





SPIRITUALITY OF THE SERVANTS OF MARY

Fraternal communion,
service,
conversion,
devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Among religious communities and especially the mendicant Orders, the Friar Servants of Mary are Known for their strong sense of fraternal communion, a spirit of service, constant reference to Our Lady, the glorious Queen of her Servants and a continual striving for conversion

FRATERNAL COMMUNION

Fraternal communion is a characteristic of witness of the Gospel

It marks the way we live, work and pray

It determines the way
we govern the Order and
has a special impact
on our apostolic service



SERVICE

The Servite ideal of service finds inspiration in the example or Christ Who came to serve and give his life for others;

Christ was a Servant among his disciples.

También a la humilde postura de la Beata Virgen que se declaró "Sierva del Señor".

Service is the condition of man's hopes and concerns

Service is openness and hospitality for all the brethren, especially the most humble
Service involves various forms of apostolic commitment, especially missionary work

A CALL FOR CONVERSION OF THE HEART

Conversion is an evangelicalmonastic, radical and constant quest on the part of communities and individuals for the newness of Christ and the choice of methods to achieve this.

As Servants we follow the example of our first Fathers and the tradition of the Order; penance involves above all intense charity, service to each other along with a sincere and generous commitment to community life.



TOTAL DEDICATION TO THE

BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

She is our refuge, our special Mother and the real Queen of her Servants:



The Incarnation of the Word (Our Lady at the Annunciation)

The association of the Mother to the Son's saving passion (Our Lady of Sorrows)

The maternal intercession of Mary (The Queen and Mother of Mercy)

Her glory in heaven next to her Son (Mary, Assumed into Heaven)



A CALL TO FOLLOW JESUS



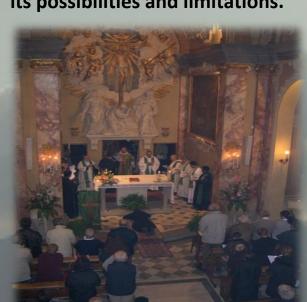
... it is an invitation to serve God and mankind and finds constant inspiration in Mary, the Mother and Servant of the Lord;

... it is a particular expression of the fundamental nature of God's people, a people of brothers;

... it is a free and conscious response made in an apostolic fraternity according to the spirit of our Order

THE VOCATION OF A SERVANT OF MARY IS: IN UNENDING QUES

Developing this vocation demands a commitment to seek out the meaning of our vocation in relation to God and to others; we must accept the truth of this vocation with all its possibilities and limitations.





"The vocation of a Servant of Mary evolves in the atmosphere of authentic freedom provided by the community with its constant assistance"

THE VOCATION OF A SERVANT OF MARY INVOLVES

NOWING AND LOVING OUR LADY

To be faithful to the vocation of service we strive to understand the significance of Mary in today's world.

We acknowledge the demands of the Church and strive to deepen our understanding of Mary, the Mother of God and man and her mission in the mystery of salvation.

We express our Marian devotion though the practices provided by our living tradition and if necessary we create new practices that derive from our service to Our Lady.

THE VOCATION OF A SERVANT OF MARY IS: TESTIMONIAL TO FRATERNITY TESTIMONIAL TO FRATERNITY

Our communities are made up of individuals who have chosen the Servite life and who hope to live in fraternal communion. All of us are and are called "Servants". As brothers we share the same dignity and equality.

We love and are loyal to those communities in good times and bad and within those communities we strive to achieve fraternal friendship; we accept each other's good qualities and shortcomings.



THE VOCATION OF A SERVANT OF MARY INVOLVES OPENINESS AND HOSPITALIT



Hospitality accepts people with simplicity and respect and allows them to share in our life of prayer

Hospitality expresses the friar's love for the Son of Man who comes to him as a pilgrim







The shared Servite vocation does not preclude a diversity of expression.



In their rearch for God rome of our communities give special emphasis to the contemplative aspects of our life; others are devoted to a whole range of apostolic service.

THE VOCATION OF A SERVANT OF MARY LIVOLVES WORKING TOGETHER

Our Servite ideals have given rise to many other families and groups linked to our communities or associated with the Order. These families and groups represent diverse expressions of lay and consecrated life but they share our one vocation.

We share spiritual and apostolic forms of collaboration with this groups.



Cloistered nuns, Sisters of various congregations, Secular Institutes, the Secular Order, the diaconie movement, Servite Youth Groups...



Mary at the foot of the Cross is the guiding light and inspiration of our commitment to service.

Since the Son of Man still being crucified in his brothers and sisters, we, Servants of his mother, wish to be with her at the foot of those countless crosses in order to bring comfort and redemptive cooperation.

THE VOCATION OF A SERVANT OF MARY INVOLVES PREPARING ONESELF FOR SERVICE

Study, prayer and work are the indispensable and necessary means currently available for our total formation.

We all share in the priesthood of Christ;
But through a particular vocation or the needs of the
Church some of us are called to the permanent
diaconate and others to the ministerial priesthood.





Through study we strive to acquire the spiritual and educational resources necessary to serve God and to act as leaders and guides for his people.

Only by renouncing our own interest can we collaborate with Christ's saving work on behalf of mankind. Only if we are aware of this can we provide the new energy that sets man free from the slavery of corruption and allows him to share in the freedom of the children of God.

To respond to this challenge Young people must have the courage to put aside all pre-conceived notions and open their heart to God – who as always – has a plan for each of us.

Every Vocation requires
DISCERNMENT,
REFLECTION
AND DECISION



INVITES YOU TO REFLECT ON YOUR OWN VOCATION

It presents a way of living out your desire to follow Christ more closely.

Moved by the Spirit, we, like our Founding Fathers, are committed to giving witness to the Gospel through fraternal communion and the service of God and of man. We find our constant inspiration in Mary, the Mother and Servant of the Lord.

Following the example of its Seven Founders the Order of Servants of Mary shares in the merciful participation of life through personal compassion for all living creatures.

(Fra Giovanni M. Vannucci)

Our first fathers were members of the newly established Florentine bourgeoisie who at a certain point in their lives sought a more authentic Christian witness. This witness had community characteristics; it involved fraternity and service to the humble and outcast members of society through Works of spiritual and corporal mercy as these were understood in the most ancient Biblical tradition.

(Fra Davide M. Turoldo)

