

# Joy of the Gospel

April 25, 2015

Convivenza – Secular Franciscans Gathering

## Small Group Discussion:

### Joy found in encountering Jesus

- “I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church’s journey in years to come.”
- It is a heartfelt appeal to all baptized persons to bring Christ’s love to others, says the pope. Thus we find ourselves “permanently in a state of mission.”

### Joy found in hospitality

- A sign of God’s openness is “that our church doors should always be open” so that those who seek God “will not find a closed door”; “nor should the doors of the sacraments be closed for simply any reason”.

### Joy found in minority

- Pope Francis scolds those who have “an ostentatious preoccupation for the liturgy, for doctrine and for the Church’s prestige, but without any concern that the Gospel has a real impact.” All of such stuff is superficial and about which he prays, “God save us from a worldly Church with superficial . . . trappings!”

### Joy found in peace and justice

- “A prophetic voice must be raised” against attempts to “silence or appease” the poor, while others “refuse to renounce their privileges”.

### Joy found in preaching

- “Jesus wants us to touch human misery, to touch the suffering flesh of others”.
- “In our dealings with the world, we are told to give reasons for our hope, but as an enemy who critiques and condemns.
- “Only the person who feels happiness in seeking the good of others, in desiring their happiness, can be a missionary”
- “If I can help at least one person to have a better life, that already justifies the offering of my life”.

## Mission Statement

\_\_\_\_\_ **Fraternity**

The mission of \_\_\_\_\_ fraternity is to