



FRANCISCAN VOCATION MINISTRY

SACRED HEART PROVINCE

A Gospel Movement

October 2009

People usually consider walking on water or in thin air a miracle. But I think the real miracle is not to walk either on water or in thin air, but to walk on earth. Every day we are engaged in a miracle which we don't even recognize: a blue sky, white clouds, green leaves, the black, curious eyes of a child – our own two eyes. All is a miracle.

- *Thich Nhat Hanh*

TO KNOW ONE'S VOCATION

Lord Jesus, up until now you have been quietly preparing me to be your disciple. Now the time of preparation is ending. I seem to hear you say to me, as once to Peter; "Will you also go away?"

You were saddened then by friends who failed you. But Peter did not fail. "Lord," he said, "to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

I stand with Peter. Through prayer and counsel, show me, Lord, where it is in your vineyard that you want me to serve. Then give me strength to be faithful.

Mary, Mother and Model, help me to respond in generous love to the call of your Divine Son. Amen.

Re-Think Life



Here you are. Here. Right now. Looking at a computer screen. Another second goes by. Another moment of life. Zoom. It's gone. Oops. There goes another one. The seconds and minutes pass. An hour. A day. A week. A year. Here today. Gone tomorrow.

Here you are. Somewhere on planet Earth. What are you thinking...RIGHT NOW? Nothing? Or is it something like, "I want more"?

Maybe the experience or the thing you hoped for wasn't really what you were looking for after all. Or maybe you just need MORE of that experience or thing. More clothes. More CDs. More dates. More parties. But even then you're left with the feeling, the plaguing thought: "I still want more." Could it be it's God and his plan for your life that's missing? Could God be calling you to become a Franciscan? Could you find that peace and fulfillment as a Franciscan priest/brother?

So you want more. More of something. But you're not

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sure what that something is. It's like there's a constant itch in your life. The feeling that something is missing. The feeling that there must be something more IN life and something more TO life. Something more to be gotten out of life. The sky will most likely not open, the bushes will mostly likely not flame up and speak. Yet that small still voice inside is calling for more. You ask "could it be even with all my shortcomings God is calling me?" Yes you, who were created in his image and likeness, see's in you that light and love we often fail to see in ourselves.

Our deepest needs and longings can't be met by anything in this realm. We need God to satisfy us ultimately. We need his "living water." We need to know him and have a relationship with him. Otherwise, we will be "thirsty" in life. That's why Jesus says, "whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst." Knowing him satisfies our thirst. It scratches that nagging itch we have. The itch that nothing else seems to scratch. Re-think your life. Be a living gospel to all you meet. Become more. Be a Franciscan!

Come and See



Come and see what life is like as a Franciscan Friar.

Where: St. Louis, MO

When: November 6-9, 2009

Who: Catholic Men 18-40

How: Complete the form [on the site](#) to express your interest.

[Register for Come and See!](#)

What is the Franciscan Way?



Who is this person, Francis of Assisi, who has inspired so many people? Why was Clare of Assisi so determined to live a life of poverty? What does it mean to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ in light of the teachings of Francis and Clare? And how does a Franciscan tradition influence the story of your life ?

Francis Bernadone (1182-1226) grew up a leader and lover of revelry. After finding emptiness in several endeavors, he realized God had other plans for him. In 1206 his search for conversion led him to the ancient church at San Damiano. While he was praying there, he heard Christ on the crucifix speak to him, "Francis, repair my church." Francis took the message literally and began to repair the crumbling building aided money from fabric he took from his father's shop. Renounced by his father, he begged for stones and rebuilt the San Damiano church with his own hands, not realizing that it was the larger task that God had in mind.

Francis started to preach. Slowly companions came to

Francis, people who wanted to follow his life of sleeping in the open, begging for food to eat...and loving God. With companions, Francis knew he had to find some kind of direction to this life, so he opened the Bible in three places. He read the command to the rich young man to sell all his goods and give to the poor, the order to the apostles to take nothing on their journey, and the demand to take up the cross daily. The rule for his brothers - live by the Gospel. Francis is frequently quoted as saying: "Preach the Gospel at all times, if necessary use words." Possibly the greatest heritage Francis and Clare leave for us is a deeply rooted desire for God, a fervent commitment to prayer, and a life that generates action. Today one and a half million Franciscans live throughout the world in many groups belonging to the three Orders - the Friars Minor, the Poor Clares, and the Third Order Franciscans. Franciscan institutions today include colleges and universities, hospitals, missions serving the poor and marginalized, and organizations engaging in activities on behalf of peace and the environment globally and locally.

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