

11.

Trusting in the Father, Christ chose for himself and his mother a poor and humble life¹⁹, 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 power²⁰.

12.

Witnessing to the good yet to come and obliged to acquire purity of heart because of the vocation they have embraced, they should set themselves free to love God and their brothers and sisters²¹.

13.

As the Father sees in every person the features of his Son, the firstborn of many brothers and sisters²², so the Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ²³.

A sense of community will make them joyful and ready to place themselves on an equal basis with all people, especially with the lowly for whom they shall strive to create conditions of life worthy of people redeemed by Christ²⁴.

14.

Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively. Mindful that anyone "who follows Christ, the perfect man, becomes more of a man himself", let them exercise their responsibilities competently in Christian spirit of service²⁵.

15.

Let them individually and collectively be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and their courageous initiatives. Especially in the field of public life, they should make definite choices in harmony with their faith²⁶.

16.

Let them esteem work both as a gift and as a sharing in the creation, redemption, and service of the human community²⁷.

¹⁹ *First Letter of St. Francis* 5 (1 FA:ED, *The Later Exhortation* (2Lt 5), p. 46).

²⁰ Rom. 8:17; *Lumen Gentium* 7:4.

²¹ *Admonitions of St. Francis* 16 (1 FA:ED, *Adm XVI*, p. 136); *First Letter* 70.

²² Rom. 8:29.

²³ 2 Celano 85 (2 FA:ED, 2C 85, p. 303); *First Letter* 26 (1 FA:ED, 2LtF 26, p. 47); *First Rule* 7:13 (1 FA:ED, *ER* 7:14, p. 69).

²⁴ *First Rule* 9:3 (1 FA:ED, *ER* 9:2, p. 70); Mt 25:40.

²⁵ *Lumen Gentium* 31; Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (*Gaudium et Spes*) 93.

²⁶ *Apostolicam Actuositatem* 14.

²⁷ *Gaudium et Spes* 67:2; *First Rule* 7:4 (1 FA:ED, *ER* 7:4, p. 68); *Second Rule* 5:1 (1 FA:ED, *LR* 5:2, p. 102).

