

**Saint Francis Fraternity**  
**Ongoing Formation**  
**March 2013**

**Please remember to note anything in the readings that you found inspiring, puzzling, or would just like to revisit when we meet.**

**Scripture**

Romans 1: 22-25

22 Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves.

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his own face in a mirror.

24 He sees himself, then goes off and promptly forgets what he looked like.

25 But the one who peers into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres, and is not a hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, such a one shall be blessed in what he does.

***Profession in the SFO: Gift and Commitment (Cangelosi paper)***

- Introduction (page 1)
- Part 6, "Profession and Eucharist" (page 7)

**Excerpt from *Brothers, Look At The Humility Of God: The Eucharist In The Writings And The Life Of Saint Francis Of Assisi*, Noel Muscat, OFM  
(<http://www.franciscan-sfo.org/hland/StFrancis&Eucharist.pdf>)**

We can affirm that the Gospel calling which Francis felt to the apostolic life was born exactly within the context of the celebration of Mass. He was not a deaf hearer of the Gospel, and therefore he opened his heart, and in the living presence of Christ who speaks in His Word,

Francis felt his inner calling, strengthened by the context in which he was finding himself at that moment, namely the celebration of the Eucharistic sacrifice.

The invitation to follow Christ which Francis heard during Mass became for him a life-long commitment which would be translated into concrete gestures, like that of leaving behind him all things which would hinder him from being an itinerant disciple of the Lord. It was a question of seeing the celebration of Mass not only as a moment of prayer or mystical union with the Lord, but also as an invitation to act, which is born out of the Word proclaimed and believed during the celebration of Mass. Here we find the *novitas*, the newness, of Saint Francis, who inaugurates a new way of religious life in the Church, namely that of the *apostolica vivendi forma*. It was a new way which was born during the celebration of Mass in a wayside chapel, and after listening to the explanation of the Gospel from the mouth of an impoverished priest of this world.

### **For meditation and discussion**

- Fr. Cangelosi uses the phrase “*of life and for life*” to describe the Eucharistic nature of our profession. How has this idea been made manifest in your own profession experience?
- How has your experience of the celebration of the Eucharistic sacrifice served as an invitation to act in the capacity of a Secular Franciscan?