

# REFLECTIONS ON THE VIRTUES OF MOTHER FRANCES STREITEL



JUSTICE



# Justice



## DEFINITION

Justice is the moral virtue that consists in the constant and firm will to give their due to God and neighbor. Justice toward God is called the “virtue of religion.” Justice toward men disposes one to respect the rights of each and to establish in human relationships the harmony that promotes equity with regard to persons and to the common good.

*(Catechism of the Catholic Church #1807)*

**The servant of God was convinced that we have to give God what is his because – as she says – He gives all what we need for our spiritual and material needs. God always had the absolute priority in her talks and actions. She constantly placed herself under the Word of God, the authority of the church, and God’s law. In regard to justice against others, she never showed preference for anybody. She treated everyone equally and hurt nobody intentionally.**



## TESTIMONIALS ... of the past ...

She loved justice tenderly, and also if she did not receive justice herself, she never took revenge. She did to all that which was right and especially to God. As much as I know, she tried always to do the most perfect. I do not know any example of injustice in her life. *(Msgr. J. Joch)*



## SOURCES

**SACRED SCRIPTURE:** Eph. 4:24      Eph. 5:9

**OUR WAY OF LIFE:**      Article: #44

**WRITINGS OF MOTHER FRANCES**

Letters to Fr. J. F. Jordan:      Letter 48 (78), September 1883, #3

1883 Norms:      111, #12



## REFLECTIONS

**COMMUNITY QUESTION:**

Name one contemporary justice issue that Mother Frances was challenged to address during her lifetime and how she responded to it? What message does she offer to us?

**PERSONAL QUESTION:**

Do my action demonstrate that I want the rights of all to be respected?



## TESTIMONIALS ... of today ...

**The Servant of God firmly believed that we must give to God what is God's because, as she often said, He in turn gives us everything we need to satisfy both our spiritual and material needs...**

Yes sisters, it's true... I have often experienced firsthand what Mother Frances practiced daily: believing in DIVINE PROVIDENCE. Knowing how to give EVERYTHING, and then the Lord comes to our rescue.

What I'm about to tell you happened recently... One morning we had to decide who would get the milk because we only had enough for half the children we serve here in Goiânia. We had to choose between the little ones and the older ones, and we decided that the children aged a few months to 5 years were most in need. We made this decision the evening before and the next day the older children (aged 6 to 14) would have no milk, so we would make them some tea.

But the Lord is not outdone in generosity... At 7am the next morning, before opening and serving breakfast...a crate of milk arrived, just what we needed... We were all very surprised and wondered who had sent it and where it came from, because no one had asked for or ordered a case of milk and the box said:

DELIVER BY 7 AM TO THE Convent of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother. Paid.

We were amazed and thanked the Lord for providing what was needed through an anonymous benefactor.

*Sr. Anna Maria (Brazil)*



### **My personal reflection on an aspect of Mother Frances' life**

The virtue of Mother Frances that significantly influenced my life was her virtue of humility. After she was deposed from office, she went to Castel Sant'Elia where she spent her remaining years ministering to the children and to the people of the village.

When I was in difficult situations where I was treated unjustly, I thought of how Mother Frances dealt with her removal from office. As I spent quiet moments reflecting on how she might have felt and how she was able to deal with the injustice, I was able to deal with my own pain. She has been an inspiration for me in my dark moments.

*Sr. Joan Angela (USA)*



## MY REFLECTION AND INSIGHT ABOUT MOTHER VENERABLE MOTHER FRANCES

When I first heard of Mother Frances, I was a Postulant. I just knew that she started the Congregation of the the Sisters of Sorrowful Mother of which I had chosen to become a member.



Later as I studied her life in the book “Walk in Love” by sister M. Carmeline Koller, as a novice, I got to know more of the person she was.

Some of the qualities I loved about Mother Frances were her humility. She never put herself first in anyway. Although she founded the Congregation of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother she never bossed anyone around to make believe that she was the one with the authority. Mother Frances was demoted and she accepted it with a gentle spirit.

In my life and ministry, I think of her virtues, for she was a model of spirituality She tried her best to imitate Christ. And she was humble and she lived an austere life. She loved the poor and would spend everything she had to give a better life to Them. The church for her was a place to reach out to the poor. Mother Frances made a very good platform for us her sisters to follow. Even in the vow formula she is referred to the poor. This is the reason that the Congregation gives so much to the poor to help alleviate their lives.

I believe that if I tried to live like Mother Frances daily, this would draw me closer to Christi have no regrets being a Sister of the Sorrowful Mother.

*Sr. Marlyn (Caribbean)*



*In Christ, we ... are seeds, and indeed, “seeds of peace and hope.”*

*The prophet Isaiah tells us that the Spirit of God can make an arid and parched desert into a garden, a place of rest and serenity. In his words, “a spirit from on high will be poured out on us, and the wilderness will become a fruitful field, and the fruitful field a forest.*

*Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field.*

*The work of righteousness will be peace, and the work of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places” (Is 32:15-18).*

Pope Leo XIV,

Message for the 10<sup>th</sup> World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation,

June 30, 2025