



# FRANCISCAN VOCATION MINISTRY

## SACRED HEART PROVINCE

*A Gospel Movement*

July 2009

*A healthy self-understanding and a generous spirit are the real marks of greatness and excellence.*

### Take Action!



We need your help! Please take one of the below actions to invite all Catholics to rejoice and live the Gospel in new and urgent ways. Be a Franciscan. We never know who God may be calling. Pass it on!

#### Pass it on... YouTube videos

Watch Pope Benedict speak to the Franciscan community.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q14m8JfNoj8>

Watch the vocation office's YouTube video. Be one of the first to rate it and leave a comment. Then, forward the link to all of your friends:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYV1ng9Gqww>

#### Pass it on... E-Newsletter

The more people who get our e-newsletter, the more we can serve. Forward this e-newsletter to all of your friends by clicking the "Forward to a Friend" button at the top of this e-mail. Also, encourage those you know to sign up to receive our messages at:

<http://www.befranciscan.com/index.html#enewsletter>

#### Pass it on... Comic Book

We have been experimenting with creating a comic book as a way of engaging our younger audience. Take a look at our first draft and offer your feedback directly to us at [vocation@befranciscan.com](mailto:vocation@befranciscan.com).

[http://www.befranciscan.com/download/comic\\_book.pdf](http://www.befranciscan.com/download/comic_book.pdf)

### Do you have what it takes?

- Do you spend time in prayer?
- Are you willing and able to grow in your prayer life?
- Are you committed to grow and meet whatever God may bring your way?
- Have you encountered God in the midst of disappointments and setbacks?
- Do you enjoy doing things for others?
- Would others say you have a generous heart?
- Can you laugh at yourself? Do you?
- Do you find humor in everyday life?
- Do you have strong, healthy relationships in your life?
- Can you face the cross and find it a way to resurrection?

If you can answer these questions in the positive, answer the call. God will do the rest.



We recently completed the move of our vocation office from Chicago, IL to St. Louis, MO. Please note our new address and phone number. Stay tuned to a story next month about the move... and how we're still unpacking boxes!

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## Bearers of the Gift of the Gospel

The final document proposes anew to all the Friars of the Order the principal themes discussed by the General Chapter on evangelization.

It is intended to be brief, following the example of St. Francis who advised us to use few words; it incorporates the theme of evangelization in the logic of the gift (i.e. the Gospel), a gift that is received by the Lord and which Francis and his companions, in turn, brought to the world as the most important gift.

The first part of the text, therefore, entitled, The Gift of the Gospel, illustrates Francis as discovering and receiving the gift of the Gospel, which is the original cause for the existence of fraternity. In fact, when his first two companions asked him what they needed to do to live with him, he replied, "Let us seek advice from Christ". He went with them to Church where he opened the book of the Gospel three times; and after listening to the voice of the Lord, a spiritual bond known as Fraternity was born. Immediately, that group of believers began to bear witness and proclaim the Living One. Hence, because they were living the Gospel, they became proclaimers and heralds of it with creativity and fantasy, seeking new ways to bring the Good News to every person.

The second part of the document entitled, "Restoring the Gift of the Gospel", illustrates some of the ways the Friars today wish to proclaim the Gospel. They wish to make known the Good News that God is a Father that loves us so much that he sent his own Son, Jesus. This has allowed us to have a life-giving encounter with him through the presence of the Spirit, who is our life, strength, and salvation.

The mission of the Friars is carried out among the people of today in a spirit of sympathy for the world, placing others at the center and not themselves; they seek, at the same time, to understand and be understood by the all peoples and cultures. Such a mission often involves going to other countries and live among people of other languages and culture and bring the gift of the Gospel to them. In other words, it is about "living in the frontlines" of a world that tears down and at the same time creates borders and barriers. The Friars Minor wish to ease border crossing and make communication between peoples and communion among them possible in the world today.

To bring this about, it is necessary to adapt a mentality

## Vocation Discernment

The best way to discern your vocation is in prayer. Prayer, simply put, is having a real conversation with God. Spend quiet time with God reflecting on His call for your life. Don't look for an earth shattering message that says "THIS IS WHAT YOU ARE TO DO." God generally does not communicate like that. Set aside time each day to speak with God about His plan for you. You can pray in your parish church or in a private place. You may choose to read the Scriptures or write in a journal as an aid to this process. God wants to speak to you, but you have to take time to listen for His quiet voice. Don't be afraid to ask. God will answer.

## Contact Us

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## Websites

[www.befranciscan.com](http://www.befranciscan.com)  
[www.thefriars.org](http://www.thefriars.org)  
[www.ofm.org](http://www.ofm.org)

## Come and See

Join us for our next Come and See event September 11-13 in St. Louis, MO. E-mail [vocation@befranciscan.com](mailto:vocation@befranciscan.com) for information regarding location and time.

of sharing of our mission with the laity, the Christian men and women of our time; they, too, have the right and duty to proclaim the Gospel because this task belongs to the whole Church and not just to a few. This also entails distancing us from a kind of clericalism that thinks that evangelization is only for Priests. The Franciscan Order, which is made up of both friar priests and lay brothers, can help the whole Church in this process. All the Friars must understand this.

All that has been said thus far, in order that it becomes a reality necessitates a fraternal project of life and mission, where evangelization blends with harmony with the different dimensions of the life of the Friar Minor, such as prayer, minority, fraternity, and formation. In this perspective, evangelization takes on a spirituality that is attentive to the values of justice, peace, integrity of creation; a spirituality that makes the brothers become bridges of dialogue, meeting, reconciliation, and guides aid in restructuring the Franciscan presences in the world to make them, not only simpler, but also more prophetic and more in tune with our being "minors".

After giving much thanks to God for the witness of so many brothers and sisters, the conclusion of this final document proposed a suggestive image by recalling the vigil of Pentecost. At the square of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, there was a bonfire lit by the flame from the Paschal Candle, a symbol of the Resurrection. The image of fire, also a symbol of the Spirit, was then offered to the Friars as a way of inviting them to maximize their own personal potentials, be on fire in their daily life with the fire of Easter, and remain faithful to the intuition of Francis who wanted the Chapter to be celebrated around the feast of Pentecost, a practice that has been continued to this day.

*We welcome you to the Franciscan vision of the world, a world where love is more powerful than hate, forgiveness more powerful than revenge, hope more powerful than despair, community more powerful than isolation and God is more powerful than all that mitigates against goodness and hope.*

*Become an instrument of change. Become a messenger of peace. Belong to something bigger than yourself...*



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