

Formation Tools

Scripture and the Words of St. Francis

Objective

- Describe the use of these tools in [On-Going] formation as a means to live the Rule faithfully and be drawn into a more intimate relationship with God:
 - in daily (1) scripture reading and praying the (2) Liturgy of the Hours
 - by using the (3) words of St. Francis as a source of inspiration and encouragement
 - to discover in Scripture and in the words of St. Francis a catalyst for joy

Liturgy of the Hours

- How is Liturgy of the Hours a ‘formation tool’?
 - Formation on Liturgy of the Hours
 - the what, why, and how praying the Liturgy of Hours
 - in community
 - personally
 - Formation on prayer
 - meditation

Liturgy of the Hours in the Rule

- “Let them join in liturgical prayer in one of the forms...” (Rule: Article 8)
- “...participate...giving priority to the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours.” (Constitution: Article 14.4)

Joy in the Liturgy of the Hours

- Joy in the Psalms
- Joy in the Canticles
- Joy in the Antiphons
- Joy in the Reading
- Joy in the Closing Prayer

Liturgy of the Hours



When praying the Liturgy of the Hours...

"Jesus prays for us as our priest, he prays in us as our head, he is the object of our prayer as our God. Let us then hear our voices in his voice, and his voice in ours."

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St. Augustine of Hippo

Joy of the Gospel

“As the Father has loved me so I love you....

I have told you this so that my *joy* may be in you and your *joy* may be complete.”

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John 15:9, 11

Praying with Scripture

- Why pray Scripture (the Liturgy of the Hours and daily Readings)
 - Formed by the Word of God
 - Prayer of the Church
 - Enter into a natural rhythm prayer
 - Come to know God intimately

Daily Readings



- Readings of the Church
- Gospel paired with an OT or NT reading, coupled with a Psalm
- Forms us a disciple of Jesus and leads us into prayer and contemplation
 - Lectio Divina

God Present in His Word

“For this reason, the Church has always venerated the Scriptures as she venerates the Lord’s Body.”

“In the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks to them.”

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Dei Verbum

Words of St. Francis

- Through the Words of the St. Francis we form an image of:
 - His spirit
 - His mind
 - How he pictured Jesus
 - How he viewed the Gospel



“The Most High revealed to me that I should live according to the ways of the Gospel.”

Words of St. Francis

- What we have:
 - His Rules
 - His Prayers
 - The Admonitions
 - A few letters

Words of St. Francis

- How to get them:
 - Omnibus of Sources
 - Books with commentaries
 - Online PDF
 - Ritual of the SFO (sampling)

Words of St. Francis

“The words of the Poor Man of Assisi are more precious than any relic.”

- Fr. Kajetan Esser OFM

Summary

- Encourage the use of Liturgy of the Hours
 - Motivate
 - Instruct
 - Practice
- Encourage the practice of daily scripture reading
- Encourage the reading and reflection on the Words of St. Francis

Conclusion

- “The purpose of formation is to develop a relationship of deep communion and friendship with Jesus.”
 - Synopsis, Elements of Formation, National Formation Commission
- “The brothers and sisters are responsible for their own formation developing in an ever more perfect way the vocation received from the Lord.”
 - Constitution of the SFO, 37.3