



Re: Position adopted by Ministers Provincial for the renewal of the Third Order

Grace and peace to you all brothers and sister in the African Province.

The Ministers Provincial of each of our provinces met from 21 to 27 August 2022 in Canberra, Australia. In our time we prayed together; spending time listening to scripture, our principles, and the stories of the life of our Order. We celebrated that life and the way we are living the gospel in the way of Francis and Clare. As we prayed and shared, we were aware of the pain of so many, and as we said after our last meeting, the pain of creation crying out. And we reflected on what as an Order is for us to do in this time and as we look forward to the Inter-Provincial Third Order Chapter (IPTOC) in London in 2023.

We discerned that we are being called to live the gospel in the way of Francis and Clare as described by our rule of life; we are being invited to listen deeply to the gospels and scripture, to the pain in creation, the voices of the indigenous, marginalised and vulnerable, and of younger people. As we listen and contemplate on all these, we are being invited to seriously note and live out what it means to live simply. Living simply is living in ways that does not add to the poverty of the world and the pain of creation. It is living in a way that all creation and all people thrive. This is shalom, the fullness and completeness that God desires - the restoration of humanity and renewal of creation that is at the heart of the biblical story.

This invitation is not a linear process, but a life-long circular system of formation in living the gospel in the way of Francis and Clare, led by the Holy Spirit to live simply, rooted in contemplation, missional action empowered and enabled by our Franciscan community.

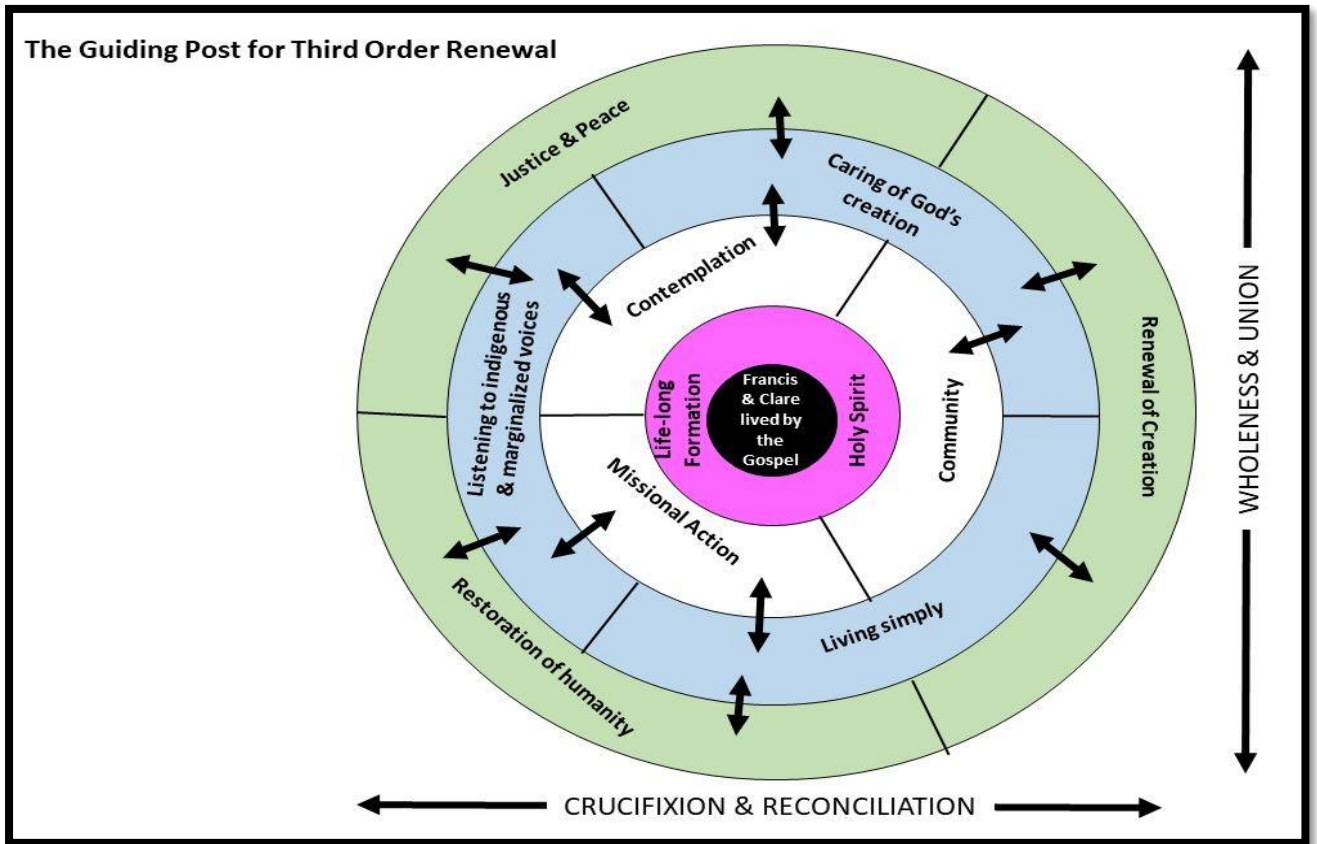
We include some of this in diagrammatic form below. We invite you to take time to reflect on the scriptures included and to our principles to discern what it is to do.

In response to your deep listening and contemplation we invite you to wonder what needs your attention, both as individuals and your group in addressing:

- (a) What more study needs to be done?
- (b) Which groups might you need to build relationship with?
- (c) Who might need our prayers at this time?



At our formation workshop and Chapter this year, we look forward to hearing the stories of the fruit of our deep listening as we continue to offer Christ's hope in this time of pain and fear.



Bro Michael Twum-Darko TSSF

Minister Provincial (African Province)