

# Franciscan Vocation Ministry

## Sacred Heart Province

A Gospel Movement



February 2010

Let us pray at the beginning of Lent for a spirit of repentance. Lord our God, you formed us from the clay of the earth and breathed into us the spirit of life, but we turned from your face and sinned. In this time of repentance we call out to your mercy. Bring us back to you - and to the life your Son won for us by his death on the cross, for he lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

To scrutinize something means to examine it closely. We are all called to scrutinize our own lives and allow God to heal us. Since all of us are called to continual conversion throughout our lives, we join with all people of good will in scrutinizing ourselves and praying to God for the grace to overcome the power of sin that still has a hold on us, and to be strengthened in the virtues. Treat yourself to new life through a thoughtful examination of your lifestyle and what can be accomplished through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, not only during Lent, but every day. It will be a prayerful response to God's graciousness to you. It will mean fasting from selfishness in order to give yourself more fully. It will mean Christian sharing of yourself and your resources. In so doing, you will journey toward the new life of Easter.



What Gods people want to see  
[our life sowed in "conversion"](#)

There is a great need to understand that people and society itself is urging us to live our life "sic et simpliciter". This means that we have the responsibility to offer a sound fraternity in a world of individualism; to live the Lord's peace in a society urging for serenity; to pray together as friends and forming part of a big family founded by Francis of Assisi, in a world thirsty for the true meaning of life and love; to embrace simplicity in a wonderful technological world; to live in humility and joy in a very hectic life; to be near and care for all the poor that suffer the wounds of a stressed but noble society.

Pope John Paul II defined the Franciscan friars as the friars of the people. Pope Benedict XVI re-confirmed this statement more than once. This is a time where we can continue living our conversion in the heart of the Church. We are called to do so! It is our responsibility to live what we have promised to God and to the Church, because we are bound to live and preach the *Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God. (Mk, 1, 1)*  
(Excerpts from Fr. Sandro Overend OFM)

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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)

[Click here](#) to view our new ad campaign! (pdf)

These ads are now posted on the back of Chicago buses. [Let us know](#) if you see one!



Lent is a time when, like Jesus, we need to go away into the desert - into a quiet place - to take stock of our lives through prayer. Prayer is a way of life, an attitude, and a response to God expressed in all we say and do. Let us all remember to pray for vocations.

40 days of preparation for Easter are a favorable time to change the direction of our lives, by no longer following "superficial trends" or "moral mediocrity", but the "high standard" of Christian spirituality.

"This Lent, through the practice of prayer and penance, and an ever more fruitful reception of the Church's sacraments, may we make our way to Easter with hearts purified and renewed by the grace of this special season". Pope Benedict XVI

### Some Questions



How's your relationship with God and those around you? Do you spend your life only in pursuit of money and enjoyment?

Is there anyone you can't forgive or something you can't give up which is contrary to God's will?

Have I sincerely listened to God in my search for a vocation?

### What is your Vocation?



There are moments in our lives when we get the sense that Jesus is nearby, and he is looking at us with profound love. There are moments when we feel called to make decisions that will shape our lives. There are moments when we have a feeling that Jesus is very close, and he is whispering his ancient invitation to us today: "Follow me!" How will you follow him? Might he be calling you to service in the Church, channel your gifts and talents for the service of others, by becoming a Franciscan?

**HEARING THE CALL** When you think God is calling you to a particular vocation, try it.  
**ASK. LISTEN. ACT.**

When you "let go and let God" you will go far in the spiritual life that the most essential virtue needed to grow in holiness is courage. Courage can carry a person to God. Jesus said that "the man who saves his life will lose it and the man

who loses his life for my sake will find it" (Mt 10:39). Can you die to your own plans, dreams, possessions and desires for achievement? The meaning of the words "the man who loses his life for my sake" is beautiful. Man normally steers clear of the difficult, but it is in the difficult where an individual proves himself and blossoms. In the vocation, Jesus asks for the difficult. The person is asked to abandon self-will. All is forsaken for Christ. The person who dies to himself finds a whole new life in Christ. Do it, and you'll find this is true.

