

6. THE GOOD NEWS

The Holy Gospel

1. In the Gospel we discover the Good News:

God so loved the world
that God gave the Son,
and whosoever believed in him
would not perish, but have everlasting life.
For God did not send the Son
to condemn the world, but to save it.

2. God's love for us is pure and everlasting;
it is unconditional and boundless.

We learn that there is nothing – nothing –
that can come between us
and God's love for us.

There is no power strong enough,
no evil bad enough,
no devil big enough;
even we, ourselves,
can't separate God's love from us.

3. God came to us in a form
we might understand.

God showed us that the material
and the spiritual can unite

and be as One.

God sent Jesus in God's Name,
to teach us, and heal us, and show us
how to live together.

Not to let our true selves die
under the burden of illusion or false gods,
but have the life that was breathed into us
from the beginning.

The good news of the Gospel
is that we can discover the eternal life
in Jesus' life and ministry.

Jesus is the model for each person
and the community as a whole.

4. Jesus came and said, "Follow me."

An invitation which can be accepted,
or can be rejected.

Because love requires free will
we are always given choices.

Once we begin the journey
we may fall now and then,
but the invitation still stands, forever.

Always get up, knowing that we fall
on a bed of mercy and forgiveness.

We are set aright once again
by the power and love of the Holy Spirit.

A Common Rule for Monastics

5. To follow Jesus means
we need to be empty of ourselves,
ready to receive what he has to offer.
It means allowing the heart connections
with people, and with nature, to grow.
It means learning to see deeply,
past our own shortcomings,
and past those of others,
to look into the hearts of life everywhere.
It means to listen to the words of others,
and to listen for what has not been said,
to reach people at their point of need.
We work to allow dignity for all,
building respect and ensuring equality.

6. To follow Jesus binds us to his Word,
but also releases us
from the bondage of pride,
power, privilege, prejudice,
and other false gods.
We no longer have to justify our choices,
because our guidance
comes from the Holy Spirit –
to love, share, and care as Jesus did.
Our path has already been selected –
to follow the love and life of Christ.

7. We use the Gospel as the reason
for our prayer;
we use the Gospel as the resource
for our study;
we use the Gospel as the example
for our service.
Let us fill our minds and hearts
with the love of Christ
through the Gospel every day,
morning and evening,
and every moment in between.

“Always preach the Gospel,
and if necessary, use words.”
- St. Francis