



Studying the Rule of the OFS



Chapter 2 The Form of Life

16. Let them esteem work as a gift and as a way of sharing in the work of creation, redemption and service to the human family. *26

Footnotes:

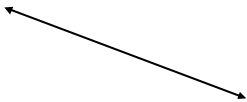
*26 Gaudium et Spes 67.2; ER 7.4 1 FA:ED (p 68); Later R 5.1 I FA:ED (p 102)

Cf. General Constitutions:

Art 21.1

ENDNOTES:

Gaudium et Spes 67 is in mind here: '...we believe by faith that through the homage of work offered to God [Cf. laborem donum...] humanity is associated with the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, whose labour with his hands at Nazareth greatly added to the dignity of work.'



All may of thee partake;
nothing can be so mean,
which with this tincture, 'for thy sake,'
will not grow bright and clean.

A servant with this clause
makes drudgery divine;
who sweeps a room, as for thy laws,
makes that and the action fine.
[George Herbert, 1593-1633]

Those...to whom the Lord has given the grace of working may work faithfully and devotedly so that, while avoiding idleness, ['the devil finds work for idle hands'] the enemy of the soul, they do not extinguish the Spirit of holy prayer and devotion to which the temporal things must contribute.

In payment for their work they may receive whatever is necessary for the bodily support of themselves and their brothers, excepting coin or money, and let them do this humbly as is becoming for servants of God... [so St Francis tells the brothers]

Q. In what sense can we understand work as a gift?

Q. How does our understanding of Christ help us understand words like 'creation', 'redemption', 'service' as used here in the Rule?

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
(Heb 4.15-16)