



- A RESOURCE FOR ONGOING FORMATION -

Part 5: Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

5. The Dignity of Human Life 2—'An Aspect of Restorative Justice'

As the Father sees in every person the features of his Son, the firstborn of many brothers and sisters, so the Secular Franciscans with a gentle and courteous spirit accept all people as a gift of the Lord and an image of Christ. 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 Christ. Rule 13

What is justice?

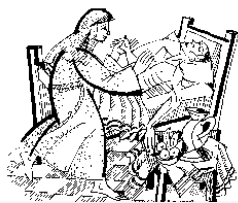
Justice is a disposition of the will which inclines us to give to every person what is her or his due with a view to the common good of the whole society.

How do we exercise the virtue of justice?

We exercise the virtue of justice by obeying the law and upholding the common good in a just society; by seeking to change an unjust society; by concern

for the rights of others in their reputation, dignity and property; by speaking truthfully and dealing honestly with our neighbour.

Herbert McCabe *The Teaching of the Catholic Church* 219, 220 (p 39)



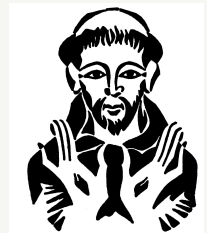
There is no doubt that Francis' experience of faith was rich and well articulated. Francis was a man of his times, part of the contradictions and tensions that characterised the ordinary people and merchants of Italy in the 13th Century. At the same time he was able to interpret the deep spiritual aspirations of his time.

Francis is also a man of our times. He is able to address the fears and expectations of the many men and women today whose lives are characterised by fatigue and disillusionment. These people are seeking for something that truly can give them faith and hope amid the passing days and the multiple projects of life.

Living out our ministry today, proclaiming the good news of the cross and the beauty of crucified Love, and letting the stories of Francis' life speak to us: These endeavours are very challenging and yet very relevant for our own faith experience...

Francis basically remained a *poor man*, a man who lived by faith and who gave his life totally to God. Such a man does not make calculated plans and does not seek security in what he has, who he is, or what he knows. The Father is the source for everything, and the poor man places his trust completely in God.

Raniero Cantalamessa/Carlo Maria Martini *St Francis and the Cross* (p 125-126)



How do we practice justice in an unjust world?

What does the Cross teach about the value of human life?



Scripture—

Exod 19. 5-6

Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.

I Pet 2. 9-11; 4. 7-11

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God 's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were no t a people, but now you are God 's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.