

Franciscan Spirit and Life Mission Effectiveness Program

In his Testament, St. Francis says to his community, “Brothers, let us begin again, for up until now we have done little or nothing.”

Francis of Assisi knew that the Holy Spirit would be the primary guide or superior of his Order. It would be through power of the Holy Spirit that his community, friars, sisters and laity, would be renewed through the ages. St. Francis also realized that the primary challenge to this opportunity would be a spirit of openness, personally and communally, to this dynamic force.

As a Franciscan school we must look for ways to be renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit so as to be conformed more closely to Jesus Christ. This allows us to use our gifts and talents for the needs of others, the betterment of our community. While this is done in many ways, academically, athletically, and socially, there is no more important way than spiritually. It is this Franciscan spirituality, Gospel spirituality, that must imbue everything that we do at St. Francis High School – academically, athletically and socially.

This Franciscan Spirit and Life program is being designed to accomplish this goal.

Our charism as a Franciscan school is by nature dynamic. It is not defined by the traditional approaches found in the educational philosophies of other religious communities, but rather by the charism of Francis of Assisi who was always looking to be renewed through one’s relationship with Jesus Christ. This approach stems from an Incarnational understanding of Christian spirituality. “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” God enfleshed in human nature.

Our approach, therefore, will be to look for virtues that reflect Francis and his lived experience of his relationship with Jesus Christ, and to integrate them in all aspects of school life.

The virtues which we have selected reflect a Franciscan spirit to this charismatic approach to our educational process. They were submitted by the faculty at department meetings in the Spring of 2006. From these, the Franciscan Spirit and Life Committee selected 16 virtues. One virtue will be highlighted quarterly over the student’s four years at SF through various experiences: prayer, Scripture, stories from the life of St. Francis and his early companions, as well as other Franciscan sources. A visual representation of the quarterly virtue will be displayed in each classroom.

It is our hope that this Franciscan approach to education will be seen in the lived experience of our students, faculty and staff, now and in the years to come.

“Let us begin, again....for up until now we have done little or nothing.” (Francis of Assisi)