

REFLECTION 2006: CONTEMPORARY CALL TO BE PROPHET

Justice and Peace Network of the Wheaton Franciscans

A spirituality that is in anyway prophetic is the fruit of a personal relationship to God. It requires openness to God as well as an unselfish commitment to community. One cannot be ignorant or removed from the needs, aspirations, movements, and accomplishments of society and presume to be prophetic. Prophecy is a spirit of the present which flourishes in the contemporary world. One is prophetic for others not for oneself. Courage to speak or to act for the sake of righteousness is the hallmark of the spirit. Prophets learn to live a balanced life: how to be at the disposal of others while maintaining the rightful demands of holy solitude.

Francis and Clare were prophetic in their ways of looking at everyday life. In response to their desire to follow in the footsteps of Christ, they created the Franciscan way of life, something unique in their day. Different presenters helped us to experience Francis and Clare as icons exhibiting the following characteristics of a prophet:

- Has a personal relationship with God.
- Has an insight into the religious implications of what is happening in our world and can discern what response is demanded.
- Has the ability to see the bigger picture and can read between the lines.
- Has the ability to see through temporal things, discerning that which is of lasting value.
- Has singleness of mind and purpose.
- Has the courage to speak and be authentic.
- Has the ability to act not for oneself but for others.
- Has the ability to live in the "NOW."
- Has the ability to see the deeper connections of all created reality.

As Prophets of hope and realism, we nourish, bring insight and reverence for all life when we compassionately struggle for justice and peace in the chaos around us. Franciscan spirituality is incarnational spirituality, a spirituality centered on God's living and loving presence in our world through Christ. The lives of Francis and Clare celebrated the birth of Christ, embraced his cross, and witnessed through loving relationships and service to others.

Come and examine what we have in common with Francis and Clare in our world today when we explore in 2007 Franciscan Incarnational Spirituality.