

# FRANCISCAN CREED

Inspired by the vision of St. Francis, we commit ourselves to the *Gospel* as our way of life.

Our world-view is centered in *Christ*; we see *Jesus Christ* as the beginning, the way, and the goal of all creation.

This world vision reveals to us a *God* who is *Father* and a life that is love. This demands of us a life as brothers and sisters of all men and of all creation.

We are in pilgrimage, trying to reach our *Father*, trying to live a life of love. We have not yet arrived; we are sinners, but we are called to be saints.

As sinners, weak human beings, we must undergo a continuing conversion, returning always to the *Father* as prodigal children.

*Christ* was poor and *Christ* was crucified; we seek to share in His poorness and in His suffering. We further commit ourselves to the service of the poor.

In making our way through life, we are guided more by simplicity, humility and littleness rather than by power, prestige and status.

Like *Christ*, like *Francis*, we seek to become instruments of peace, peacemakers.

Acknowledging the guiding presence of the *Holy Spirit*, we declare our loyalty to the *Church* in a spirit of dialogue and cooperation with her ministers and shepherds.

We are conscious of our obligation to share in the life and mission of the *Church*. We are lay apostles called by *Christ* to continue His work on earth.

Our life and our spirituality, however, are characteristically secular, in the world and for the world.

Joy sustains our lives and fulfills our lives; we seek the same for others.

To achieve all of this is difficult. Hence, we declare our need for *Christ's Eucharist*, for personal, communal and liturgical prayer.