

Franciscan Journey – Chapter 19 Notes

A Simple Way to Live

Rule Article 11

Trusting the Father, Christ chose for Himself and His mother a poor and humble life, even though He valued created things attentively and lovingly. Let the Secular Franciscans seek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs. Let them be mindful that according to the gospel they are stewards of the goods received for the benefit of God's children.

Thus, in the spirit of the Beatitudes, and as pilgrims and strangers on their way to the home of the Father, they should strive to purify their hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power.

Commentary

Simple living also takes shape by reducing material needs, by curbing a thirst for possessions and the domineering power that comes from ownership, and by using all God's gifts in a spirit of generosity, justice, and moderation. Gospel poverty for Secular Franciscans, then, consists in acquiring possessions justly, keeping needs to a minimum, and using what they have as custodians for the generous benefit of others. In this way they live for the kingdom of God and not for this world according to the charter for happiness given in the "Beatitudes."

Constitutions 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4

- Live in the spirit of the Beatitudes and, in a special way, the spirit of poverty.
- Reduce personal needs, share with others in need.
- Give thanks to God for the goods we've received. Use as good stewards, not as owners.
- Take a firm position against consumerism.
- Love and practice purity of heart.

US Catechism for Adults

- Healthy detachment from material goods.
- Be more interested in spiritual riches.
- Poverty of spirit and generosity of heart liberate from slavery to money and possessions.
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The Beatitudes (*Matthew 5:3-10*) = ways to authentic happiness

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

The Holy Bible. (2006). (Revised Standard Version; Second Catholic Edition, Mt 5:3-10). San Francisco: Ignatius Press.

“Poor in spirit” = “humbly turn to God”

Ignatius Study Bible commentary:

Those who recognize their need for God and his grace. Unattached to this world, they find their security in the Lord and rely on his mercy rather than their merits or material wealth.

- Evangelical poverty demonstrates confidence in the Father.
- Creates interior freedom.
- Promotes just distribution of wealth.

Jesus valued material things attentively and lovingly.

Francis did not wish to possess material things, but saw Creation as God’s love at work.

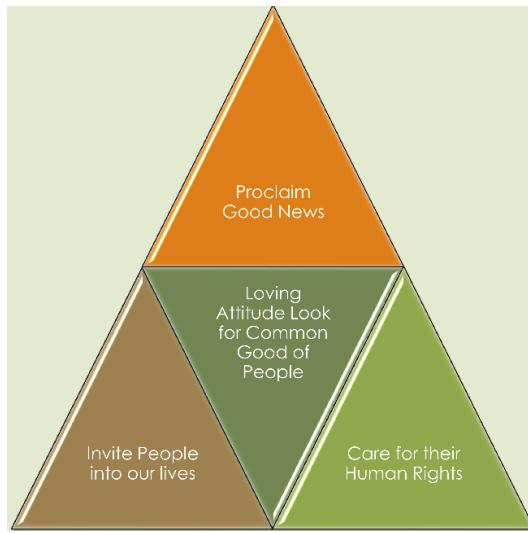
For Secular Franciscans, be good stewards:

- Must provide for own families.
- Reduce material needs.
- Share spiritual and material goods with others.
- Stand firm against consumerism.
- Detach from temporal goods.
 - We are stewards of material things.
 - Recognize how fragile they are.
 - Detachment brings freedom.
- Does not require us to deprive ourselves of necessities.

Pilgrims and strangers on their way to the home of the Father

- Travel light.
- Billy Graham: “My home is in Heaven. I’m just traveling through this world.”

Trinitarian Spirituality = “Proclaim the good news”



Servant leadership – Matt 20:25-28 (FJ pg 211)

- Franciscan spirit is one of being of service to others.

“Hunger and thirst for righteousness” = “Promote justice”

“Pure in heart” = “freedom from blemished purpose”

Ignatius Study Bible commentary:

Those who act with integrity and serve the Lord unselfishly. In biblical terms, the heart is the hidden center of the person where one's thoughts, words, actions, and emotions are said to originate. A pure heart is undefiled by evil and lustful thoughts and finds its true treasure in heaven.

Peacemakers

Ignatius Study Bible commentary:

Those who sow peace in the world. Partly, this means striving to live at peace with others; ultimately, it means sharing the gospel so that others can be reconciled with God and live in the peace of Christ.

- Story of Francis with the Sultan.

“Love your neighbor as yourself.”