



Tau Maria Franciscan Formation Meditations
Our Holy Father Francis on our Holy Father St. Francis

M Meditation – Life of St. Francis

By Cindy Wooden *Catholic News Service*

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis said that “as things got dangerous” in the conclave voting, he was sitting next to his “great friend,” Brazilian Cardinal Claudio Hummes “who comforted me.” When the former Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio went over the 77 votes needed to become pope, he said, Cardinal Hummes “hugged me, kissed me and said, ‘Don’t forget the poor.’” Pope Francis told thousands of journalists March 16 [2013] that he took to heart the words of his friend and chose to be called after St. Francis of Assisi, “the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and protects creation,” the same created world “with which we don’t have such a good relationship.”

“How I would like a church that is poor and that is for the poor,” he told the more than 5,000 media representatives who came from around the world for the conclave and his election. Pope Francis also said some had suggested jokingly that he, a Jesuit, should have taken the name Clement XV “to get even with Clement XIV, who suppressed the Society of Jesus” in the 1700s. The pope told the media, “You’ve really been working, haven’t you.”

While the church includes a large institution with centuries of history, he said, “the church does not have a political nature, but a spiritual one.” Pope Francis told reporters it was the Holy Spirit who led Pope Benedict XVI to resign, and it was the Holy Spirit who guided the conclave. The pope acknowledged how difficult it is for many media to cover the church as a spiritual, rather than a political institution, and he offered special thanks “to those who were able to observe and recount these events in the story of the church from the most correct perspective in which they must be read, that of faith.”

The church, he said, “is the people of God, the holy people of God, because it is journeying toward an encounter with Jesus Christ.” No one can understand the church without understanding its spiritual purpose, he said. “Christ is the pastor of the church, but his presence passes through the freedom of human beings,” he said. “Among them, one is chosen to serve as his vicar on earth. But Christ is the center, the focal point.”

Thanking the reporters again for all their hard work, Pope Francis also asked them to continue trying “to discover the true nature of the church and its journey through the world, with its virtues as well as its sins.” Communications, he said, requires study, preparation and a special attention “to truth, goodness and beauty,” which is something the church has in common with journalism.

He ended his talk by telling reporters he hoped they would grow in their knowledge of “the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the reality of the church. I entrust you to the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, star of the new evangelization.” After personally greeting dozens of journalists and representatives of the Vatican press office, the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, the Vatican newspaper and Vatican Radio, the pope came back to the microphone. “I know that many of you are not Catholic or are not believers, so I impart my heartfelt blessing to each of you silently, respecting your consciences, but knowing that each of you is a child of God. May God bless you,” he said.



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MEETING WITH THE POOR AND ASSISTED BY CHARITIES
ADDRESS OF POPE FRANCIS

Hall of dispossession of the Bishopric, Assisi
Friday, October 4, 2013

In other words that follow the Pope Francis had prepared for this occasion and delivered by giving it to read: Dear Brothers and Sisters ,

This place is a special place, and so I wanted to make a stop here, even if the day is very full. Here Francis stripped himself of everything, in front of his father, the bishop, and to the people of Assisi. It was a prophetic gesture, and it was also an act of prayer, an act of love and trust in the Father who is in heaven. With that gesture Francis made his choice: the choice to be poor. It is not a choice sociological, ideological, it is the choice to be like Jesus, to imitate him, to follow him to the end. Jesus is God who is stripped of his glory. We read in St Paul: Christ Jesus, who was God, he emptied himself, emptied himself and became as we are, and in this drop came even unto death on a cross (cf. *Phil 2:6-8*).

...The spoliation of St. Francis tells us just what the Gospel teaches us: to follow Jesus means to put it in first place, divest of the many things that we have and that choke our hearts, deny ourselves, take up the cross...detach from the ego proud and desire to have, by money, which is an idol that has.

... I'm not here to "make news", but to indicate that this is the Christian way, what has come St. Francis. St. Bonaventure, speaking of the spoliation of St. Francis, he writes: "So, then, the servant of the high king was left naked, why follow the naked crucified Lord, the object of his love." He adds that so Francis was saved by the "shipwreck of the world" (*FF1043*).

... divest himself of any action that is not for God, is not God; from the fear of opening the doors and go out and meet everyone, especially the poor, the needy, far away, without waiting; sure not to get lost in the sinking of the world, but with courage to bring the light of Christ, the light of the Gospel, even in the dark, where you can not see where anything can happen to stumble; divest himself of apparent tranquility that damage the structures, certainly necessary and important, but that should not obscure never the only real force that carries in itself: that of God He is our strength!

... you must follow the path of poverty, which is not the misery - this is to fight - but it's knowing how to share, to be more solidarity with those in need, the more we trust God and less of our own human strength. Archbishop Sorrentino recalled the solidarity work of Bishop Nicolini, who helped hundreds of Jews by hiding them in convents, and the hub secret was here, in the bishopric. This also is stripping, which always starts with love, by the mercy of God!

In this place that challenges us, I would pray that every Christian, the Church, every man and woman of good will, undress know what is not essential to reach out to those who are poor and asks to be loved. Thank you all!