

Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation

Chapter II

Living the Rule

- Form a path and shapes our vision of gospel living.
- Prologue continually gives clarity to our daily conversions
- Emphasis is Chapter Two

Living the Rule cont

- Articles 4-6 Gospel living in the Franciscan Tradition
- sacrificial binding to the person of Christ (Profession)
- Articles 7-8 give us the necessary preconditions for Gospel living: conversion and worship.
- Art 9-19 evangelization, sharing the Good News
 - 10-14 which gives our manner of life
 - 15-19 which tells what we do

Review of the Articles of the Rule

Article 15

- *Individually and collectively*
- *Forefront in promoting justice*
- *Testimony of their human lives*
- *Courageous initiatives*
- *Public life choices in harmony with their faith.*

Article 15 cont

- Fulfill one's obligations of justice and love is to contribute to the common good
- According to one's means and the needs of others
- To promote and help public and private organizations devoted to bettering the conditions of life." (**The Church in the Modern World**)

Article 15 cont

- Faith is tested by the quality of justice among us
- Best measure of our life together:
How the poor and the vulnerable are treated (**Economic Justice for All**)

Article 16

Esteem work:

- *Gift*
- *Sharing in the creation*
- *Redemption*
- *Service of the human community."*

Article 16 cont

- Work transforms the world
- We are transformed ourselves, becoming 'more a human being.'" **On Human Work**
- By their work people share in God's creating activity
- Judge work by the measure of dignity given to the person who carries it out." (**On Human Work**)

Article 17

Families cultivate the Franciscan spirit:

- *Peace*
- *Fidelity*
- *Respect for life,*
- *Striving to make of it a sign of a world already renewed in Christ.*

Article 17 cont

- “The first and fundamental structure for a “human ecology” is the family, founded on marriage” (**The Hundredth Year, #39**)
- “The well-being of the individual person and of ...society is closely bound up with the healthy state of the community of marriage and the family.” (**The Church in the Modern World #47**)

Article 18

Respect all creatures:

- *Animate and inanimate*
- *Bear the imprint of the Most High*
- *Move from exploiting creation*
- *Franciscan concept of universal kinship*

Article 18 cont

- “God destined the earth and all it contains for all people and nations so that all created things would be shared fairly by all humankind under the guidance of justice tempered by charity.” (**The Church in the Modern World, #69**)

Article 19

- *Bearers of peace*
- *Seek out ways of unity*
- *Fraternal harmony through dialogue*
- *Trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone*
- *Transforming power of love and pardon.*
- *Messengers of perfect joy*
- *Bring joy and hope to others*
- *Serenely tend toward the ultimate encounter with the Father*

Article 19 cont

- Share our awareness of the Church's vocation to be present in the heart of the world by proclaiming the Good News to the poor, freedom to the oppressed, and joy to the afflicted.” **(Justice in the World, #5)**

Special Assistance I

Praying with Eyes Open

Eastern Catholic & Orthodox tradition:

- Gazing at an icon
- Eyes open while praying.
- See with the eyes of Jesus
- *Become* what you gaze upon

Praying with Eyes Open cont

St. Claire's outline/ Franciscan prayer tradition:

- Gaze... to look at with loving attention
- Mediate... thoughtfully consider
- Contemplate... oneness with, listening/openness
- Imitate... become what you contemplate

Praying with Eyes Open cont

Praying with our eyes open:

- Builds relationship
- Transforms us
- Aids in making present the Kingdom of God

Special Assistance II
Theological Reflection

- Issues requiring careful examination
- Authentic Catholic/Franciscan response
- Way to effectively review and evaluate

Theological Reflection

Preparation:

- Write out the social issue/question
- Gather background material
- Distribute information
- Review of materials beforehand

Theological Reflection cont

Personal experience

- Introduce the issue
- Give time for individual to pause:
 Reflect in terms of your religious
 tradition
 Experience of life

Theological Reflection cont

Mutual Conversation

- Group discussion of supporting materials
- Mutual invitation
- Inspires creative thinking
- Transformation of the person.

Theological Reflection cont

Transformative Action

- Mutual conversation sets course of action
- Use positive action statements
- Look at the resources:
 - People
 - Talent
 - Time
 - Funds

Theological Reflection cont

Evaluate

- Implemented plan requires evaluation:
 - true to Rule
 - Church's teaching
 - meet needs of others as intended
- How is God calling me now?
- Begin the reflective process again

Conclusion

- There are radical consequences of transformation in Christ.