The Gift of Work
Franciscan Journey
Chapter 24

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Rule 16: Let them Esteem work both as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption & service of the human community

- For Francis work was a gift and to work was a grace
- Work is not only a means of livelihood, but an opportunity to serve God and develop our own personality
- Every form of occupation deserves respect
- Commit to collaborate so that all may have the possibility of work and that working conditions are humane
Jesus Christ, whose labor with his hands at Nazareth, added to the dignity of work

- People put a personal seal on the things of nature and reduces them to his/her will
- Ordinarily, people provide for themselves & their family
- Associate with others as brothers & sisters be partners
- Serve them, exercise genuine charity
- Leisure and recreation have value and necessary for personal development
- Strive to maintain a balance between leisure and work
How You Live – Share the Gospel

Work gives us opportunities to:
- share in creation,
- redemption &
- service of the human community

Influence others:
- Showing honesty & compassion
- Conversations

Need time for reflection – bring redemptive touch to your presence at work
Work has Redemptive Power
- bring the love of God to each situation

- Through our work, we bring light to the world and to those we work with
- Keeps us aware of our commitment to sharing in creation, serving of others
- Offers others an example of what Gospel life looks like
Work Challenges
- how do we react?

- Police deal with criminals who resist
- Supervisors who do not respect employees
- Military deal with how to win in war
- Owners & employees deal with bankruptcies & economic down turns
- Low paying jobs, overwork
- Discrimination, bias
- Dishonesty – employers or employees
- Negative situations far from healthy relationships – can influence how we act
- Try to find ways to deal with chaos at work
Important Considerations

Getting Ahead

› Taking on too much responsibility that will take you away from family
› Working to get higher salary that harms family relationships
› Working so much that you are too tired to live
  › Stress, boredom, anxiety, makes us unbalanced
› Values salary or material good over relationships
Being Aware of Our Need for God

- We are imperfect, sometimes inadequate
- We need God & Community
- Leisure & recreation are important for self development
- We may need creativity in order to maintain healthy personal development
- May need time alone to refresh our inner spirit