



- A RESOURCE FOR ONGOING FORMATION -

Part 1: The Essence of Franciscan Spirituality

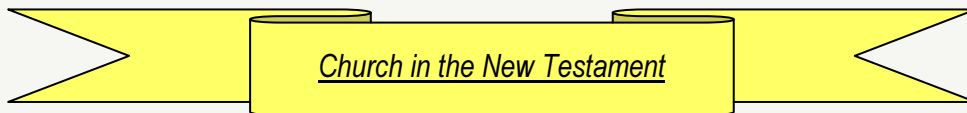
Chapter 3. Loyalty to the Church

Secular Franciscans have been made living members of the Church by being buried and raised with Christ in baptism; they have been united more intimately with the Church by profession. Therefore they should go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words. Called like St Francis to rebuild the Church and inspired by his example, let them devote themselves energetically to living in full communion with the pope, bishops and priest, fostering an open and trusting dialogue of apostolic effectiveness and creativity. (Rule 6)

The local fraternity...becomes the basic unit of the whole Order and a visible sign of the Church...the privileged place for developing a sense of Church and the Franciscan vocation...(Rule 22)

Since the Church, in Christ, is in the nature of a sacrament—a sign and instrument, that is, of communion with God and of unity among all men...The condition of the modern world lends greater urgency to this duty of the Church for, while men of the present day are drawn ever more closely together by social, technical and cultural bonds, it still remains for them to achieve full unity in Christ. (Vat II *Lumen Gentium* 35)

Christ is the great prophet...Until the full manifestation of his glory, he fulfils this prophetic office, not only by the hierarchy who teach in his name and by his power, but also by the laity. (Vat II *Lumen Gentium* 35)



- Pair up the biblical references with the list of things said of the Church -

1. I Cor 12. 4-6
2. John 13. 34-35
3. Matt 6. 24
4. Gal 2. 2
5. Eph 5. 25
6. Rom 16. 5
7. I Cor 14. 4
8. Col 1. 24
9. I Tim 5. 16
10. Rev 3. 14-15
11. Rom 16. 1
12. Jas 5. 14

1. luke warm
2. deaconess
3. sick anointing
4. sufferings of the body
5. gifts
6. house church
7. assisting widows
8. love command
9. service
10. what Christ died for
11. prophecy
12. burden sharing

Biblical reference no.

Church thing no.



The vocation to rebuild the Church ought to introduce the brothers and sisters sincerely to love and live in union with the local church in which they develop their vocation and realise their apostolic commitment, aware that in the diocese the Church of Christ is truly functioning.

Constitutions art. 100.1



Scripture—

I Pet 2. 4-10

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For as it stands written in Scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner', and 'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.