

# GATHERED INSPIRED SENT



**T**he Oxford English Dictionary defines a disciple as “a follower or pupil of a teacher, leader, or philosopher.” A disciple is a student whose desire is to learn from the teacher some lesson, skill or idea that can enhance the student’s life. Throughout history we have disciples who went on to change the world because the lessons taught by their teachers. Aristotle was Plato’s greatest student. St Augustine was catechized and baptized by St. Ambrose. Ralph Waldo Emerson was mentored by writer Henry David Thoreau. St. Albert the Great taught theology to St. Thomas Aquinas. In our Servite tradition, St. Peregrine changed his life through the preaching of St. Philip Benizi who later received Peregrine into the Servite

## CALLED TO SERVE

**ORDER OF FRIAR SERVANTS OF MARY**  
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e master Jesus teaches. Through the guidance of the Church, the celebration of the Eucharist and the sacraments and in prayer, Jesus continues to teach us how to live. Also, with each encounter that we have with Jesus, our love for Him grows deeper and more intense. We begin to make decisions based on Jesus’ life and teachings. Our relationship with Jesus grows to be personal and not superficial. We experience Him in worship, in prayer

and in others. Our mission as Christian disciples is to present Christ to the world by lovingly proclaiming what He taught. As one Baptist Christian once said, ‘the only Bible that most people will ever read is the one lived by a Christian.’ Being disciples of Jesus, we are tasked by the Lord to proclaim His love to others through selfless service. In this way, the lessons we learn in the classroom of the Church’s liturgy and teachings, and the classroom of our personal prayer become a way of life that is characterized by love, hope, service, courage and joy. All this we learn as pupils of the Master, Jesus. Discipleship of Jesus is the foundation of the Consecrated Life.



By virtue of our Baptism, all of us are disciples of Jesus. Consecrated Men and Women vow to witness Jesus to the world through profession of the three evangelical counsels (celibacy for the Kingdom of God, poverty and obedience) and life in community. We are students of Christ, and our classroom is the education we receive within our community. We are witnesses of Jesus through our loving service to others. We are lovers of Jesus as He is our most significant relationship.





The greatest lesson that Jesus teach us is that He and Father are forever faithful. The Holy Spirit reminds us of this through the events and people of our lives. The classroom of discipleship for Servites is the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Mary is the Perfect Disciple of the Lord Jesus. The entirety of Mary's life was marked by faithfulness to God. Through joys and sorrows, uncontrollable life events and situations, Mary remained faithful to the Lord. Mary's faithfulness is notably

joy. Continual reading of the Gospels and prayer are the means of learning how to be a disciple and the way of communicating with Jesus. Faith instructs us that God is always attentive to us. So deeply does God love us that loving-mercy are always our experience of God. He showers grace upon our lives to remind us that He inhabits our lives, accompanying us on life's journey. Falling deeper in love with Christ is our response to the Lord's love with us. Specifically, the Servite deepens his love for Jesus in four ways: the search

## Reflection Questions:

1. How do I understand discipleship? What is the Lord teaching me about my life in Him?
2. How can the life of Mary, the Mother of God, teach me about my response to the Lord? Is following the Lord easy or difficult for me at this time in my life? Why?
3. Do I see my life as a Servite Friar? How? Why?

witnessed at the Cross of Jesus where she stands as a silent and compassionate witness to the faithfulness of God whose Son dies to bring salvation to humanity. Mary's faithfulness to God was founded on hope birthed in the love she experienced from God. As we meditate on the image of Mary at the foot of the Cross, we Servites are challenged in learning to be faithful to God, who is lovingly faithful to us. We express our faithfulness by standing faithfully with those who suffer pain or injustice. We pray that our compassionate presence to others leads them to know that God is with them in their travails. Servite discipleship is learning to love Christ in the classroom of Mary's life and of the Church and witnessing the faithful love we experience to others.

The best way to describe the life of a Servite Friar is that of falling deeper in love with Christ. Like all believers of Jesus, friars are disciples of Jesus as well. To be Jesus' disciple is to be in love with him. He is the reason for faith, the object of faith and the fuel for living a faith-filled life. He is the purpose for life and the meaning of life. He, the Father and the Holy Spirit, are the center of life. As His disciples, we want to be close to Jesus and learn from Him how to see life with hope and live in

for the Lord; the communal life; being servants to others and finding inspiration in the example of Our Lady.

The daily life of the Servite Friar is lived within community. Servites share in the communal praying of the Liturgy of the Hours and celebration of the Eucharist. Also, Servites celebrate devotions to Mary, share meals and celebrate conventual chapters, which afford the community time to discuss its life and witness of Christian love together. The Friars make time daily for meditation on Scripture, personal prayer and study. Servites work in apostolates in which they can witness the love of God to others. Servites profess the three evangelical vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

As you continue your discernment of the Lord's call for your life, we invite you to reflect on your discipleship of the Lord. The call to religious life is about being a disciple, a student of Jesus and witnessing His love to the world. Let the Mother of God be your teacher in this task. We Servites are praying for you.

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