

## 10. SERVICE

1. All forms of service are rooted in the Lord's Prayer when we pray "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven." Jesus is telling us that heaven should not only be thought of as someplace off in the future, but that it should also be happening right now, here on Earth. And God wants us to be involved in making it happen.

2. Heaven is like the sum total of all the bits and pieces of love that occur in every moment, in every place, revealing the presence of God. Another word for service is, in fact, "love." "By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." If you are the wisest person, the smartest person, the most accomplished person, or the wealthiest person, but have not love, then you are nothing.

3. We look to the Beatitudes as the model for our service, the framework upon which to bring heaven to Earth. We strive to be "poor in spirit," emptying ourselves of anything that is not of God – allowing our true selves to emerge. We mourn, showing our sensitivity and awareness for the plight of others and the world; We seek humility, understanding that our place with God is no higher, or lower, than anyone else.

4. We pursue righteousness, which is *restorative* justice in all political, social, and economic systems. That means that all people are respected, loved, and treated with dignity. We are merciful, as God through Christ is merciful to us. We seek to be pure in heart, that is, the Oneness that God intended for all humans, creatures, and nature. By this we will recognize God's work and Word everywhere.

## A Common Rule for Monastics

5. We seek peace among all peoples,  
which we know comes from  
the pursuit of restorative justice, mercy,  
and a deeper understanding of each other.  
And we know that because  
our vocations are in mankind's world,  
we sometimes place ourselves in the path of  
ridicule, derision, and danger.  
But we walk the path of Christ,  
and we are fed in the joy and love  
of the Resurrection.

6. And let us not forget the service  
we need for ourselves, too,  
for Jesus said to love God,  
and our neighbors, *as ourselves*.  
We claim the refreshing pauses we need  
from our outward service  
to ensure sufficient care  
for our inward needs.  
Rest as Jesus did,  
and then return to the tasks at hand.  
Honor the Sabbath rest.

7. The foundation of our service rests on  
our love for God, our neighbors, and ourselves,  
as the Great Commandment dictates.  
We do what we can with what

we have been given, and in the place  
where we have been planted.  
Our efforts are based in truth,  
and are non-violent to others,  
to the world, and to ourselves.

8. So we use our unique talents,  
skills, and interests,  
whatever they happen to be,  
and we look around us,  
wherever we have been planted,  
for opportunities in the moment  
to be of service to God in love.  
Any act of love – however large or small –  
is of the greatest importance to God.  
Remember that it's God Grace  
that brings the results.  
We do the act of love,  
and then we let the Holy Spirit take over  
to do with it as the Spirit desires.  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

“When people find something that they prefer to life  
itself, that is when they begin to live for the first time.”

- G.K. Chesterson