



January 2009

Because they embody the spirit of service; a willingness to find meaning in something greater than themselves. And yet, at this moment - a moment that will define a generation - it is precisely this spirit that must inhabit us all. - Barack Obama

Your Journey

From the beginning of his public life, Jesus invited ordinary people to join him in witnessing and preaching the Good News of love, healing and forgiveness. The three vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. These vows embrace the gospel values of Jesus' own life on earth and are a public statement of one's desire to live simply, love inclusively, and listen attentively in



service to God's people and the Church. The religious vows are a deepening of our baptismal commitment to love God above all things and to make God's dream of love and reconciliation for all people a reality in the world.

Choosing to submit your life to God is the most significant decision you can ever make. An invitation to live life to its fullest. It requires the ability to give, grow and respond to the challenges of making the Gospel a reality in today's world. It is difficult to say "yes" to God's call. Your faith and trust in God will at times be tested. Remember to pray, Prayer is at the heart of discerning your call. Do I feel called to religious life? Am I called to serve the Church in some other way? What does God want from me in my life? These are difficult questions to answer.

It requires sacrifice and a total reorientation of your life around God rather than yourself. As Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23). God calls you, but God allows the time to test out that call, to see if this is really what you want, to see if this is really what God wants of you and to see if this is the right community for you. By testing one's vocation through time, trial and error both you and the community can see if the fit is right. As you begin just remember that both you and God want the same thing, your happiness. Take a chance! We are here with you on this journey.

Come and See Weekend

PAX ET BONUM

It is now the time when the People of God go, with fresh and deeper purpose, to the sources of life and salvation. It must be a time when the power of the Spirit, which raised Jesus from the dead, is allowed to deepen its work in the world. It is the time to renew our hope for the coming Kingdom which dwells even now in the hearts of people. We must renew our commitment to radically transform ourselves and our society in the Lord's Passover.

His Life and Death give meaning to the efforts of those who struggle to overcome injustice, violence and hatred. His Resurrection makes it possible for all peoples to grow together in justice, in freedom, in solidarity and love. As we begin a new year let us pray for new beginning's as St. Francis said I have done what was mine to do may Christ teach you what is yours.

YouTube Video

Peace and all good, brothers:

We have new videos at YouTube!

<http://www.youtube.com/user/sacredheartprovince>

Join Us

Economic environment got you down? Take stock of your life. Consider a life of brotherhood and service as a Franciscan Friar. Do you feel inspired to serve the people of God in a unique way? It is challenging and will demand sacrifice. But, the rewards are out of this world. Be an instrument of change. Become a messenger of peace. Belong to something bigger than yourself. The Franciscans: a fraternity in missions.

Contact Us

New dates: January 30 - February 1, 2009
E-mail ofmbro@yahoo.com for more information

Wouldn't it be great to sample a weekend of Franciscan life? Become part of the new Gospel movement? Do you have the courage to live the Gospel? Well, here is how to do it. You can get a taste of our prayer life, our outreach and ministries, giving you a better idea of what our life is all about. Become an instrument of change. Become a messenger of peace. Belong to something bigger than yourself. Our office is here to walk with you during your journey of discovery.

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Be on the lookout in February for an update to our Province website: www.thefriars.org.

Pax et Bonum, Franciscan Vocation Office
Brother Jack & Friar Johnpaul

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