



## Studying the Rule of the OFS



### Chapter 2 The Form of Life

11. Christ, trusting in the Father, chose, together with his Mother, a poor and humble life, \*18 whilst at the same time carefully showing loving appreciation for everything created. Likewise, with regard to temporal goods and their use, let Secular Franciscans seek the right spirit of detachment and fairness by simplifying their own material needs. Let them be aware that, as the gospel says, they are stewards of the good things which they have received and who are bound to administer them for the good of the children of God. Thus, in the spirit of the Beatitudes, let them strive to purify their hearts from every tendency towards, and yearning for, possessions and also from any desire for domination. They are 'pilgrims and strangers' on their way to the Father's house. \*19

#### Footnotes:

\*18 Later Exhortation and Admonition 4 1 FA:ED (p 46)

\*19 Rom 8.17; Lumen Gentium 7

#### Cf. General Constitutions:

Art 15

#### ENDNOTES:

Cf. 1 FA:ED Later Exhortation and Admonition 4 (p 46)

'The most high Father made known from heaven through his most holy angel of the holy and glorious Virgin Mary, from whose womb he received the flesh of our humanity and frailty. Though he was rich, he wished, together with the most Blessed Virgin, his mother, to choose poverty in the world beyond all else.'

‘Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.’ (Matt 6.26)



**Q.** Anxiety is one of the great troubles in modern life though in this country we’ve ‘never had it so good!’ What does it mean for us to live ‘in the spirit of the Beatitudes’, especially in regard to ‘detachment’, ‘fairness’ and ‘simplifying’ our material needs?

Consider this extract from *Lumen Gentium*:

‘On earth, still as pilgrims in a strange land, following in trial and in oppression the paths he trod, we are associated with his sufferings as the body with its head, suffering with him, that with him we may be glorified.’

**Q.** Is our adherence to gospel values in our pilgrimage more often a ‘bit of a nuisance’/an ‘inconvenience’ than a ‘sacrifice’?