

ELEMENTS OF FRANCISCAN UNITY

August 11, 2005

Feast of St. Clare

St. Francis House – New London, Connecticut

Baptism and Vocation

We recognize that all of our Orders understand that our Franciscan vocation proceeds from our relationship with God through Holy Baptism in water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The call to vocation implies being conformed to the image of our Lord Jesus Christ by means of that radical interior change that the Gospel calls conversion, taking up our cross daily to follow Christ. Our particular vocation is to observe the Gospel by following the examples of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi. As members of Franciscan orders, we pledge ourselves, with lifelong intent, to live out our Franciscan vocation in community with our brothers and sisters.

Charism

As Franciscans, we see in the life of St. Francis of Assisi particular gifts of the Holy Spirit of Holy Poverty (humility), love and joy.

Christocentric Dimension

Franciscan spirituality is Christocentric to the extent that Francis fell in love with Jesus and his life was transformed. All that he did was shaped by what he saw in the Incarnation, and in the ministry and passion of Jesus.

Likewise, Franciscan spirituality is a way of life centered on the person of Jesus. It is our mission to make Jesus known to all and to pray and work for the reconciliation of all creation.

Prophetic Voice

We agree that fundamental to Franciscan spirituality is a commitment to strive for justice and peace among all people. We are called to courageous initiatives in the field of human development and justice and to make definite choices in harmony with our faith whenever human dignity is attacked by any form of oppression and indifference.

In the spirit of Francis who understood the interrelationship of all creation, we are also committed to the integrity of creation and therefore to its protection and restoration.

Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity:

The Reverend J. Frederick Ball, OEF

Marcella A. Bina, SFO

Jean A. D'Onofrio, SFO

The Reverend Masud Ibn Syedullah, TSSF

