



MATRIX OF FRANCISCAN KNOWLEDGE AND VALUES

ASSOCIATION OF FRANCISCAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

AUGUST 2016

Peace and all good!

The following Matrix of Franciscan Knowledge and Values is intended as an instrument to assist you in assessing your mission integration efforts. The matrix provides a framework for reflecting upon the ways in which your institution embodies the Characteristics of Franciscan Higher Education, relating these to the Franciscan tradition's ethical values, stories of Francis and Clare and contemporary issues.

While there is no specific methodology for utilizing the matrix, each cell offers a focus for reflection upon the ways in which you attempt to bring the tradition alive within your campus community. Reflection questions are provided to help you with this process.

For the column dealing with stories of Francis and Clare, specific sources are not provided. In a number of cases, the stories appear in multiple sources with differing perspectives. If you need help in locating sources, good places to start are *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents* (3 Volumes) and *Clare of Assisi: Early Documents*, published by New City Press. You might also consult people within your campus community or other nearby Franciscan institutions for guidance.

The column dealing with application of Franciscan values is intentionally left blank for you to use to reflect upon the specific Franciscan core values identified by your institution. You might find it helpful to try to relate each of those values to specific Characteristics of Franciscan Higher Education and to place them in appropriate cells in the matrix.

If you have questions about the matrix or comments about its use, you can address those to afcu@felician.edu.

May the Lord bless your efforts!

	Knowledge of key Ethical Values of the Franciscan Tradition	Knowledge of the Stories of Francis & Clare	Relation of key Franciscan Values to Contemporary Issues	Application of Franciscan Values
Characteristics of Franciscan Higher Education ↓				Application of core values as defined by your particular institution [refer to your institution's statement of core values]
A. The Franciscan Tradition holds a sacramental view of the world and of the human person as a reflection of God's overflowing goodness.				
1.) Celebrates diversity as an expression of God's generous love incarnate both in Jesus Christ and the human family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospitality/<i>Cortesia</i> Respect for Others <i>Haecceitas</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Francis Encounters the Leper Francis Encounters the Sultan Francis Preaches to the Birds Francis Encounters the Wolf Clare feeds and nurses the lepers Clare heals the physically and mentally ill Clare models humble service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celebration beyond tolerance of diversity Inclusion Outreach to those in need Meet the needs of those around us 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reverence (Core value) "Neumann University educates a diverse community of learners." (Mission statement)
2.) Emphasizes responsibility for creation honoring the dignity of every creature as a particular gift of God with special care for those suffering and marginalized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern for the Poor Concern for the Environment Humility/<i>minores</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Francis's Canticle of Creatures Francis's encounter with the poor beggar in father's shop Clare welcomes women of any class to her way of life Sr. Angeluccia testifies that Clare instructed the sisters to use their senses Clare sent alms to the men rebuilding the Portiuncula Clare denied herself rich and delicate foods so that she could send food to the poor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Concerns Economic Social Inequality Poverty & Marginalization Healthcare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stewardship (Core value) Service (Core value)
3.) Provides opportunities to contemplate and communicate the reality of God's abundant goodness and beauty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contemplation Awe and wonder Joy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Francis's Story of Perfect Joy Francis's Canticle of Creatures Clare's letters to Agnes are referred to as "preaching" from the cloister—not personal but intended to be read aloud as a form of spiritual formation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rhythm of "sabbath" Exchange consumerism with enjoying our "needs" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reverence (Core value)

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Characteristics of Franciscan Higher Education ↓				
B. The Franciscan Tradition emphasizes building relationships.				
1.) Works from a stance of <i>minoritas</i> , accountability, transparency and simplicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desire to live among the poor Non-materialism and simplicity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Francis's Encounter with the Leper Francis and Clare leaving social reality of the <i>commune</i> to go down outside city to live among outcast/outsideers Greatest example of "following in the footprints of Jesus" is Clare's decision to leave the safety of a noble household with protections and entitlements to live outside the safety of the city walls at San Damiano Clare refused to accept property, gave away her inheritance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Concerns Economic Social Inequality Poverty & Marginalization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrity (Core value) Stewardship (Core value)
2.) Promotes peacemaking, seeking to heal divisions through a sense of familial communion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconciliation and Peacemaking Respect for Others Concern for the Poor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Francis Encounters the Wolf Francis Encounters the Sultan Francis seeks reconciliation between the <i>podesta</i> and the bishop Clare prevents the invasion of Assisi twice Clare forbids dissension and gossip 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern for the common good Rejection of domination over others or environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reverence (Core value) Service (Core value)
3.) Engages the world with the attitude of justice to "repair God's house" through a culture of social responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconciliation and Peacemaking Respect for Others Concern for the Poor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Francis's Canticle of Creatures Francis and the captured doves Clare serves her sisters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Inequality Poverty Marginalization Environmental Concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service (Core value) <p>"Neumann's curriculum promotes thoughtful and ethical leadership in service and response to a global and technologically complex world." (Vision statement)</p>

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C. The Franciscan Tradition, balancing orthodoxy and orthopraxy (right-thinking and right-doing), is grounded in Gospel values.				
1.) Supports every person on his or her lifelong journey of conversion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evangelical conversion of life • "Unconditional positive regard" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Francis and the Hungry Brother • Francis's desire to "begin again" • Francis's Letter to Leo • Clare receives new members and mentors them • Clare's desire that her Sisters "and all others who come and remain in your company as well as others now and in the future" would experience God's blessings and become saints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public service and community engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellence (Core value) • Service (Core value) <p>Neumann University believes that "learning is a lifelong process." (Mission statement)</p>
2.) Contributes an intellectual tradition that reflects an acknowledgement of faith and ethical and moral response to God's love	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know one's own poverty • Accepts one's gift in true humility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Francis's Reading of the Gospel • Francis's Letter to Anthony • Clare corresponds with Agnes of Bohemia • Clare writes her own "Form of Life" • Clare's gratitude for God's gifts to her (humility) expressed in her Testament 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elements of the Franciscan moral vision • Franciscan anthropology (e.g., Admonition 5) • The "good life" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellence (Core value) • Integrity (Core value) <p>"Neumann's curriculum promotes thoughtful and ethical leadership..." (Vision statement)</p>
3.) Models a response to the personal call to leadership through service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Know your vocation" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All examples above • Clare became abbess because she obeyed Francis • Clare's charity toward her sisters is the modeling of servant leadership • Healing stories give evidence of Clare's service to others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles of servant leadership • Franciscan styles of leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service (Core value) <p>Neumann University believes that "knowledge is a gift to be shared in the service of others..." (Mission statement)</p>

MISSION ASSESSMENT REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Using the Matrix of Franciscan Knowledge and Values as a guide, consider in what ways and to what extent your institution embodies the Characteristics of Franciscan Higher Education. Try to identify and assess the specific ways in which you promote knowledge of ethical values, knowledge of stories of the tradition, relation of these elements to contemporary issues and application of core values as defined by your institution. The following questions are intended to help guide your reflection and to assist you in creating a narrative about the ways in which your campus community embodies its mission. The questions can assist you in identifying areas in which your mission effectiveness is strong and those in which renewed efforts may be advisable.

How does your institution embrace this characteristic?

- a. What institutional texts or symbols identify this as a shared value?
- b. What are the concrete ways [ongoing, repeated or special programs, policies and practices] in which this characteristic is made manifest within your campus community?
- c. What are the intangible ways [elements of campus culture, ethos, spirit] in which this characteristic is made manifest within your campus community?

How pervasive is this characteristic at your institution? [Consider students, faculty, staff, administration.]

- a. Who is responsible for actively promoting and assessing this characteristic?
- b. What education/training is provided at your institution for understanding and living this characteristic?
- c. Who participates in this education/training?
- d. How do individuals move from knowledge of the characteristic to its application?

What challenges do you face in embodying this characteristic?

- a. What factors make it difficult for this characteristic to become a lived reality?
- b. What conflicts exist between this characteristic and other characteristics/values embraced by your institution?
- c. What would be lost if you no longer promoted this characteristic?

In the spirit of Francis's invitation to continually "begin again," what are ways in which you could enhance the reality of this characteristic on your campus?

- a. How and where is the existence or impact of this characteristic difficult to demonstrate and assess?
- b. What specific things could you do in the next three to five years to make this characteristic more apparent at your institution?
- c. What help would you need to advance this characteristic beyond the current reality?