

**A FRANCISCAN  
COMMUNAL  
PENANCE SERVICE**



***METANOIA  
CONVERSION  
RECONCILIATION***

## PENITENTIAL SERVICE

### OPENING HYMN

Most High And Glorious God, Bring Light  
 To The Darkness Of My Heart! Give Me Right Faith,  
 Certain Hope, And Perfect Charity.  
 Lord, Give Me Insight And Wisdom  
 So I Might Always Discern Your Holy And True Will.

### SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GREETING

**Presider:** In the name of the Father + and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

**Presider:** Grace, mercy, and peace be with you from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

**All: And with your spirit.**

**Presider:** My brothers and sisters, God calls us to conversion; let us therefore ask Him for the grace of sincere repentance.

*(Pause for a moment of silent prayer)*

**Presider:** Graciously hear the prayers of those who call upon you, we ask, O Lord, and forgive the sins of those who confess to you, granting us in your kindness both pardon and peace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*



**Presider:** The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

**Deacon:** Bow down for the blessing.

**Presider:** The Lord bless you and keep you!  
The Lord let his face shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you!  
The Lord look upon you kindly  
and give you peace! (*Numbers 6:24-26*)

And may almighty God bless you, the Father +, and the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

**Deacon:** Let us now go forth in the peace of Christ to love and  
serve our Lord and one another.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### CLOSING HYMN

*All Creatures of Our God and King* by Erfreuen

All you with mercy in your heart, Forgiving others, take your  
part, O sing now! Alleluia! All you that pain and sorrow bear,  
Praise God, and cast on him your care: O praise him! O praise  
him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless, And worship him in  
humbleness, O praise him! Alleluia! Praise God the Father,  
praise the Son, And praise the Spirit,  
Three in One: O praise him! O praise  
him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



**FIRST READING** (*reader goes forward*)

**Reader 1:** *A reading from the Later Admonition and  
Exhortation To the Brothers and Sisters of Penance.*

“We must, of course, confess all our sins to a priest and receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ from him. Whoever does not eat His Flesh and drink His Blood *cannot enter the kingdom of God*. But let him eat and drink worthily because anyone who receives *unworthily, not distinguishing*, that is, not discerning, *the Body of the Lord, eats and drinks judgment on himself*. In addition, let us produce worthy fruits of penance. And let us love our neighbors as ourselves. And if anyone does not want to love them as himself, let him at least not do them any harm, but let him do good.” Here ends the reading.

**SUNG RESPONSE: All That We Have** by Ault

Refrain: All that we have and all that we offer comes from a heart both frightened and free. Take what we bring now and give what we need, all done in his name.

Sometimes the road may be lonesome, often we may lose our way; take courage and always remember love isn't just for a day. (Refrain)

**SECOND READING** (*reader goes forward*)

**Reader 2:** *A reading from the Testament of Saint Clare.*

“After the most high heavenly Father saw fit in mercy and grace to enlighten my heart that I might do penance according to the example and teaching of our most blessed father Francis, a short while after his conversion, I, together with a few sisters whom the Lord had given me after my conversion, willingly promised him obedience, as the Lord gave us the light of His grace through his wonderful life and teaching.” Here ends the reading.

*(Pause for a brief moment of silent reflection)*

**GOSPEL** *(Please stand for the Gospel)*

**Deacon:** The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

**Deacon:** +*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.*  
(Mark 1: 14 – 15)

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the Gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

**Homily**

### **O.F.S. RULE-BASED EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE**

*(readers stay in their places)*

**Reader 3:** "United by their vocation as 'brothers and sisters of penance,' and motivated by the dynamic power of the gospel, let them conform their thoughts and deeds to those of Christ by means of that radical interior change which the gospel itself calls 'conversion.' Human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily.



On this road to renewal the sacrament of reconciliation is the privileged sign of the Father's mercy and the source of grace." *(article #7)*

**Reader 19:** That those who are helpless and abandoned may be given the blessings of peace and security, we pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

**Reader 19:** That those who are afflicted and tempted may be strengthened by God's grace, we pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

**Reader 19:** That we may all learn to set our own interests aside, and reach out in love to our brothers and sisters, we pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

**Presider:** Now, in obedience to Christ himself, let us join in prayer to the Father, asking him to forgive us as we forgive others.

**All: Our Father, Who art in heaven . . .**

### **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

**Presider:** Set our hearts aflame, O Lord, with the Spirit of your charity, we pray, that we may always think thoughts worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you sincerely in our brothers and sisters. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



**All: Amen.**

## EXPRESSION OF SIN AND CONTRITION

**Presider:** Brothers and sisters, let us call to mind the goodness of God our Father, and acknowledge our sins, that we may receive his merciful forgiveness.

**All:** I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**LITANY OF FORGIVENESS** (*reader goes forward*)

**Presider:** The Lord is merciful. He makes us clean of heart and leads us out into his freedom when we acknowledge our guilt. Let us ask him to forgive us and bind up the wounds inflicted by our sins.

**Reader 19:** That all who have sinned or grown lukewarm may turn to God again during this time of reconciliation, we pray to the Lord.

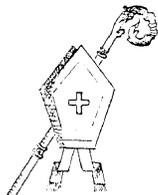
**All: Lord, have mercy.**

**Reader 19:** That we ourselves may learn to repent and turn from sin with all our hearts, we pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

**Reader 19:** That we may be faithful to the Lord's sacraments and loyal in his service, we pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**



**Reader 4:** "Secular Franciscans should devote themselves especially to careful reading of the gospel, going from gospel to life and life to the gospel." (*article #4*)

(*Pause*)

**Reader 5:** "Secular Franciscans, therefore, should seek to encounter the living and active person of Christ in their brothers and sisters, in Sacred Scripture, in the Church, and in liturgical activity." (*article #5*)

(*Pause*)

**Reader 6:** "They should go forth as witnesses and instruments of her mission among all people, proclaiming Christ by their life and words.

Let them devote themselves energetically to living in full communion with the pope, bishops, and priests, fostering an open and trusting dialogue of apostolic effectiveness and creativity." (*article #6*)

(*Pause*)

**Reader 7:** "Let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all they are and do.

Let them participate in the sacramental life of the Church, above all the Eucharist. Let them join in liturgical prayer in one of the forms proposed by the Church, reliving the mysteries of the life of Christ." (*article #8*)

(*Pause*)



**Reader 8:** "The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for [the Virgin Mary] by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently." (*article #9*)

(*Pause*)

**Reader 9:** “Let the Secular Franciscans seek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs. Let them be mindful that according to the gospel they are stewards of the goods received for the benefit of God's children.

They should strive to purify their hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power.” (article #11)

(Pause)

**Reader 10:** “Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ.” (article #13)

(Pause)

**Reader 11:** “Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively.” (article #14)

(Pause)

**Reader 12:** “Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith.” (article #15)

(Pause)

**Reader 13:** “Let them esteem work both as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption, and service of the human community.” (article #16)

(Pause)



**Reader 14:** “In their family they should cultivate the Franciscan spirit of peace, fidelity, and respect for life, striving to make of it a sign of a world already renewed in Christ.” (article #17)

(Pause)

**Reader 15:** “Moreover they should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which ‘bear the imprint of the Most High,’ and they should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship.” (article #18)

(Pause)

**Reader 16:** “Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon.

Messengers of perfect joy in every circumstance, they should strive to bring joy and hope to others.” (article #19)

(Pause)

**Reader 17:** “[The fraternity council and minister’s] service, which last for a definite period, is marked by a ready and willing spirit and is a duty of responsibility to each member and to the community.” (article #21)

(Pause)

**Reader 18:** “[The local fraternity] should be the privileged place for developing a sense of Church and the Franciscan vocation and for enlivening the apostolic life of its members.” (article #22)

