All sorts of good stuff. Prayer, the Eucharist, the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, interaction with other SFOs, involvement in your communities (fraternal, parish, civic, home, work) – all the things that feed your longing to emulate Christ and Francis and allow you to do so.

I’m very different from the person I was on Profession Day. I walked down that aisle with the knowledge that I was making a permanent commitment that should change me and my life. It took a while, though, for the fact to hit me that any changes would be the result of *my* effort, nothing more, nothing less. Merely walking down that aisle didn’t do it, and just hoping it would happen wouldn’t do it.

Initial and ongoing formation have helped considerably in showing me where I am and where I should be. But while there’s a bit of a gap (yeah, like the Grand Canyon is a “bit” of a gully!), that same formation helps me learn how to narrow that gap. And as it turns out, what narrows that gap also sustains my vocation. Ah, yes, all things work for the good of those who believe.

A vocation, like life itself, is 24/7. It’s living, breathing, ongoing, growing. If it’s sustained. Without sustenance, while it may not die, it won’t go anywhere either. And we’ve all seen that happen, haven’t we? People who go through formation with you, get professed with you, and are never seen again. As if they “graduated Francis school” and that’s the end of it.

This is not to say they don’t go on and do good things with their life. But you can’t have a vocation in a vacuum. And if you aren’t active in and involved with your fraternity, how can you sustain the precious vocation that God gave you? Of course, it’s possible some of these “paper Franciscans” didn’t actually have vocations. Perhaps, they simply loved Francis and wanted to learn about him in more depth than a mere book or film had to offer.

Second to these are those who *do* make it to the monthly gatherings but don’t get involved in any way. It’s a spectator sport to them. But they figure if they come every month, they’re being “Franciscan.”

For those of us who have been blessed with a genuine vocation and sustain it, it’s the “gift that keeps on giving.” Meanwhile, monthly Franciscans, like Sunday Catholics, are missing the boat. And don’t even know it. At Jubilee Time, do you know where your classmates are?! If you haven’t seen one or more of them for a while, why not check up on them – a vocation is a terrible thing to waste.