

## **Movements of Shared Christian (Franciscan) Praxis**

The process of shared Christian (Franciscan) Praxis unfolds in the course of five distinct but interrelated movements. (Groome is emphatic that they are NOT steps!)

A focusing activity (a story, a picture, a song, an image) leads to:

1) The participants are invited to name their own activity concerning the topic for attention (present action). What are you doing (your present story)?

Def: Present action can be named or expressed through any form of human expression, such as: writing, speaking, dancing, symbolizing, gesturing, etc.

2) The participants are invited to reflect on why they do what they do, and what the likely or intended consequences of their actions are (critical reflection). Why do they do what they do (their vision, assumptions, hopes)? *It is important to establish personal ownership at this stage.* Insure that everyone has a good grasp of the reasons underlying their opinions or actions. If this is not established, they could go through this entire process as if it were a fantasy or an intellectual abstraction. Rootedness and self-knowledge are important at this juncture.

3) The facilitator/group leader/instructor makes present to the group the Christian (Franciscan) community Story concerning the topic at hand and the faith response it invites (Story and its Vision). What have Christians (Franciscans) done and why have they done it?

4) The participants are invited to look at the Christian (Franciscan) Story, internalize it, "own" it, and compare it with their own stories. Let's talk about it (dialogue between my story and vision and the Christian [Franciscan] Story and Vision).

5) Here is an opportunity to choose a personal faith response for the future. Now, what are you going to do (future practice or resolutions)?

Adapted from: Dunning, J. B. (1983). Method is the Medium is the Message: Catechetical Method in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. In N. A. Parent (Ed.), *Christian Adulthood: A Catechetical Resource* (pp. 14-16). Washington, DC: United States Catholic Conference.

Groome, T. H. (1980). *Christian Religious Education: Sharing Our Story and Vision*. San Francisco: Harper & Row.

Groome, T. H. (1991). *Sharing Faith: A Comprehensive Approach to Religious Education & Pastoral Ministry: The Way of Shared Praxis*. San Francisco: Harper.

### **Definition of Shared Christian (Franciscan) Praxis**

Christian religious education (Franciscan formation) by shared praxis can be described as a group of Christians (Franciscans) sharing in dialogue their critical reflection on present action in light of the Christian (Franciscan) Story and its Vision toward the end of lived Christian (Franciscan) faith (ongoing conversion; personal and communal transFORMATION).

(Adapted by David & Thérèse Ream, S.F.O., from: Thomas H. Groome, *Christian Religious Education: Sharing Our Story and Vision*, 1980. San Francisco: Harper & Row, revised 2005.)