Chapter 19
A Simple Way to Live
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Franciscans Should Live the **Spirit of the Beatitudes**

**Spirit of Poverty**
- Evangelical poverty demonstrates confidence in the Father
- It creates interior freedom
- Disposes us to promote a more just distribution of wealth

The Holy Family Lived in Poverty
Secular Franciscans

- Must provide for their own families
- Serve society by means of their work & material goods
- Have a particular manner of living evangelical poverty
- This requires a strong personal commitment and the stimulation of the fraternity prayer and dialogue
- Communal review of life
- Attentiveness to the instruction of the Church & demands of society.
Be Good Stewards

- Give thanks for what we have
- Reduce our personal needs
- Better able to share spiritual & material goods with others, especially those in need
- Take a firm position against consumerism, ideas and practices that prefer riches over human and religious values or exploitation of the human person.
Beatitudes – Way to Perfect Happiness

- First step on road to joy – detachment from material goods – build up spiritual wealth
- Greed and “love of money” is root of all evil (1 Tim 6:10)
- Seventh Commandment – stealing & injustice
- Tenth Commandment – interior attitudes of greed & envy – lead to theft & injustice

And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

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

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

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 the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5: 3-10
Poverty of Spirit & Generosity of Heart

- Tenth Commandment calls for poverty of spirit & generosity of heart
- These virtues liberate from being slaves to money & possessions
- Enables us to have preferential love for the poor
- Be witnesses of justice & peace
- Simplicity of life frees us from Consumerism
- Preserves God’s creation
Francis Cared for All Creation – God’s Gift

- Francis was drawn to all creation, did not want to possess it, but care for it
- Use things for our use and need - food, water, shelter, clothing
- Recognize Nature Resources are limited – use common sense – do not deplete
- Create structure to provide for all, not just those who can afford
Stewards of Material Things

- Franciscan need a humble spirit of sharing
- Detachment from Temporal Good
- But Poverty doesn’t require us to be deprived of necessities just don’t be possessed by possessions
- Avoid exploitation for financial gain
Live Evangelical Poverty

- Dialogue at fraternity gatherings can explore how to live this particular manner of evangelical poverty
- Keep things simple, situations vary keep it before us always
  - Cars, methods of transportation, clothing, schools, costs of weddings, charities we support
Detachment Brings Freedom

- We are Stewards, responsible for our use of material things but not possessed by them
- The call to be Pilgrims and strangers on our way to the home of Our Father
- When you travel, you do have a certain freedom from things
- If you travel a lot, you learn to “travel light”

My home is in Heaven. I’m just traveling through this world. -Billy Graham
Trinitarian Spirituality

- Proclaim Good News
- Loving Attitude Look for Common Good of People
- Invite People into our lives
- Care for their Human Rights
Purify Our Hearts from tendency and yearning for possessions & power

- Advertisements tell us how much and what we need
- Discover ways to avoid accumulating too much “stuff”
- In prayerful dialogue, we can discover our treasure and find ways to share it with others
- Attitude towards power is that of a Servant
- Fraternity provides ways to assist each other in being faithful to the SFO Rule of life
- We can use power to serve people and enhance fraternity life

Matthew 20:26-28

“It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, 27 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
Blessed Are Those Who Mourn
Blessed Are the Meek

- Human & natural – death of loved one - Comforted by Jesus’ loving presence
- Mourn for societal sinfulness & things that fracture relationships or deny human rights
- Seek ways to correct and initiate the process of conversion
- Meek (Gentle) have the strength to see what needs to be done and actually do it
- Gentleness allows us to touch people’s lives without arrogance or dominance. A spirit which allows others to keep their dignity
Only lovers of justice and truth can possess the Kingdom of Heaven, and to be children of God we must be lovers of justice and truth. 

Blessed Solanus Casey OFM Cap

- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (Justice)
- SFO Rule (article #15) Secular Franciscan should be in the forefront in promoting justice
- Spiritual integrity gives us a sense of Peace even when our goal is not reached
- We hunger and thirst, faithful to building a world where all people are treated with dignity
The Merciful Shall Receive Mercy
We are People of the Beatitudes

- Francis and Clare showed great mercy in their lives
- No matter how one fails or hurts us, we offer the hand of mercy
- “It is who we are – merciful people. Jesus is no crank! He knows we are no angels, but poor sinners, and He understands when we fail. After all, His mercy is above all His works and His patience is essentially one with His mercy.” Blessed Solanus Casey OFM Cap.
Blessed are the Pure in Heart

- Clear-sighted – see things as they are
- Willing to deal with reality in faith-filled way
- Recognize the presence of God in whole created world
- Francis saw God in all Creation and People
- SFO Rule article #5 and #13
Blessed are the Peacemakers
SFO Rule article #10

- When we bring peace to a situation, we imitate God
- Conflictual situations can happen in our hearts, relationships, competing groups, countries, religions
- Secular Franciscans are to be Bearers of Peace SFO Rule #19 which we must build up unceasingly
- We seek **both/and** solutions – rather than **either/or** solutions
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Matthew 5: 10
Beatitudes - Love

- Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.
- Love your neighbor as yourself! Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Romans 13:8-10

...God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, usurers, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

LUKE 18:11