

Reflection Monday week 10. 2020

Pope Francis said that the beatitudes should be a defining feature of a Christian's identity because they reveal the way that Jesus lived his life. The beatitudes always bring joy; they are the way to joy. It will do us good to read the beatitudes and seek to understand this road so beautiful, so sure of the happiness that the Lord offers us. They are a Christian's identity card because they reveal the face of Jesus. There are eight beatitudes. It would be nice to learn them by heart to repeat them, to have precisely in mind and heart, this law that Jesus gave us. The pope believes the beatitudes are a message for all of humanity. It's hard not to be touched by these words of Jesus, and it is a just desire to want to understand them and to welcome them more fully. The beatitudes bring one the true joy of being "blessed," which is different from worldly happiness. It is an Easter joy. In giving himself to us, God often chooses "unthinkable paths" that test our limits, bringing tears or defeat. It is the joy of one who has the stigmata, but is alive, one who has died to himself and experienced the power of God. But what does the word 'blessed' mean? The original Greek term *makarios* does not indicate one who has a full belly or is doing well, but is a person who is in a condition of grace, who progresses in the grace of God. Jesus begins to teach a new law: to be poor, to be meek, to be merciful. These 'new commandments' are much more than norms. In fact, Jesus does not impose anything, but reveals the way of happiness. (Jan 29, 2020)

A particularly good example of the beatitudes is Pope Francis himself. He lives simply. He fights for peace and justice. He is merciful, gentle and pure of heart. He is persecuted mainly by some within the Church rather than from outside. May God continue to guide and bless him. May God continue to inspire and grant him courage. And in the words of John O'Donohoe:

May dawn find Francis awake and alert, approaching each new day with dreams, possibilities and promises; may evening find him gracious and fulfilled; may he enter each night blessed, sheltered and protected; and may his soul calm, console and renew him."

Further thoughts for reflection????

Q: *What do you call a rich elf?*

A: *Welfy.*

Q: *How do you make an octopus laugh?*

A: *With ten-tickles.*

Q: *How do you make holy water?*

A: *Boil the hell out of it.*

Q: *What do you call a magic dog?*

A: *A Labracadabrador.*