

Anyone can slay a dragon, he told me,  
but try waking up every morning  
& loving the world  
all over again.



that's what takes a Real Hero. [Franciscan Leader]

"Real Hero"

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# A Different Way of Looking at Franciscan Servant Leadership

National Fraternity  
Chapter  
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# Tools

1. Scripture
2. Official Documents of the OFS
3. Servant Leadership Manual
4. NAFRA and CIOFS Websites
5. NEC and Other Regional Ministers
6. Long, long, long list of Leadership Books



# The Essence of Franciscan Spiritual Leadership

Most High, Glorious God!

- (1) enlighten the darkness  
of my heart,
- (2) give me right faith,
- (3) certain hope, and
- (4) perfect charity,
- (5) wisdom and
- (6) understanding, Lord,
- (7) that I may carry out  
your holy and true  
command.



# Enlighten my Darkness: Trait 1 of a Franciscan Spiritual Leader

Most High, Glorious God,

Give me zeal  
for  
moral fortitude  
and  
righteousness



# FOLLOWING FRANCIS

enlighten the darkness of  
my heart



"When a man envies his brother [or sister] the good that God says or does through him, it is like committing a sin of blasphemy, **because he is really envying God**, who is the only source of every good."

(Admon. 8 St. Francis of Assisi)

# LISTENING TO JESUS

## Short version of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

A **Pharisee** and a **tax collector** went to the temple area to pray.

The **Pharisee** prayed, thanking God that he was not like the rest of **humanity**—greedy, dishonest, adulterous—or even like this **tax collector**. The Pharisee fasts and tithes.



But the **tax collector**—at a distance with his eyes lowered prayed:

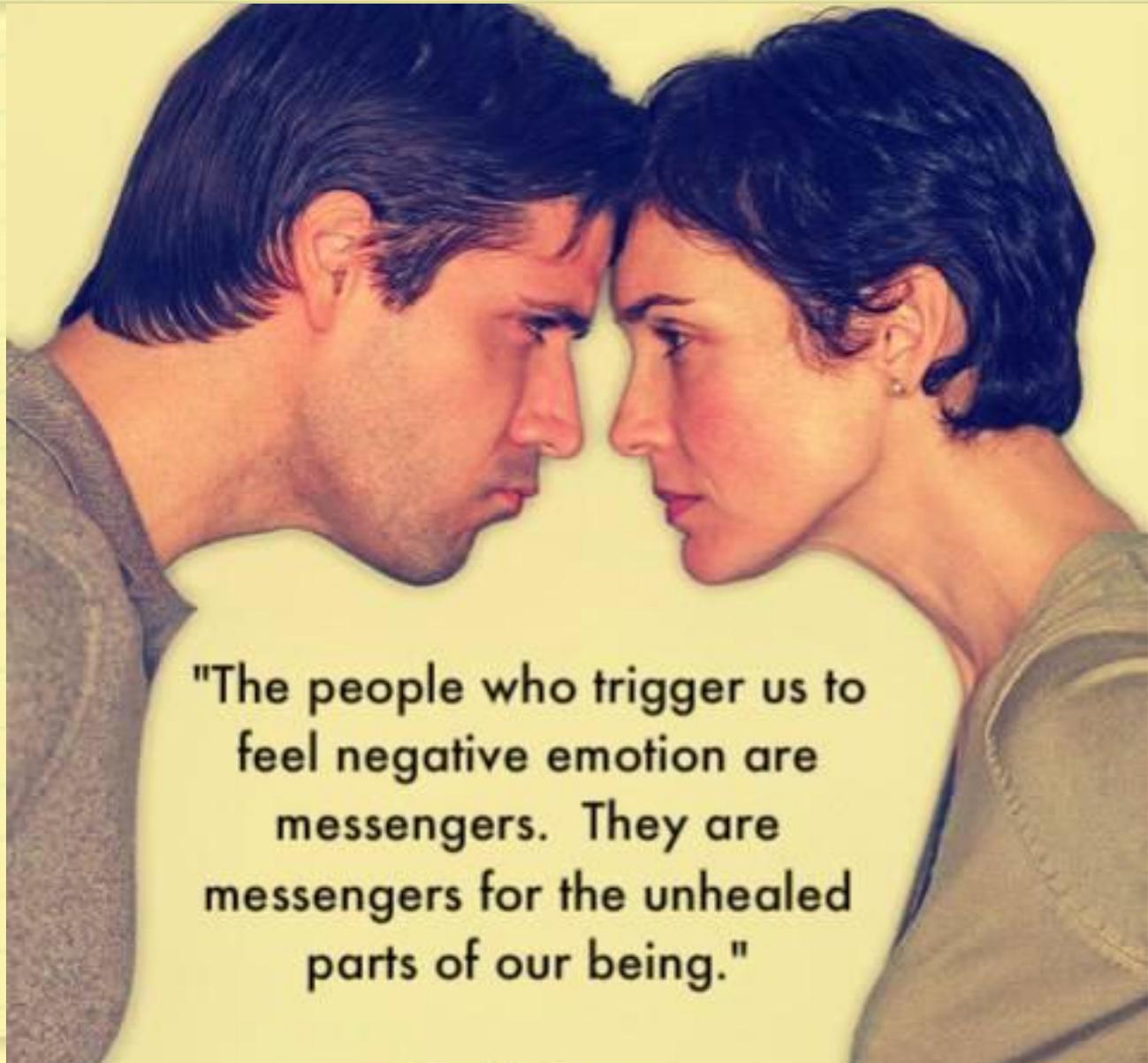
**“O God, be merciful to me a sinner.”**

**Who went home justified?** Jesus said:

**“ ...everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted**

Luke 18:9-14

## (Quote from Teal Swan) TAKE AWAY (1)



"The people who trigger us to feel negative emotion are messengers. They are messengers for the unhealed parts of our being."



## TAKE AWAY (2)

### enlighten my darkness

The Kiss of Judas



We should be careful not to over-estimate our personal righteousness

**substance rather than image is the path to the heart of God.**

**Who we are**—too often—**determines** how we perceive others' actions and sometimes with disastrous results.

# Right Faith: Trait 2 of a Franciscan Spiritual Leader

Most High, Glorious God!

Help me develop a deeper understanding of Jesus through his message of faith and salvation and how to apply faith in my capacity as a Franciscan Servant Leader.



# FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING FRANCIS

And the Lord gave me such FAITH ... that I would pray with simplicity in this way and say:  
**We adore You, Lord Jesus Christ**

—in all Your churches throughout the whole world— **and we bless You** because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world.

[the emphasis is on Christ]



# PLACING MY FAITH IN JESUS

Jesus consoling Martha and Mary on the death of Lazarus—

Jesus told [them], “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?” [Do you have faith in me?] [Martha] said to him, “Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that **you are the Messiah, the Son of God**, the one who is coming into the world.”

John 11:25-27



# TAKE AWAY

## give me right faith

Faith is a supernatural gift that invites us into the hidden mysteries of God's own divine life.

- Faith assures us salvation John 6:47
- Faith will heal us [at least spiritually] Mark 10:52
- Faith paves the way to forgiveness of sin. Mark 2:5

Faith extends beyond Christ—to **the Christ in others**—we must have faith in others to do what they have been called to do.



## Certain Hope: Trait 3 of a Franciscan Spiritual Leader

Most High, Glorious God!



Help us to persevere in **HOPE**  
believing you will always provide  
all that we need to form us into  
wise and loving Christian  
Franciscan Leaders.

# FOLLOWING POPE FRANCIS

## All Saints Day Homily

“The feasts of All Saints and All Souls are ‘days of hope,’ Pope Francis said. The virtue of **‘hope is like a bit of leaven that enlarges your soul.’** There are difficult moments in life, but **with hope you go forward** and keep your eyes on what awaits us.



Today is a day of hope; our brothers and sisters [the saints] are in the presence of God, and we, too, will be there in the Lord's arms if we follow the path of Jesus."

*St. Paul tells us that HOPE has a name. **Hope is Christ.***

# PLACING OUR HOPE IN JESUS

**Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the assurance of things **HOPED** for, the conviction of things not seen.



For in this **HOPE** we were saved.  
Hope that IS seen is NOT hope.  
For who hopes for what he sees?  
But if we hope for what we do NOT  
see, we wait for it with patience.

Romans 8:24-25

# TAKE AWAY

Hope is a life force that keeps us going.  
Hope helps us to deal with life's problems.  
Lack of hope can lead to burnout:

- Shirking responsibilities
- Becoming exhausted and overwhelmed
- Becoming negative and cynical

Hope is the thing with feathers--



That perches in the soul –

But those who hope in the LORD  
will renew their strength. They will  
soar on wings like eagles; they will  
run and not grow weary, they will  
walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31

# Perfect Charity: Trait 4 of a Franciscan Spiritual Leader

Jesus Washes the Disciples'  
Feet



Most High,  
Glorious God!  
Infuse every inch  
of my being with  
fraternal love

## FOLLOWING FRANCIS in perfect charity:

### The Beginning of Francis' Life of Penance and Love

... for when I was in sin, it seemed too bitter for me to see lepers.---

And the Lord Himself led me among them. ---

And *I showed mercy [perfect charity]* to them ---

and when I left them, ---

what had seemed bitter to me was turned into sweetness of soul and body.



# IMITATING JESUS in perfect Charity:

**Jesus** and the Woman Accused of Adultery



“A new command I give you:  
**Love one another.**

**As I have loved you, so  
you must love one another.”**

“By this everyone will know  
that you are my disciples, if  
you love one another.”

John 13:34-35

# TAKE AWAY

Without love for our sisters and brothers, we will have failed as spiritual leaders **even if we look successful.**

**Love changes everything**, determines what we do with our day and all our choices and decisions.

It is through the eyes of love that we see Jesus in every member of the OFS, even when they are being difficult.

Sometimes we must care first about the person before enforcing the rules and regulations, praying for wisdom. (Do you agree or disagree?) Think: Woman caught in adultery.



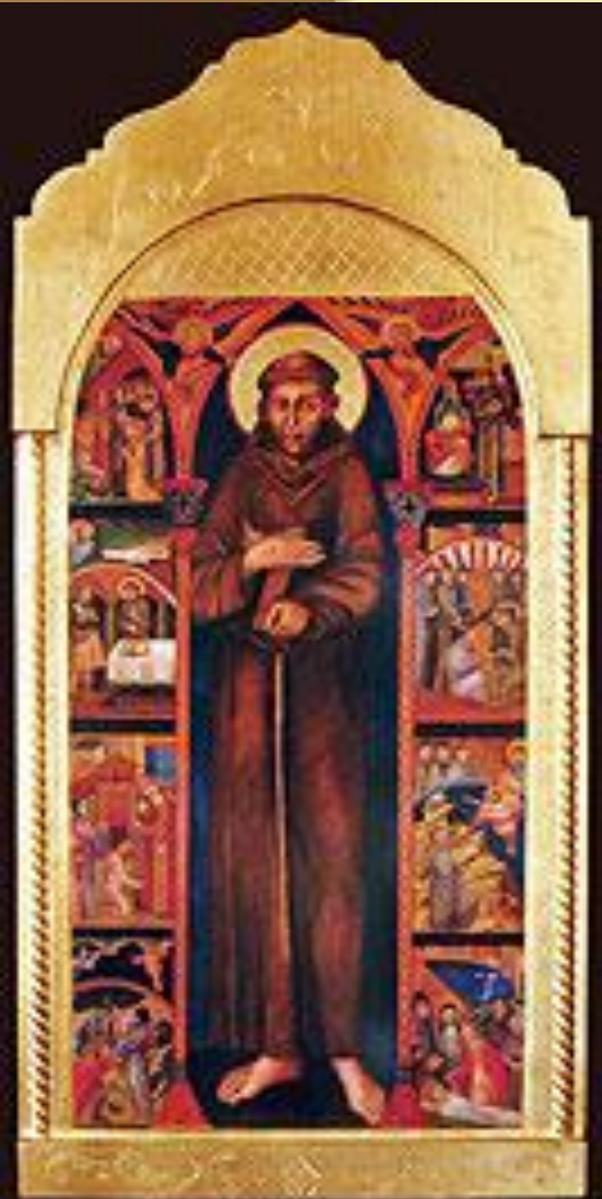
**Wisdom:** Trait 5 of a  
Franciscan Spiritual Leader

True Wisdom comes from the touch of God.

Most High, Glorious God!  
Help me to make good and  
wise judgments based on  
prayer and the leading of  
the Holy Spirit



# FOLLOWING FRANCIS in Wisdom



And after the Lord gave me some brothers, no one showed me what I had to do, but the Most High Himself revealed to me that I should live according to the pattern of the Holy Gospel.

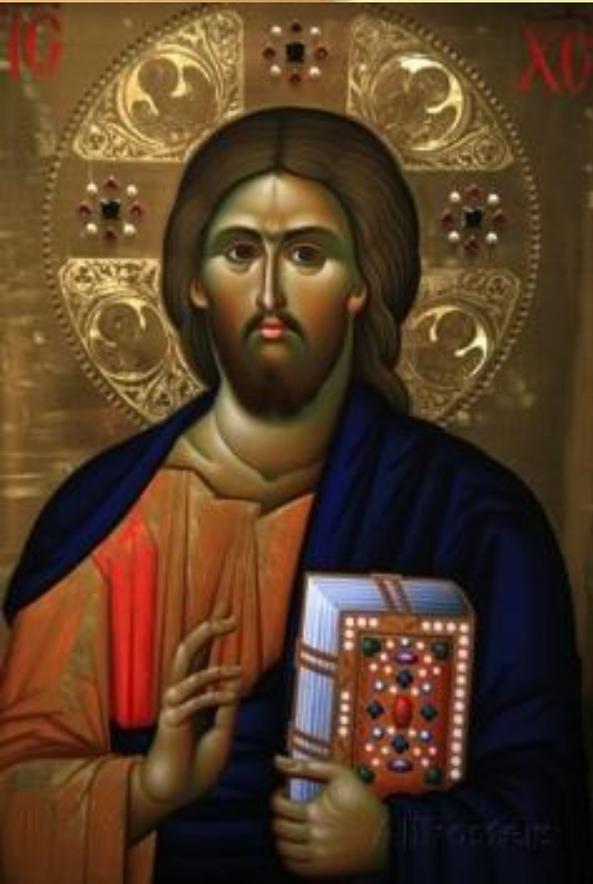
Testament 14

# BELIEVING the Promise of CHRIST

And Jesus said, “I have told you this while I am with you.

The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that [I] told you.”

John 14:25



# WISDOM TAKE AWAY

Wisdom allows us to make wise use of our time. Trivia can hold a leader hostage and waste energy.

St. Francis and Jesus understood that wisdom is obtained in a **balanced life** of prayer and action – engagement and withdrawal.

Wisdom is based on **truth; not** on knowledge [although knowledge plays a part in wisdom]. Wisdom is a virtue that comes from God and should be sought in prayer.



## Understanding: Trait 6 of a Franciscan Spiritual Leader

# Most High, Glorious God!

**Jesus goes AWOL** in the Temple  
Luke 2:39-53

Help me to be  
patient with what is  
unfinished in myself  
and in others.



## Following What FRANCIS Understood

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.



*Where there is patience and humility, there is neither anger nor disturbance.”*

Saint Francis of Assisi

The Admonitions XXVII:  
Virtue puts vice to flight.

# JESUS IMPARTS UNDERSTANDING

## SCENE FROM EMMAUS

Jesus, speaks to his discouraged companion on the road, calling them “**foolish**” and “**slow of heart**” not to have understood what the prophets foretold. Beginning with Moses, Jesus interprets the Scriptures about him for them.

(We know the end of this story, but they don't.) His companions beg him to stay and eat with them. And in the blessing and breaking of the bread, they recognized Him, whereupon Jesus disappears. **Understanding dawns**, and they return to Jerusalem.

Luke 24:25-32



# TAKE AWAY

Understanding is the best use of **spiritual** knowledge.

It comes from **exercising the virtues** such as patience and humility.

It is the ability to **discern the truth** in making choices and decisions.

Along with wisdom, understanding should be **sought in prayer**.



Carrying Out God's Will: Trait 7 of a  
Franciscan Spiritual Leader

Most High, glorious God,

Stay by my side Lord so  
that my devotion and  
service to you will never  
waver.



# FOLLOWING FRANCIS

[carrying out God's holy and true command]

Therefore, let us **desire** nothing else,  
let us **want** nothing else,  
let nothing else **please us** and cause us  
**delight except** our

- Creator,
- Redeemer and
- Savior,
- the only true God,

**Who is the fullness of  
good, all good, every  
good, the true and  
supreme good.**



# CHRIST Fulfills God's Will Part 1

## The Incarnation:

**And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.**



John testified to him and cried out, saying, “This was he of whom I said, ‘The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.’” ...

**No one has ever seen God. Only the Son, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.**

John 1:14-15

# CHRIST Fulfilling God's Will Part 2

## Commissioning of the Disciples:



The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, *but they doubted*. Then Jesus approached and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore,\* and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to **observe all that I have commanded you**. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:16–20



## TAKE AWAY

Listening in prayer is key to discerning God's will, and Scripture will support God's will.

Seek guidance from others: spiritual assistants, a personal spiritual director, members of the council, former leaders, etc.

Seek guidance through OFS documents.

Be aware of our gifts AND our limitations—through soul-searching.

Seek God's will in opportunities and circumstances; in needs and desires.



# The Essence of Franciscan Spiritual Leadership

## So What Must a Leader Do?

1. Above all, love your people, especially when their actions toward you are unlovable (not to be confused with being a doormat)
2. Be willing to take risks and develop a thicker skin (see #1)
3. Commit to working tirelessly, at times without tangible gratitude or reward
4. Be a servant leader—Be Jesus to those you serve.



# The Essence of Franciscan Spiritual Leadership

## So What Does a Leader Need?

### Relational Components (External)

1. Restorative Prayer
2. Supportive Relationships
3. Respect for and Trust in Others



# The Essence of Franciscan Spiritual Leadership



More Needs

## Internal Components

1. Joy which Resists Discouragement
2. Character, Courage, and a Plan (Vision)
3. Focus and Passion

# Discussion Questions

## Question 1:

Describe the key actions and behaviors of persons that you have experienced as your best leaders.

a. Can you name a person who has had a tremendous impact on you as a person leading others? Why and how did this person impact your life?



# Discussion Questions

## Questions 2 and 3

(2) From your experience in leadership, what advice would you give someone being elected for the first time?

(3) What is the biggest challenge facing you today as a leader?



# Discussion Questions

## Question 4

How do you interpret the statement  
“Leadership is relationship?”

a. How do you encourage others in your  
region to communicate?



This slide has nothing to do with  
my presentation



But  
you  
must  
admit  
they  
are  
leaders!