

# **Franciscan Journey chapter 26 notes**

## **Universal Kinship**

### **Rule Article 18**

Moreover they should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which “bear the imprint of the Most High,” and they should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of universal kinship.

### **Commentary**

Ecology (the relationship of creatures with themselves, their environment, and their God) is a fourth expression of the Franciscan apostolate. Francis saw all creation—the sun and moon, the weather and water, fire and earth, forgiving people and death itself—as symbols of the union between God and his people. Hence, all creation has a sacred quality and enjoys a oneness with people in the history of salvation. Following the example of Francis, the Secular Franciscans express a profound respect for all creation and use it for its intended God-given purpose. Furthermore, they ennable nature and technology and build a community conscience toward using natural resources. This ministry toward creation will stem the selfish tide of abuse and waste and exploitation in this world.

### **Constitutions article 18.4**

#### **- Care for creation:**

- Put a stop to pollution and degrading nature.
- Establish circumstances and environment not threat to the human person.
- (Respect for life.)

### ***US Catholic Catechism for Adults page 424, 426***

- Respect for Creator by our stewardship of creation.
- God entrusted earth's resources to our stewardship.
- Goods of the earth meant for the common good of all people.
- Right to private property.

### **Live in harmony with the natural world**

- Pollution etc affect our ability to live in harmony with nature.
- Reverence and respect for nature is a Franciscan perspective that is part of our lives.
- Protect nature's resources so they are available to all people and to future generations.
- Look to things that concern the common good and not exploitation for personal gain.

### **The earth is the Lord's!**

- Creation bears the imprint of the Most High.
- Show respect and reverence - to all creatures, animate and inanimate.
- Franciscan spirit is in tune with God's creative love at work in giving us a world to live in.
- As stewards of God's earth we fulfill our role in every necessary way:
  - Protest exploitation and abuse of earth merely for profit.
  - Dialogue with others, encourage respect for all of creation.
  - Respectful confrontation.

## **Francis is the patron saint of ecology**

- Respect for nature as a marvelous gift of God to humankind.
- Canticle of the Sun (Creatures): first and foremost gave glory and praise to God.
- The Canticle demonstrates the warmth of Francis's relationship with creation.

## **Scripture reflection: *Psalm 19:1-6***

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.  
Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.  
There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;  
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.  
  
In them he has set a tent for the sun,  
which comes forth like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,  
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.  
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them;  
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

- The psalm shows how, in fact, "our human understanding, which shares in the light of the divine intellect, can understand what God tells us by means of his creation, though not without great effort and only in a spirit of humility and respect before the Creator and his work (cf. *Ps 19:2-5; Job 42:3*). Because creation comes forth from God's goodness it shares in that goodness—'And God saw that it was good ... very good' (*Gen 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 31*)—for God willed creation as a gift addressed to man, an inheritance destined for and entrusted to him. On many occasions the Church has had to defend the goodness of creation, including that of the physical world" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 299).

*The Navarre Bible: The Psalms and The Song of Solomon*

## **Scripture reflection: *Psalm 33:1-9***

Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous!  
Praise befits the upright.  
Praise the LORD with the lyre,  
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!  
Sing to him a new song,  
play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.  
  
For the word of the LORD is upright;  
and all his work is done in faithfulness.  
He loves righteousness and justice;  
the earth is full of the mercy of the LORD.

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,  
and all their host by the breath of his mouth.  
He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle;  
he put the deeps in storehouses.

Let all the earth fear the LORD,  
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!  
For he spoke, and it came to be;  
he commanded, and it stood forth.

- "Sing with joy. The song sung with joy is the song that pleases God. And to sing with joy is to recognize that we cannot put into words what our heart feels" (*Enarrationes in Psalmos*, 32, 7-8).

- There is a strong echo here of the first chapter of Genesis, although now the emphasis is laid on the on-going nature of God's action (v. 9). Some Fathers, (for example, St Athanasius, St Augustine, St Gregory) see the "Word" and the "Breath" as being references to the persons of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

*The Navarre Bible: The Psalms and The Song of Solomon*

- Ten-stringed lyre signifies the Ten Commandments. *Bellarmino*

#### ***Little Flowers of St. Francis - The Prophet - Chapter 22 - page 604***

- A story that further demonstrates the care of creation that Francis had.  
- As in the story of the wolf of Gubbio, Francis sought to meet the needs of creatures.  
- The other brothers grew in charity and wanted to share in Brother Masseo's burden.  
- In a family, various members have different needs, so accommodations should be made to support and encourage the growth of all members.

#### ***Compendium Catechism - What kind of bond exists between created things?***

- Interdependence and hierarchy among creatures.  
- Unity and solidarity – all from one Creator.

#### ***Gaudium et Spes - Paragraph 69***

- We have an obligation to come to the relief of the poor, since God created the earth and everything in it for all peoples.  
- Body of social institutions to deal with the protection and security of all.