



Studying the Rule of the OFS



Chapter 2 The Form of Life

13. Just as the Father perceives the features of his Son, the Firstborn of many brothers and sisters, in every human being, *21 so let Secular Franciscans welcome everyone with a humble and courteous spirit as a gift from the Lord made in the image of Christ. *22

Through developing a sense of fraternity they will find joy in recognising themselves as equals in the condition of all men and women especially that of the poorest of the poor, for whom Secular Franciscans will make every effort to create conditions of life which are worthy of a creature redeemed by Christ. *23

Footnotes:

*21 Rom 8.29

*22 2 C 85 2 FA:ED (p 303); Later Admonition and Exhortation 26 1 FA:ED (p 47); ER 7.13 (p 69)

*23 1 FA:ED ER 9.3 (p 70); Matt 25.40

Cf. General Constitutions:

Art 18.2-4

ENDNOTES:

What does it mean 'to be conformed to the image of his Son'? (Rom 8.29)

Take a look at the passage in 2 Celano 85 (2 FAED p 303), *How he [Francis] corrected a brother who criticised a poor man.*

Q. How can we, in a world so different from that of St Francis, follow Christ in his footprints? Should we literally give away our clothes like he did? Or is there something deeper here that we need to grasp if we are to follow the crucified Lord in the steps of our Sraphic Father?



Song of Solomon 1.13 says this, 'My beloved is to me a bag of myrrh'. The use of this expression 'bag of myrrh' is used in Christian literature, mystically interpreted, to refer to Christ's Passion—which should be at the heart of Christian living. Celano says, 'a bundle of myrrh abided in Francis. Always he gazed upon the face of his Christ. Always he caressed the Man of Sorrows, familiar with suffering.'

Q. How, in your growth as a Franciscan, has this been realised in your own life; in fraternity life?

'Man of Sorrows', what a name
for the Son of God who came
ruined sinners to reclaim!
Hallelujah! what a Saviour!

Guilty, vile and helpless we;
spotless Lamb of God was he:
'full atonement', can it be?
Hallelujah! what a Saviour!