

# Franciscan Journey

## Chapter 21

How to Love People



**"God sees hearts as  
we see faces."**

All People  
are a Gift  
& an  
Image of  
Christ

➤ We need a sense of Community – where we feel joyful and equal with all

➤ **RULE – 13**

➤ Universal kinship

➤ Create a spirit of Welcome

➤ Atmosphere of Fraternity





# St Francis

Work  
towards

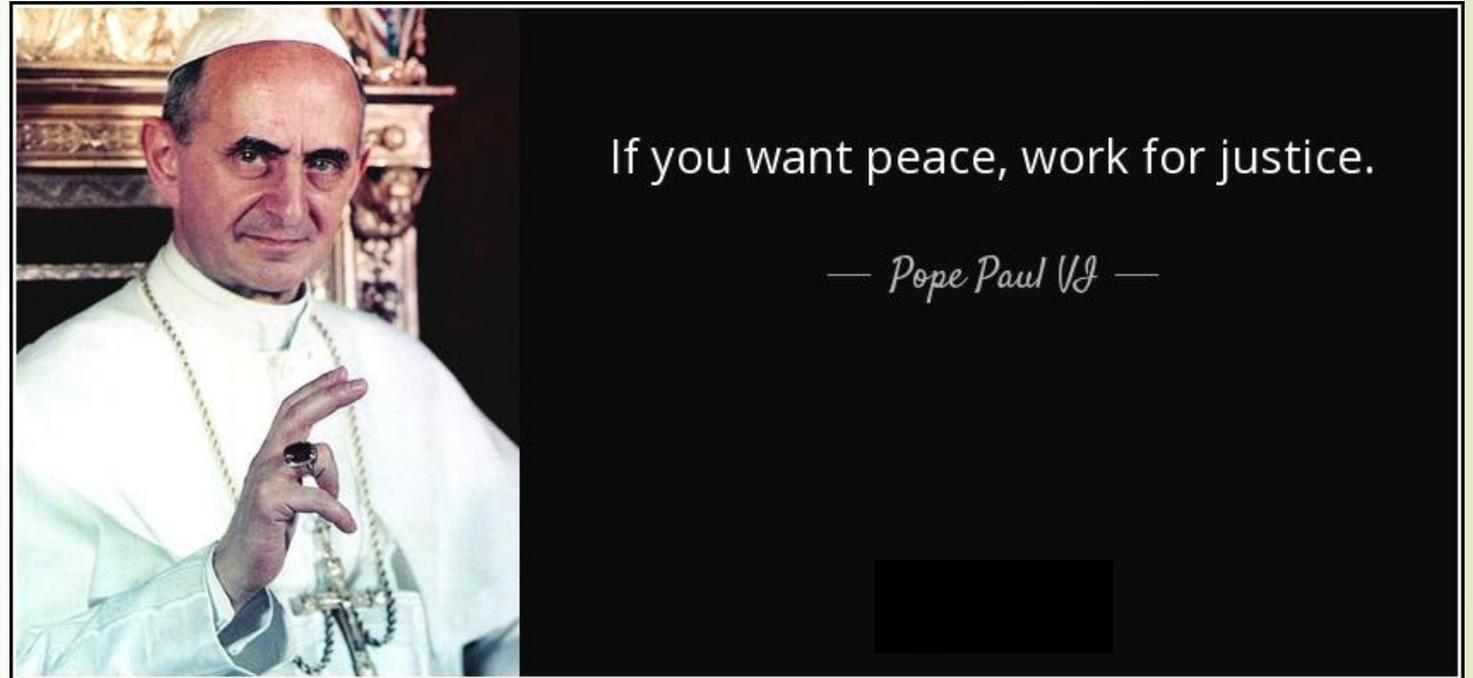
- Foundation of Universal Kinship
- Human Dignity
- Shared Responsibility
- Love may be living realities

Oppose  
every kind

- Exploitation
- Exclusion
- Indifference

# Build Fraternity Among Peoples

- Create worthy conditions for life
- Work for the freedom of all people (Constitutions Art. 1.1, 1.2, 18.3)
  
- Acquire Virtues of
  - **Moderation** in possessions
  - **Justice** in our treatment of others
  - **Respect** for their human dignity
  - **Solidarity** with all peoples



## Examination of our Perspective

Goes beyond family & fraternity relationships

Moves us to Relationships with All People – especially decisions we make about the “lowly”.

Many people consider themselves to be “lowly”



# Spirit guides Franciscan way of relating to people

- ▶ A gentle spirit
- ▶ A courteous spirit
- ▶ Accept people as a gift
- ▶ Accept people as an image of Christ
- ▶ Place ourselves on an equal basis with people
- ▶ Recognize people's work



# A Gentle Spirit

## Call on Holy Spirit and Opens Dialogue

### Understands

- People are not perfect
- Recognizes people's worth

### All choices are not life giving

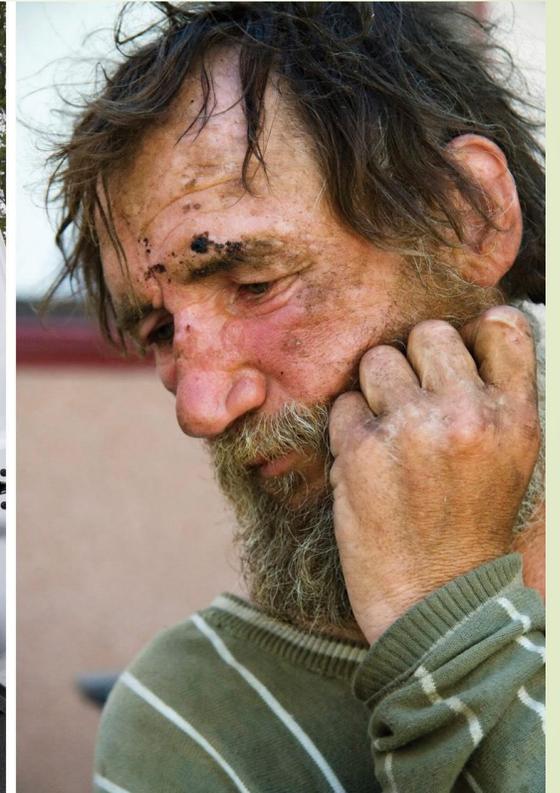
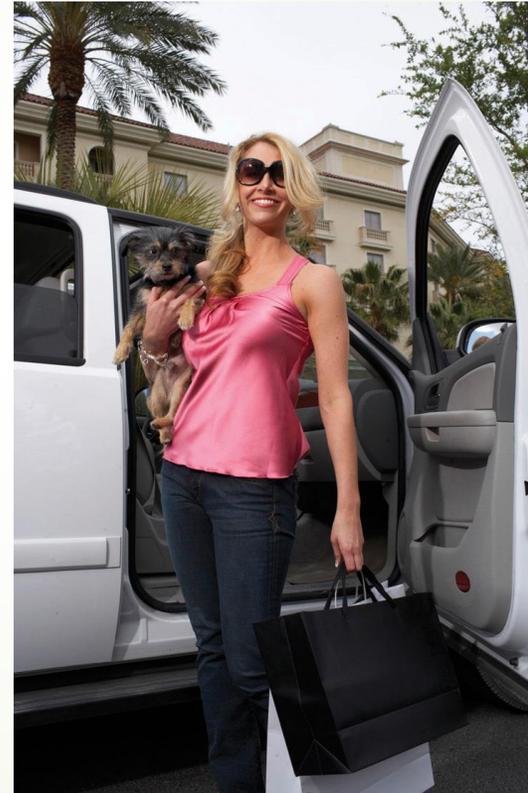
- Accepts Person
- Does not approve of poor choices

### Focus upon Goal

- Other's actions do not dictate our response
- Keep your actions in tune with goal

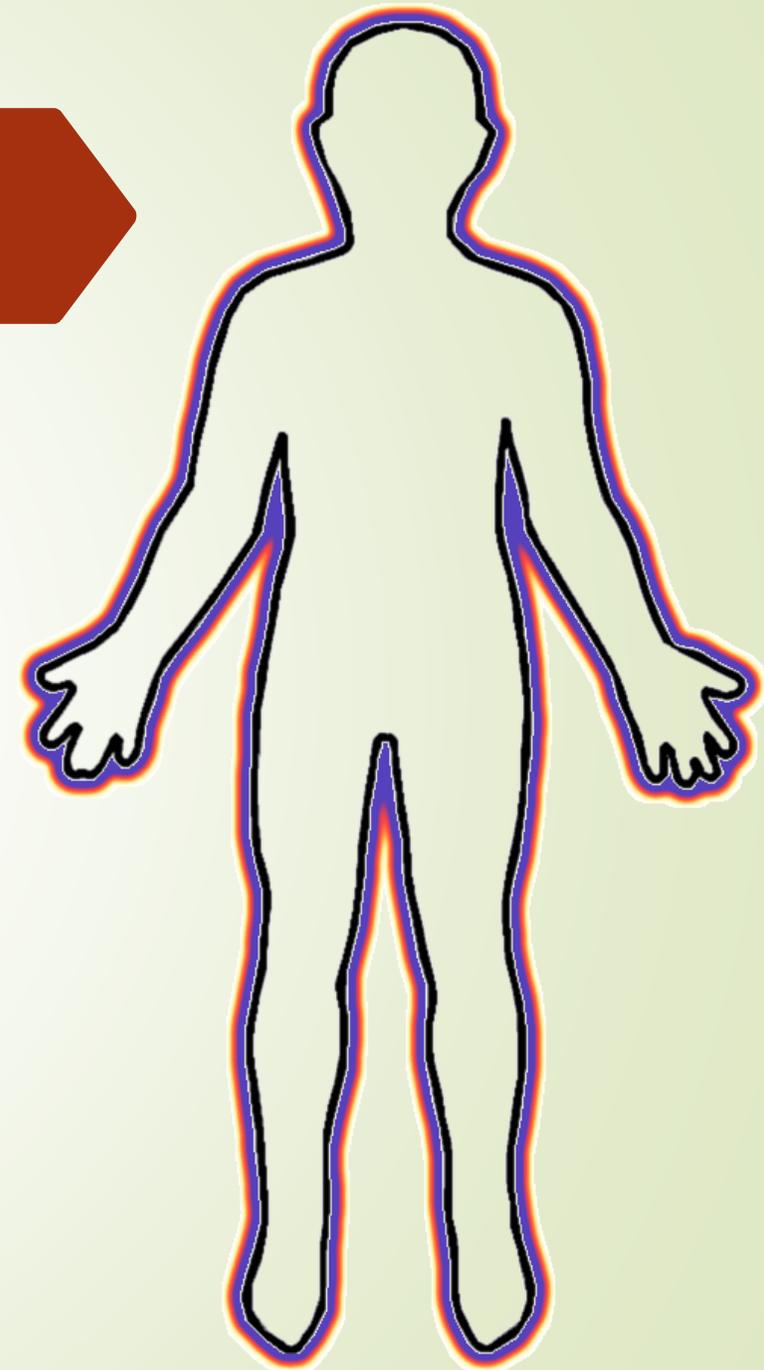
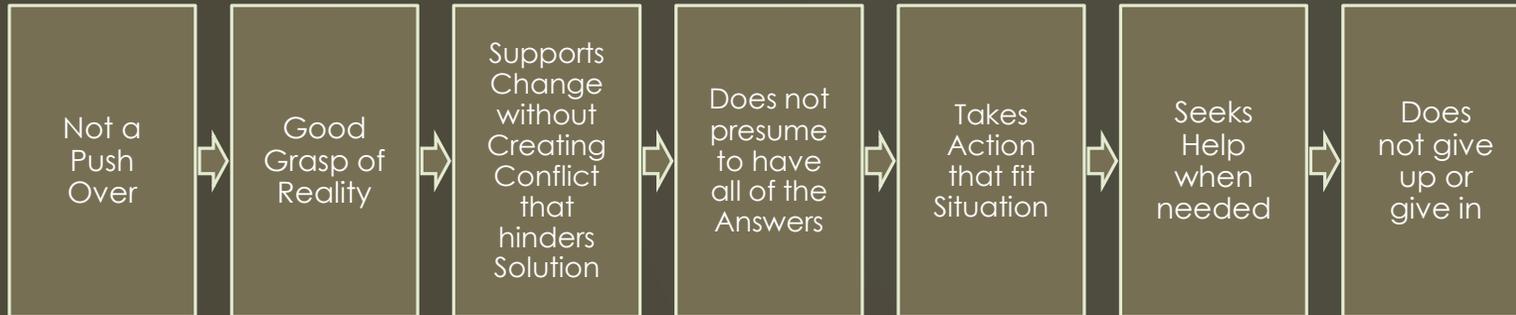
### Creates spirit of hospitality

- Not condemnation
- Not judgement





# Gentle Person



## Holy Spirit – Seek Guidance



Be Merciful

- ▶ Let all brothers who know that he (another brother) has sinned not bring shame upon him or slander him; let them instead, **show great mercy** to him and **keep the sin of their brother very secret** because **those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do.**

(Matthew 9:12, Mark 2:17, Luke 5:31) A letter to a Minister  
– Francis of Assisi – The Saint Vol. I , page 98

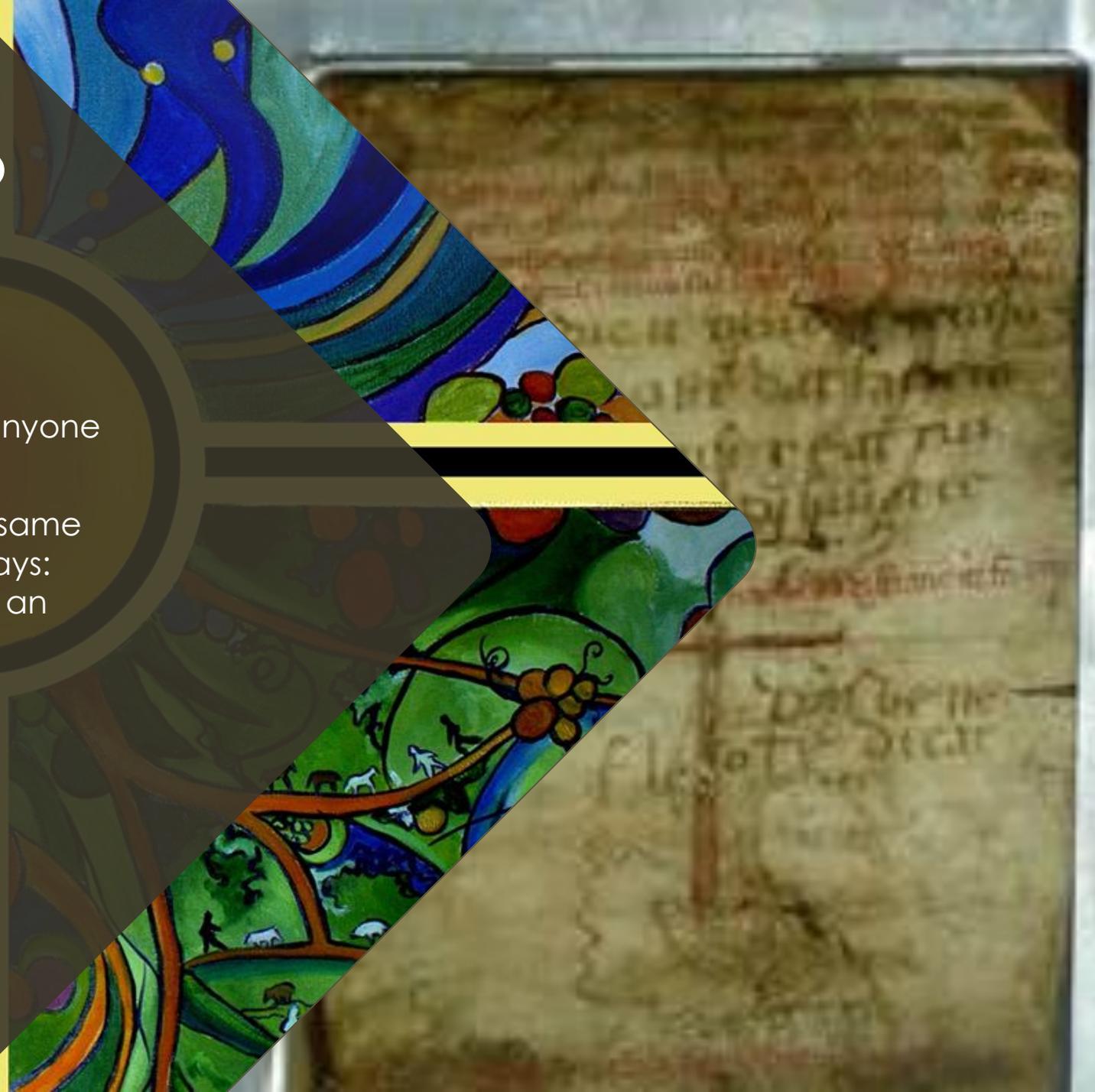
# Courteous Person

- Recognizes Dignity of others
- Courtesy has more Authority than politeness
- Courtesy springs from our inner spirit of respect for all people
  
- When Jesus appeared to Apostles after His death on the Cross – He responds to their needs without judgement – They were the people who would help build the Kingdom of God
- Jesus kept his Goal in mind and treated them with courtesy. Troubled as they were, Jesus' reaction to them opened the door to listening to Jesus' words.



# Francis gave witness to courtesy

- His treatment of his brothers
  - Francis' courtesy was never withheld from anyone who needed it
  - Secular Franciscans are called to have the same courtesy – OFS RULE puts it precisely when it says: accept all people as a gift from the Lord and an image of Christ.
- 
- CANTICLE OF THE CREATURES
  - Creation reflects God's Love
  - Francis show courtesy to all creation





# Accept all People as a Gift – Image of God

Will require a change in us  
Listen to others – find Christ in them  
Franciscans should give example of gift to others



# Search for the Image of Christ

- ▶ Peel away the layers of poor decisions that brought people to this point in their lives
- ▶ TRUST is needed – we must be trustworthy
- ▶ Confidence in our love is needed – must be persistent in our love
- ▶ Caring Spirit must manifest itself – we need to care
- ▶ Throughout this process – CHANGE will occur in each of us



# WE ARE ALL HUMAN – CREATED IN GOD’S LIKENESS

- ▶ Place ourselves on an equal basis with all people – which brings conversions
- ▶ Equality doesn’t mean that everything is exactly equal
- ▶ Gender, Experiences, Education, Family traits, Cultures, etc.
- ▶ We are capable of self knowledge
- ▶ We entering into communion with people through self giving
- ▶ To be made in God’s image also unites human beings as God’s stewards in the care of the earth and of all God’s other creatures.

(United States Catholic Catechism for Adults – USCCB pg.67)





# Love for the Poor & Marginalized

- ▶ Franciscans strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ
- ▶ Franciscans have a common desire to relate to God, all people, and all of creation.
- ▶ Accept challenge as part of being Franciscan.
- ▶ Joined in community life we bring joy to others through our common collaborative efforts.
- ▶ *But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel; Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine...Because you are precious in my sight, and honored and I love you...Do not fear, for I am with you. (Is 43:1, 4-5)*

**IF GOD HAS SUCH SENSITIVITY FOR US, WE WILL SHOW THE SAME SENSITIVITY TO ONE ANOTHER.**