

CHRIST-CENTERED

We believe Jesus is the ultimate teacher of how to live the kind of life God intends for us. We center our lives in Christ through prayer, worship, study and authentic community.

READ – JOHN 15: 4 -11

⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches.

Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

from St. Patrick's Breastplate

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.

PRAY

Dear Lord, help me this day and each day to live my life as a disciple of your son Jesus Christ, to make my life a sacrifice - holy, living, alive and pleasing to You - and to do your will at home, at work, and in our community.

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless
till they find their rest in you;
so lead us by your Spirit
that in this life we may live to your glory
and in the life to come enjoy you for ever;
through Jesus Christ our Lord
who is alive with with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.

Amen.

(from the New Zealand Prayer Book p. 632b, based on phrases from St. Augustine of Hippo)

REFLECT

- As a member of St Francis and as a follower of Christ, what does it mean to live a Christ Centered life?
- What is the difference between being Christ Centered and Christ-Like?
- What does a Christ Centered life look like on a day to day basis? How does this differ from simply following the Golden Rule?
- How well am I doing?
- Are some of my days more Christ-Centered than others? Why?

If we want to become Christ Centered, we have to give up other centers of our lives:

- Do you think that is possible? Desirable? Something you really want? How does this make you feel?
- As a community at St Francis, do we need to shift our center in some way or other?

Think about someone you know or have come across that you feel is particularly Christ Centered in their life. What makes them that way? Could you be the same, or at least more like them.

If the person you are thinking about is an ordained minister or member of some Holy order, do you think that taking vows is the only way to become truly Christ Centered?

ACT

Commit to memory, or print out the excerpt from St. Patrick's Breastplate above. Each morning before you get out of bed, or are getting ready for the day, pray it quietly to yourself. Try this for a couple of weeks.

- Does it start coming back to you during the day?
- Does it remind you keep a true center to your life as you go about your daily business?
- Share your thoughts and experiences by posting a comment and joining the conversation at our website: values.stfrancisalosverdes.com