

Francis of Assisi, Penitent

Presented by
Justin Carisio, OFS



13TH CENTURY BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF PENANCE

- Catholicism and Fidelity to the Church
- Eucharist
- Reconciliation
- Priesthood



13TH CENTURY BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF PENANCE

- Penance is a journey to God
- Spirit of love is part of the life of penance
- Virtues for the Penitent



FRANCIS OF ASSISI, PENITENT

- Penitent first
- Penance and conversion virtues
- Fundamental charism
- Ultimately about relationship

*“Jesus ‘occupied’ Francis.”
– Thaddeus Horgan, SA*





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- Virtues for the Penitent





THE EARLIER EXHORTATION — PROLOGUE TO OFS RULE



THE EARLIER EXHORTATION

- Presents the form of life Francis intended for lay penitents
- Informs the OFS Rule with the voice and mind of Francis
- Lens through which we view the Rule and our way of life



THE VOICE AND MIND OF FRANCIS

- Trinitarian
- Christocentric
- Catholic and sacramental
- Provides our identity



PROLOGUE CONTAINS FIVE EXHORTATIONS:

- Love God totally
- Love our neighbor as ourselves
- Hate our sinful tendencies
- Receive the body and blood of Christ in a worthy manner
- Produce good fruits of penance



THOUGHTS ON PENANCE

“Jesus’ life is the way God’s love literally entered our world and touched the hearts of men and women. Such love must be responded to. *This is the uncomplicated substance of Franciscan spirituality.* This is why Francis preached penance, or conversion of heart, and directed that it was to be proclaimed by his followers.” – Thaddeus Horgan, SA

THOUGHTS ON PENANCE

“Penance becomes a penetrating and ongoing emptying of one’s self and a subsequent replenishment with the Lord. Francis teaches us that the embrace of penance brings about a profound change in our relationships with God, a change that we can understand only in light of the revelation of Jesus.” – Regis J. Armstrong, OFM Cap.

THOUGHTS ON PENANCE

"The term 'penance' in Franciscanism is equivalent to the biblical meaning of metanoia, understood as an intimate conversion of the heart to God, as a continuous state of being. It is not a question of doing penance but of being penitent." – Lino Temperini, TOR

THOUGHTS ON PENANCE

“Penance is not a state but a journey that leads to God...It is spontaneous, the result of our response to the love of God and is enlivened by his spirit.” – Raffaele Pazzelli, TOR

THOUGHTS ON PENANCE

Conversion is a daily experience made possible only by grace: “Francis did not merely learn how to be converted. He converted. This happened because he knew his need for God. This is very difficult for many to do today.” –Thaddeus Horgan, SA

THOUGHTS ON PENANCE

“Tertiarism, as a way of living, is a part of Christianity—the cream of the Gospel translated into the terms of everyday life. Christianity lays down the general norms that govern our relations with God and man. [The Secular Franciscan Order], like all approved Orders of the church, is a specific way of living up to those laws.” – Hidden Power, The Rule of the Third Order of St. Francis, 1940

THOUGHTS ON PENANCE

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 calls “conversion.” Human frailty makes it necessary that this conversion be carried out daily.

Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, Article 7

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