



The Dream Propositum Vitae

The Gospel Life

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1209 – Francis seeks approval of a new way of Life from
Innocent III - **(catholic & evangelical)**

The “rule” consists of a few lines of Scripture:

- Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, **follow me.**” (Mt 19:21)
- Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and **follow me.** (Mt 16:24)
- And he said to them, “**Take nothing** for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. (Lk 9:3)

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- Not a Rule in the sense of a list of obligations, but a commitment to a lifestyle based on following Jesus.

IDENTITY

- Hearing, following and infusing the Gospel into the Church and Society of his day.

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A major shift in the model of Church

- **Church based on Acts – Apostolic**
 - specific mission – doing
 - **structured as hierarchy**
- **Church based on Jesus – Evangelical**
 - Gospel is foundation for living life
 - identity/being
 - **structure as fraternity**

Churchianity vs Christianity

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Apostolic vs Evangelical

Michael Crosby OFM Cap

In a world/Church:

Apostolic

Evangelical

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Clericalism/hierarchy | 1. Equality – fraternity/family |
| 2. Unequal relationships between men & women | 2. Brothers & sisters under a common Father |
| 3. Universe centered around the earth | 3. Humanity must de-center to create a common cause between people & the earth |
| 4. Competition over property, consumerism | 4. Simplify (sine proprio) so we can be in solidarity w/poor and proclaim the good news |

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| 5. Apostolic means apart from society | 5. Gospel is global & entwined in the cry of the poor – marginalized by either Church or State |
| 6. Prayer limited more to liturgical, LOH, “official” prayer | 6. Prayer available to all as trusting daughters & sons – any formula esp contemplation |
| 7. Obedience to structured hierarchy | 7. Leaders accountable to the fraternity – role of servant not lord |
| 8. Religion & war | 8. Peace the only radical alternative |

Lifecycle of any institution,
organization, including the SFO

Where are we, where do we want
to be?

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5 M's - as barometer of institution
Richard Rohr OFM

- Man
- Movement
- Maintenance
- Monument
- Memory

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Man

- Man (Jesus/Gospel, Francis)
 - Exciting, active, energizing, charismatic
 - A Great Person who **Correctly names Reality** –
 - **sees differently** Contemplation

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Movement (Pentecost)

- Period of greatest growth and energy both creative and RISKY
 - unleashed/uncontrollable Spirit
- Danger – exchanging the Spirit for stability
 - immature religion seeks control by worshipping correctly - **1219 Mats**

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Maintenance – Institutional Phase

- Desire for increased stability &/or more normalcy - 1219 – 1260 transition to hierarchy (unequal)
- Movement loses much of it's energy
- Begins to shift into being an end in itself not just a vehicle for transformation

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Monument

- self-preservation
- Spirituality/charism becomes performance not transformation
- Gospel life yields to moral code
 - Jeremiah 7:7-11 (deceptive words)
- Mainstream with a Low-level of risk

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Memory

- Unconscious stage
 - **Frozen People** (no longer connected with the vision)
 - memory of a past adventure
 - original vision not my own

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2009 -- Grace of our Origins

re-capture the vision of the Man
(Francis)

& the energy/vitality of the
movement

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- **Admon. 4 – to be a Superior**
- *I have not come to be served, but to serve, says the Lord.*

Those who are assigned over others, should glory in that appointment as if they were assigned to the office of washing the feet of the brothers.

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- ³ Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will let you dwell in this place. ⁴ Do not trust in these deceptive words: 'This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.'
- ⁵ "For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly execute justice one with another, ⁶ if you do not oppress the alien, the fatherless or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, ⁷ then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers for ever.
- ⁸ "Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail. ⁹ Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, ¹⁰ and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, 'We are delivered!' —only to go on doing all these abominations? ¹¹ Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I myself have seen it, says the LORD.
- *The Revised Standard Version. 1971 (Je 7:3). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.*

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