

<u>Neighborhood based Franciscan Community</u> Suggested Rule of Life

October 3, 2023, Commemorating the death of permanent deacon St. Francis of Assisi.

Jesus, we trust in you! St. Francis pray for us as we "Go rebuild Jesus' Church"!

Article 1: Allowing God to fill me with Grace, so I become full of grace.

Recognizing that the Church is more divided greater now than in 1223 AD, I believe that God our Father desires that *everyone* recognize that Church already is the one, holy, catholic and apostolic body of Christ. Everyone must experience a **personal Transfiguration**. Everyone needs to climb their personal Mount Zion and gaze upon Jesus. Everyone needs to experience that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. The job of Savior of the World has already been taken: His Name is Jesus, no one else need apply. Jesus is the Way, then the Truth, and then the Life. I need to surrender to the Holy Spirit and experience a personal Pentecost. I need to recognize that I am being sent to help people Discover Christ, Follow Christ, and Share Christ. I need to agree to set captives free as the common priest, prophet, and king in Jesus. Through prayer Jesus can unbind them from their spiritual, physical, emotional, or psychological traumas. Here I am LORD, send me.

I commit to promote the rebuilding of Jesus's body, the Church through networks, not institutions. Our process of building is to recognize that God, a Trinity of Persons, is the chief architect, the rest of us are sub-contractors fulfilling our part in the rebuilding process. My motto will be "I am a part, not the whole" and "It's not my plan, I follow the architects design." I've joined the *AIA*: the network of *A*ttractive, *I*nvitational, and *A*ccompanying subcontractors. I chose to follow my conscience (CCC 1776) and Love, do good works prepared for me from the foundation of the world, and resist evil in my life and the lives of my friends and acquaintances. Unless the LORD builds my/our house, I am just wasting my time. John 6: 45 God has always wanted to be my teacher. He forms me, through the ministry of the church.

In my neighborhood, I will internalize the concept of the Good Samaritan: I will go across the path (my street) to my neighbor who may consider me to be his/her enemy. I will spend my time, my talents, and my treasure, to heal my neighbor. I commit to living a simple life of service to my neighborhood.

As a neighborhood based missionary disciple, I realize that I must work to help my neighbors realize that the **Church already is one**, through our common baptism, immersion into a grace filled life. God baptized me through one of His ministers. I will promote that the Church is one faith and one hope. There is only one God and Father of us all. He immersed me into His Family. He regenerated me, made me a New Creation. I commit to being an Ambassador for Christ in my neighborhood as if God were appealing to my friends through me. I will become a better minister of reconciliation,

helping my acquaintances reconcile with God and with each other. I will help them learn how to forgive each other 70 times 7 times.

The Church already is holy. The Church is not an institution. But the living breathing body of Jesus. I am one cell connected to many other cells in different ways all being healed and fed through the Blood of Jesus. As imperfect as my human body can be, I commit to growing holy. I take up the universal call to holiness, and will pursue personal separation from worldly desires and, with God's grace, set myself apart for God.

The Church already is catholic. The Church is God's universal plan for salvation. Not other plan exists. There is no plan A or B, just the Father's plan to help spread His glory, His manifest presence that is accessible to everyone who chooses to follow His Plan. His glory is offered to all. In fact the Glory of God occurs when men and women become fully alive. This universal grace must be awakened. Everyone is being invited to realize that each of us have been "filled with every spiritual blessing in the heavens", to become missionary disciples for this new missionary age. We must Go, proclaim the Gospel of the LORD to everyone, universally. No salvation exists outside of the catholic Church. That catholic church, is being rebuilt, according to the invitation from God to St. Francis and those who follow his inspiration. God, the Holy Spirit, who we worship and adore, is hovering over the chaos again, and through the intercession of his bride, Mary, full of Grace, is reorganizing the catholic church through a Current of Grace. This Current of Grace has seven streams, similar to the seven Churches described in the Book of Revelation. Those streams appear to be: Eastern and Western Catholic, Pentecostal, Evangelical, Charismatic, Messianic Jewish and Orthodox. Seven Streams of Grace in the Current of Grace. These streams of Grace in the Current of Grace will eventually restore the Church to its full catholicity, as followers of Jesus overcome their misunderstandings and suspicions of each other and form small groups to get to listen to their brother or sister then promote the Gospel together.

The Church is apostolic. The Church exists to evangelize, therefore, as a member of the Church, everything I do must have an evangelistic character. I exist to evangelize. Evangelization is discovering my identity in Christ, internalizing a biblical lifestyle as if being adopted into a supernatural family, then helping others discover Christ and internalize the way of life He designed for them. An apostle is one who is sent. I am being sent into my world to help the world recognize the Savior of the World. I will become a vessel of grace, filled with grace, then dispense grace.

Article 2: What I agree to do!

I agree to a life of prayer. I will pray one hour a day, one day a month, and one week a year. I will join three small faith communities. 1) A group of **three friends** who will meet once a month to help me grow in holiness. 2) a group of **seven** ecumenical partners who I can study with. And 3) a group of **twelve** disciples who desire to influence one cultural issue. I also agree to promote this lifestyle.