

## TRUE THAT!

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"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:32

If you ever hang around youth or young adults, or if you have ever been blessed to work with them, you have in veritably heard the saying "true that". What does it mean? What is truth? Is everyone's truth the same? Or does it vary from person to person?

If you look in the Webster's Dictionary for the word truth, this is what you would find:

1 a archaic : [fidelity](#), [constancy](#)

b : sincerity in action, character, and utterance

2 a (1) : the state of being the case : [fact](#)

(2) : the body of real things, events, and facts : [actuality](#)

(3) : a transcendent fundamental or spiritual reality

b : a judgment, proposition, or idea that is true or accepted as true

Let's look at a couple of the results.

Why would the idea of fidelity or constancy be archaic in today's world? We are asked as Franciscan Catholics to have fidelity to our gospels and our Rule. Has the idea of fidelity gone the wayside as other notions of today, such as life-long marriage or commitment to a way of life?

In a world of instant gratification and technology overload, does the state of being factual or actual hold up? Are we sure that we are getting the truthful facts of what we are listening to, reading, or getting from the web? Do we do research on our findings, or do we just accept things as facts as they are given to us? Do our consciences help us discern the avalanche of information?

We hold many spiritual realities as truth through our faith. Do we take the time, and make the effort to constantly renew that faith? How long has it been since we have a read the gospels, or took a Bible study class? When was the last time we read a book on Francis and Clare? Do we actively participate in our fraternities' On-Going Formation? To have spiritual realities, we must first discover those realities, discern those realities, and keep those realities alive in our Church and in our lives.

The last dictionary entry is quite interesting, “a judgment, proposition, or idea that is true or accepted as true”. Are there things in this world that we accept as truth, but in actuality are not truth? Such as: everyone lives together before marriage; everyone is using birth control; the poor and homeless are that way because they did it to themselves; people of different color are to be held in suspicion; everyone should immediately speak English if they live in America; youth hanging around are usually up to no good, divorced people cannot be Secular Franciscans, I have to be trained to hold a position in the fraternity, and so on, and so on.... Just because an idea is upheld as truth, we still have the responsibility to uncover the facts, and to base our facts on and with the support and guidance of the gospels and our Rule.

We as members of an Order striving to follow in the footsteps of Francis and Clare, we are abundantly blessed with many truths. As Catholics, and Secular Franciscans, we have many opportunities to reply “true that” to our shared core beliefs. We can reply “true that” to any number of statements, such as...

The Body and Blood of Christ

The Apostle’s Creed

The 7 Sacraments

The Greatest Commandment to love one another

The Secular Franciscan Rule

The love and acceptance I give and receive within my fraternity

The next time we have an opportunity to respond to the world, let us say with a clear voice and with love and understanding in our hearts, “TRUE THAT!”

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