

Module Title:	Franciscan Charism in the Church: A Social Spirituality
Module Code:	427 FCSS
Level:	4
Credit Rating:	20
Duration:	Student Learning Time: 200 hours
Teaching Hours:	40 hours
Academic Responsibility:	Séamus Mulholland OFM, Ph.D.

Module Aims:

This module is designed to develop the student's ability to understand the nature of the Franciscan Charism and the important contribution of the Franciscan Charism to the Church and world.

To develop the student's critical reflection on the Franciscan Charism in understanding of the questions of how the Franciscan Charism makes its voice and its values known in the contemporary world especially in the areas on Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC). This will be supported through acquainting students with the writings of Francis of Assisi to show the content of Franciscan theological reflection on JPIC matters.

Students will become familiarized with the contemporary theological and Franciscanological material on JPIC in the context of proposing practical strategies for Franciscan engagement with JPIC issues.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students will be expected to

1. Have acquired a knowledge and understanding of the nature and purpose the Franciscan Charism with the main features of St. Francis' understanding of peace and non violence
2. Understand the significance and importance of Francis' engagement and contribution to contemporary issues of JPIC with a knowledge of Franciscan theological reflection on JPIC both from early Franciscan theology [Bonaventure/Duns Scotus] and contemporary scholars
3. Have acquired the skills to be able to express the values of the Franciscan Charism to the Church and the distinctive character of Franciscan approaches to JPIC issues
4. Have developed the ability to comprehend, analyse, interpret and evaluate the Franciscan Charism from a positive critical viewpoint into judgments about the question or problems that confront our contemporary world

5. To be able to perceive the relevance and importance of the Franciscan Charism to Church and world and an ability to present views rationally and logically.
6. Apply theological theoretic in a practical way through JPIC work, such as forming, organising and informing JPIC groups locally or nationally

Indicative Module Content:

The Franciscan Charism belongs to the Church and has done from the moment Francis of Assisi had his primitive 'forma vitae' approved by Innocent III in 1209. As such, the Franciscan Charism forms an integral part of Religious Life in the Church and is not something which is 'tagged on' to it. This module seeks to explore the ecclesial context of the Franciscan Charism and how it contributes to the Church life of holiness, life in the world and its evangelical mission to proclaim salvation, peace and reconciliation to the whole of creation. The module will look at Francis' understanding of the Church and how and where he saw the Franciscan way of life contributing to its life. It will also examine the vital role that the Franciscan Charism has in the world in areas such as universal fraternity, integrity of creation, justice and peace, proclamation of human dignity and how its challenges power-based dominance both in the Church and in the world.

This module examines and explores the distinctive Franciscan theological contribution to issues of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation. The module examines the attitude of Francis of Assisi to non-violence, nature and non-confrontational engagement with Islam as outlined in Francis' visit to the Sultan at Damietta in 1218. The module then addresses areas of JPIC that are dominant within the world today such as war, racism, stereotypical presentations of Islam, non-violence and global warming and other environmental matters. The module will also look at the work of Franciscans International, an NGO at the United Nations, especially in the area of advocacy and Human Rights. By using the writings of St. Francis, the documents on JPIC from the Franciscan Movement and theological reflections on these by contemporary Franciscan scholars, the module seeks to offer a theological basis for affirmative Franciscan engagement with JPIC issues that is rooted in a firm charism base [the writings of St. Francis], a firm theological base [Bonaventure] and firm metaphysical base [Duns Scotus] and firm contemporary base [Contemporary documents and writings today]. Through these the module will demonstrate the important and significant contribution that Franciscan theological reflection can make to the contemporary discussion on issues in the area of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation.

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

The module will be taught through lectures, tutorials, Power Point Presentations and other electronic media [DVD], reading of assigned texts and private study

Assessment:

This module will be assessed through a 2,500 word essay and an equivalent class presentation.

Illustrative Bibliography

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Armstrong, R.J., Wayne
Hellman, J. A. & Short, W. J.,
(1999–2001) | <i>Francis of Assisi: Early Documents:
Vol. I, The Saint: Vol. II,
The Founder: Vol. III, The Prophet</i> | New City Press |
| Boff, L, (1997) | <i>Cry of the Earth: Cry of the Poor</i> | Orbis Books |
| O Conaire G. [et al] (2002) | <i>Instruments of Peace:Resources for
Franciscan Approaches To Justice
Peace and the Integrity of Creation</i> | Rome |
| Doyle E., OFM (2001 Ed. 2,) | <i>St. Francis and the Song of
Brotherhood</i> | St. Pauls |
| Doyle E., OFM (2000) | <i>My Heart's Quest</i> | Franciscan
International
Study Centre |
| Hayes, Z., OFM (2005) | <i>A Window on Creation</i> | Seabury Press |

Journals:

Delio, I. (2004)

'Franciscan View of Creation"
FIT Series St. Bonaventure Press

Mulholland, S., OFM, (2006)

"A Franciscan Theology of Justice
and Peace, Spirituality"
Dominican Press, Dublin Vol. 3, No.2

Quigley, J., OFM, (2005)

Franciscans International: Human
Rights Advocacy, Geneva, United Nations Press