

**Saint Francis Fraternity**  
**Ongoing Formation**  
**June 2013**

**Please remember to note anything, in any of the readings, that you find inspiring, puzzling, or would just like to talk about when we meet.**

**Scripture**

That is not how you learned Christ, assuming that you have heard of him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus, that you should put away the old self of your former way of life, corrupted through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on\* the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth. (Ephesians 4:20-24)

**Please read: *Finding Identity as a Secular Franciscan* by Edward M. Zablocki, SFO**

We will be talking about this article in June and July, focusing on the first two pages and the first paragraph of page three in June

**Please consider these quotes**

“Begun by the preceding stages, the formation of the brothers and sisters takes place in a permanent and continuous way. It should be understood as an aid in the conversion of each and every one and in the fulfillment of their proper mission in the Church and in society.”  
(General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order (Article 44))

“This approach to ministry is one that places relationship and community above one's personal faith journey and conversion. In fact, one's own conversion, if indicative of a Franciscan hue, should lead toward humanity and away from only one's self. It is for precisely this reason that Francis insisted that the friars were to remain mendicants and not monks, to live as if the whole world were a cloister and not be limited to the four walls of private religious life.” (*Francis of Assisi and the Future of Faith* by Daniel Horan OFM)

“For conversion is not simply a surrendering of what you can afford to give up. It means giving up things that are so much a part of you that you couldn’t imagine yourself without them.”  
(Rev. James Martin, S.J., “The Church’s Easter: What Needs to Die in the Catholic Church so That it May Live”)

### **Questions for meditation and discussion**

- How is appropriating the SFO Rule different than understanding it?
- What obstacles does the world present that make permanent and continuous conversion difficult?
- Do you have any “mantras” developed from your own close study of the Rule that you would like to share with your fraternal brothers and sisters?