



## - A RESOURCE FOR ONGOING FORMATION -

### Part 1: The Essence of Franciscan Spirituality

#### Chapter 2. Living the Gospel Life

The OFS...is an organic union of all Catholic fraternities scattered throughout the world and open to every group of the faithful. In these fraternities the brothers and sisters, led by the Spirit, strive for perfect charity in their own secular state. By their profession they pledge themselves to live the gospel in the manner of St Francis by means of this rule approved by the Church. (Rule 2)

The Most High Himself revealed to me that I should live according to the pattern of the Holy Gospel. And I had this written down simply and in a few words and the Lord Pope confirmed it for me.

*Testament of St Francis*

to live the gospel life for Jesus: **Phil 1. 21**

to be animated by the Spirit: **Job 33.4**

to live a life in such a way that others are brought to Christ: **Matt 5. 14**

to be Franciscan is to be Christians with the particular inspiration and tradition of St Francis,  
the **Franciscan charism**

Since Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life Secular Franciscans should have the deep conviction that, by baptism and profession they must become like Christ crucified, and follow his Gospel as their rule of life. As they live their lives in the world, they are imbued with the mind and Spirit of Christ.

Foley, Weigel, Normile *To Live as Francis Lived: a guide for Secular Franciscans* Reflection 3 (p 11)

John 14. 6

Gal 3. 27

Rom 6. 4

Phil 2. 5

What is a way of life?

What is the Good News?

How are we told to live the Gospel life?

A secular institute is an institute of consecrated life in which the Christian faithful living in the world strive for the perfection of charity and work for the sanctification of the world especially from within. (C I C, Canon 710)

Lay members share in the Church's evangelizing task in the world and of the world through their witness of a Christian life and fidelity toward their consecration, and through their efforts to order temporal things according to God and inform the world by the power of the gospel. Also, they cooperate in serving the ecclesial community, according to their particular secular way of life. (C I C, Canon 713. 2)



## Scripture—

### Phil 1. 19-28a

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice. For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will result in my deliverance. It is my eager expectation and hope that I shall not be put to shame in any way, but that by my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better: but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you, for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in the one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for that faith of the gospel, and in no way intimidated by your opponents.