

# Frameworks for a Franciscan Justice Circle Meeting



We provide two sample frameworks as options to consider when planning an FJC meeting. For the sake of unity, we invite you to include the common elements of prayer and sharing in each gathering. As people seeking to follow St. Francis' and St. Clare's way of responding to God in their lives, both prayer and community are vital to the process of becoming what God created us to be.<sup>1</sup>

## Framework 1

### a) Opening Prayer

While the [Prayer Suggestions document](#) has ideas, feel free to use your own prayers.



### b) Introductions or brief check-in

c) **Reflection on chosen topic or material** (article, video, book) and possible applications

### d) Share Updates & current concerns/interests



### e) Upcoming opportunities for action & Next steps

### d) Closing Prayer (and fellowship if in person)

Please see the [Prayer Suggestions document](#) for ideas and feel free to bring in your own prayers and creativity. In addition, we invite all Circles to include the Closing FJC prayer:

#### Closing Prayer for FJC

Most High, glorious God  
we praise You and we thank You  
for the many good people and blessings  
You have bestowed upon our Justice Circle.  
We ask today that Your spirit of truth and goodness  
enlighten us as we embrace  
the opportunities and challenges of this day  
and give us true faith,  
certain hope and perfect charity,  
sense and knowledge, Gracious God,  
as we seek to live out your gospel.

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<sup>1</sup> "For Clare, prayer without community cannot lead to the fullness of our self-identity, since it is in community that the mirror of our identity is reflected in the other, the neighbor whom we are called to love. Love transforms because love unites, and it is in loving our neighbor through compassion that we become more ourselves, and in becoming more ourselves, we become Christ." Delio, O.S.F., Ilia, *Clare of Assisi, A Heart Full of Love*, Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2007, p. 51.



## Framework 2

### Part I: Contemplative

- a) **Opening Prayer**
- b) **Vestibule Reading** (vestibule is transition area; this reading is meant to as a deliberate shift between our busy lives and the period of silence)
- c) **Contemplative Sit** (5 minutes of silence; if on zoom, turn off video and mute yourself)
- d) **Discussion Prompts**  
There may be two prepared question prompts and each person takes a turn to speak saying “peace” at the end to signal they’ve finished speaking.



### Part II: Franciscan Public Sphere Action Items

- e) **Updates on ministries or activities**
- f) **Next steps**
- g) **Closing Prayer**



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<sup>2</sup> *The Lord's Supper*, by Fritz Eichenberg (Germany & U.S., 1953), viewed June 2, 2020, <<https://www.plough.com/en/topics/culture/art/the-witness-of-jesus>>.

