



## - A RESOURCE FOR ONGOING FORMATION -

### Part 2: A Life of Penance and Daily Conversion

#### Chapter 7. Chastity I

Secular Franciscans...are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively. Rule 14

By living the grace of matrimony, husbands and wives in particular should bear witness in the world to the love of Christ for his Church. Rule 17

Blest are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see our God;  
the secret of the Lord is theirs,  
their soul is Christ's abode.

Still to the lowly soul  
he doth himself impart;  
and for his cradle and his throne  
chooseth the pure in heart.

*John Keble, 1792-1866*

Persons who are bound by a public perpetual vow of chastity [castitatis] in a religious institute invalidly attempt marriage. CIC, 1088

By religious profession members assume by public vow the observance of the three evangelical counsels... ( i.e. poverty, chastity, obedience) CIC, 654

*What do we call self-control in the matter of sex?*

The virtue of self-control in the matter of sex is called chastity.

*How do we exercise chastity?*

We exercise the virtue of chastity by, characteristically, being warm and affectionate but not flirtatious with others; by ensuring that embraces and other bodily gestures are genuinely signs of friendship; and having genital sex only with the one to whom we are exclusively committed in marriage.

*How can we fail in the exercise of chastity?*

We fail in the exercise of chastity by dislike and fear of sex and by all sex that is wholly without friendship or from which any connection with raising a family is excluded: by masturbation; by sex simply for individual gratification without concern for the other partner; by rape, adultery, promiscuity and fornication: by perverse or homosexual intercourse; by self-indulgent sexual fantasies and the use of pornography to procure such fantasies.

Herbert McCabe *The Teaching of the Catholic Church* 242, 243, 247 (p 43-44)

**Chastity**  
(dictionary definition)

continence, virginity, celibacy, simplicity of style or taste

Parallel with the 'sexual revolution' that has discarded most Christian sexual values, there has been a healthy swing from a negative to a positive emphasis in Catholic moral theology. It begins with the fact that all human persons are sexual...sexuality is an inseparable element of human life. It cannot be considered by itself apart from persons in relationships that are loving...sexuality is coextensive with human life. It should not be considered primarily or solely in terms of intercourse or marriage. These are not the only manifestations of sexuality. Some -people may never marry, never procreate, yet they remain as fully sexual as those who do. They live in loving relationships as this particular man or this individual woman. Chastity is the virtue [habit, attitude, ongoing practice] which reverences and orders sexuality according to God's will.

Foley, Weigel, Normile *To Live as Francis Lived* Reflection 20 (p 77)



## Scripture—

### **I Cor 6. 15-20**

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute become one body with her? For it is said, ‘ The two shall be one flesh. ’ But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

### **Titus 2. 1-6; 11-14**

But as for you, teach what is consistent with sound doctrine. Tell the older men to be temperate, serious, prudent, and sound in faith, in love, in endurance. Likewise, tell the older women to be reverent in behaviour, not to be slanderers or slaves to drink; they are to teach what is good, so that they may teach the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be self-controlled, chaste...Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and manifestation of the glory of the great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.