

Election Prayer for OFS Leadership

Give us, O God, leaders whose hearts are large enough
to match the breadth of our own souls
and give us souls strong enough
to follow leaders of vision and wisdom.

In seeking a leader, let us seek more than our own enhancement –
though enhancement we hope for –
more than security for our own plans and vision
though security we need more than satisfaction for our own selfish wants
though many things we desire.

Give us the hearts to choose and follow the leader who will work with other leaders
to bring Your will to the agenda and help us to fulfill it.

Give us leaders who will lead us to virtue
without seeking to impose their own version of virtue on others.

Give us leaders who will provide for the advancement of our order
without dictating to others to achieve it.

Give us insight enough ourselves to choose as leaders
those who can tell strength from power,
growth from greed, leadership from dominance,
and real greatness from the trappings of grandiosity.

We trust You, Great God, to open our hearts to learn
from those to whom You speak in different tongues
and to respect the life and words of those to whom
You entrusted the good of other parts of this globe.

We beg you, Great God, give us the vision as Secular Franciscans
to know where holy leadership truly lies, to pursue it diligently,
and to ask it to respect the integrity of every person in the entire Order.

We ask these things, Great God, with minds open to Your word
and hearts that trust in Your eternal care. Amen.