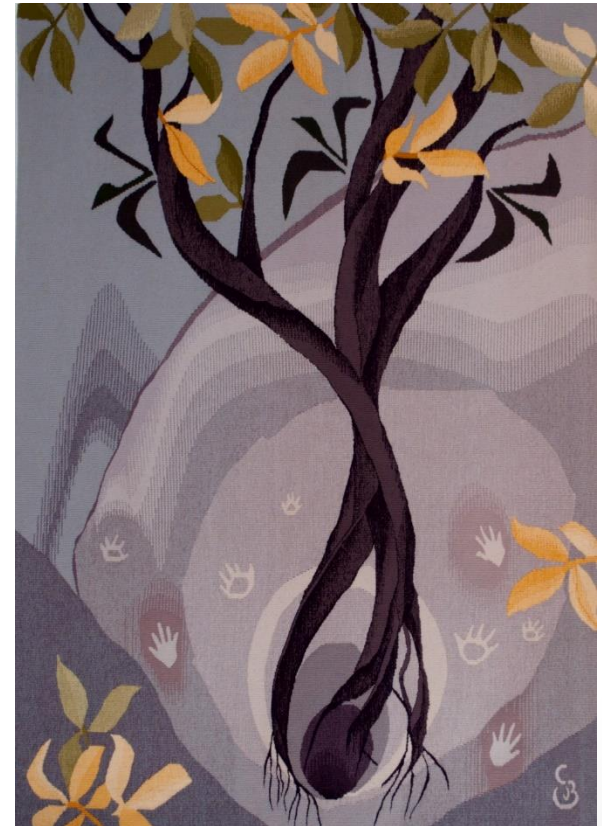
How do others see us?

“By their fruits you will know them.” Matt 7:16

The Holy Spirit will guide us:

- The fruits of the Holy Spirit
(Gal. 5:22-23)

***JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS,
GENEROSITY, FAITHFULNESS,
GENTLENESS, AND SELF-CONTROL***



Others come to know us through...

- How we treat them
- How they see us treat others
- What we say and how we say it (What we post online)
- How we respond to what they say
- What we do to and for others
- How we regard ourselves



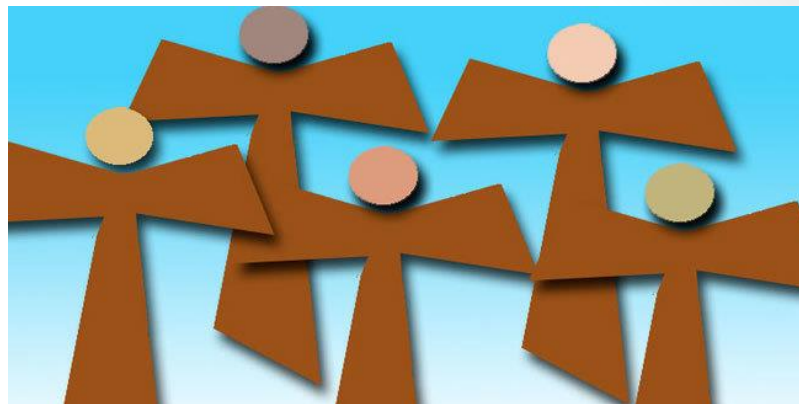
Who we are...

- Our Seraphic Father St. Francis was a great communicator in word and example.
- He reminds us that sometimes it takes great humility to listen to someone with whom we might not agree or someone who might be criticizing us.



Diane F. Menditto, OFS

Who we are..



- We are willing to reveal ourselves in humility and simplicity (lack of pretense)
- We are willing to listen (put aside personal agendas)
- We are poor (We are willing to trust one another and God)
- We don't always have to have the answer (we are servant leaders)

Who we are

- We are willing to share creative ideas and life with the fraternity
- We are willing to be present to our brothers and sisters in fraternity
- We are willing to witness to the Gospel through word, example and outreach to others.



We Can Always Do Better

Daily Conversion

- How can we improve the manner in which we treat and communicate with others? (Both in our fraternities and in the world.)
- How am I transformed through my life as a Secular Franciscan? (Changed into something better)
- Through my words and actions, do others know that I am a Franciscan? Do they even realize that I am a Christian?





Inspiration:

FUN Manual

Franciscan Journey

Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis

Gaudete et Exsultate, Pope Francis

Called to Follow Christ by Benet A. Fonck, OFM

Breath of God by Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR