



- A RESOURCE FOR ONGOING FORMATION -

Part 2: A Life of Penance and Daily Conversion

Chapter 8. Chastity II—helping young people



From the beginning children are influenced and shaped by the world about them—



what they read and what they are taught;

interests, leisure time, their heroes...



For those brought up as Christians, the temptation is to desert the faith and surrender to the culture of self-gratification, since it is always easier to follow the crowd than to follow CHRIST.



the home; the company they keep;



But all too often there is little or no spiritual development taking place, which means that when children reach adolescence they are unclear who they are, or how they ought to act. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the area of sexual behaviour—which has reached crisis-point in our present society....



What can we—parents, disciples, Franciscans—do to help the young to realise the importance, in particular, of chas-



TIME FOR A SPIRITUAL CHECK-UP...

1. When was the last time you spoke with someone under 20 about your faith?
2. In what ways are you witnessing to young people about the duty and joy of chastity?

Secular Franciscans...are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively. Rule 14

By living the grace of matrimony, husbands and wives in particular should bear witness in the world to the love of Christ for his Church. Rule 17

We don't start with a list of actions that are wrong but one attitude that is right: every human being is sacred to God, purchased by the blood of Christ, hovered over by the Spirit. The *whole* person...is sacred. I may not use or abuse any person's mind, talents, emotions or body for my selfish purposes. Whether for sexual, materialistic or intellectual gratification, I may never see another person as a 'thing'... Only this deep Christian love for others can withstand the call to enjoyment of every possible pleasure today... A Christian believes the act of sexual intercourse is reserved by God's law for those who have committed themselves to each other for life in a loving marriage.

Foley, Weigel, Normile *To Live as Francis Lived* Reflection 21 (p 80-83)



Scripture—

Ps 119. 9-16

How can young people keep their way pure? By guarding it to according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments. I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes. With my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth. I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts, and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.