

PATHS TO RENEWAL:
THE SPIRITUALITY OF SIX RELIGIOUS FOUNDERS

Zachary Grant, OFM Cap

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What is spirituality? A program or system used to provide a steady growth in holiness.

Jesus gave three commands:

1. *Come, follow me* The WAY
 - *Francis* chose to follow Jesus
2. *Go and teach all nations* The TRUTH
 - *Augustine, Dominic, Ignatius* followed the call to teach
3. *Come away with me and rest awhile* The LIFE
 - *Benedict and Teresa* chose a life of prayer and contemplation

APOSTOLIC ORDERS

Augustine, Dominic, Ignatius

Called to follow works of Jesus; their spirituality motivates their work

EVANGELICAL ORDERS

Benedict, Francis, Teresa

Called to know Jesus; their call demonstrates how to live the Gospel and respond to situation in the world.

WAY OF LIFE

Augustine	Friends supporting each other on the journey
Benedict	Abbot and his sons
Dominic	Students of the Lord preparing to teach
Francis	Brothers living as pilgrims and strangers
Ignatius	Companions of their Lord and Master
Teresa	Daughters of Mary who is Mother of her Lord and spouse of the Holy Spirit

WHO IS JESUS TO THEM

Augustine	Jesus is the Son of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity Jesus is the way to the Father Christian life is union with God through Jesus
Benedict	Jesus is the ever-obedient Son of the Father
Dominic	(dealing with Church issues) Christ is true God and true Man Jesus is mediator and redeemer Jesus is Priest, proclaiming God's word and offering sacrifice
Francis	(dealing with personal issues) Jesus is brother to all; all persons are created in the image of GOD Jesus is our brother sharing in our human experience Jesus is truly human
Ignatius	Christ is supreme captain and Lord Jesus is the source of grace Christians are to strive for personal union with Jesus
Teresa	Jesus is Redeemer All are called to share in His sufferings She refers to him as "dear Friend"

HOW DO WE RESPOND TO THE CALL

Augustine	Jesus is Friend:	We must treat all persons as friends.
Benedict	Jesus is Master:	We are his disciples and adopted children of his Father. We are to see others as sons and daughters of God.
Dominic	Jesus is Savior:	We are to accept all as equal recipients of God's saving Grace. We are to be patient with all, especially the ignorant.
Francis	Jesus is Brother:	We are to treat all as brothers and sisters of Jesus. We are to love all people as Jesus loves us.

Ignatius Jesus is Lord: We are to be partners in his redemptive work
We are to seek good of others through total
abandonment to God's will.

Teresa Jesus is Redeemer: We are to be partners in his redemptive work
We are to seek the good of others through total
abandonment to God's will.

INTERIOR LIFE

Augustine Prayer of *awe and wonder* at the graciousness of God and the mystery of
God's love for us

Use of Scripture especially Gospels, letters of Paul, and Psalms

Lifestyle must be ordered

"...ever conscious of our fundamental relationship with God"

There is no compromising of Truth

Romans 8 encompasses this life

Benedict *Prayer of adoration* to Jesus, Son of the Father

Foundation is in the life of the Church gathered for prayer

Participation in the full liturgical life of the Church

Lectio Divina

Work does not take away time to be with God

Dominic *Prayer of praise* to all holy God

Conformed life to that of Jesus crucified

Sees Jesus as divine Wisdom, Savior and Eternal Priest

Use of Scripture to prepare to teach Truth

United to Church especially in the Sacrifice of the Mass

Francis *Prayer of praise* to the all holy God

Simple prayer; no special formulas

Imitation of a very human Christ

Joy in all life's circumstances

- Ignatius *Prayer of faithfulness* to the Lord who willed him on the way
 Realistic prayer
 Meditation on the life of Jesus
Spiritual Exercises
 Scripture, Eucharist, Mass are essential
 “find God in all things”
- Teresa *Prayer of surrender* to our Redeemer
 Total abandonment to the will of God for our life
 Quiet moments to pour out our hearts to God

PERCEPTIONS OF MARY

- Augustine We are to be close to Mary as she is so close to the Trinity
- Benedict Mary is seen as the one who can assist us as we ponder the Word of God
 in our hearts
- Dominic Mary is seen as an intercessor, as the Mother who offered her Son to
 suffer on Calvary for those who were to bring Truth to the world
- Francis Mary is the poor humble Mother who shared Jesus’ life most intimately;
 she can help us understand Jesus
- Ignatius Mary is seen as Mother of the Church; we are willing to offer ourselves for
 the salvation of souls
- Teresa Mary is seen as Mother, the handmaid of the Lord who desired that it be
 done to her according to God’s will

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHURCH HERITAGE

- Augustine Love of Jesus draws us into love of God
 Began cult of the Blessed Virgin Mother
- Benedict “Come away and rest awhile”
Lectio Divina
- Dominic Rosary

Francis	Awareness of the human Jesus Images of suffering Jesus in art Christmas crèche begun at Greccio
Ignatius	Periods of retreat for discernment Daily examination of conscience <i>Spiritual Exercises</i>
Teresa	Morning Offering Offering all our suffering in union with those of Jesus