Inspirational thoughts from Evangelii Gaudium  **The Joy of the Gospel**Apostolic Exhortation: Pope Francis December 2013

# 35 pg. 19:

Pastoral ministry in a missionary style is not obsessed with the disjointed transmission of a multitude of doctrines to be insistently imposed.  When we adopt a pastoral goal and a missionary style which would actually reach everyone without exception or exclusion, the message has to concentrate on the essentials, on what is most beautiful, most grand, most appealing and at the same time most necessary.  The message is simplified, while losing none of its depth and truth, and thus becomes all the more forceful and convincing.

#48  pg. 25

If the whole Church takes up this missionary impulse, she has to go forth to everyone without exception.  But to whom should she go first?  When we read the Gospel we find a clear indication:  not so much our friends and wealthy neighbors, but above all the poor and the sick, those who are usually despised and overlooked, “those who cannot repay you”(Lk 14:13).  There can be no room for doubt or for explanations which weaken so clear a message.  Today and always, “the poor are the privileged recipients of the Gospel,” and the fact that it is freely preached to them is a sign of the kingdom that Jesus came to establish.

#169  Pg. 85

In a culture paradoxically suffering from anonymity and at the same time obsessed with the details of other people’s lives, shamelessly given over to morbid curiosity, the Church must look more closely and sympathetically at others whenever necessary.  In our  present world, ordained ministers and other pastoral workers can make present the fragrance of Christs’s closeness and his personal gaze.  The Church will have to initiate everyone - priests, religious and laity - into this “art of accompaniment” which teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground to the other.  The pace of this accompaniment must be steady and reassuring, reflecting our closeness and our compassionate gaze which also heals, liberates and encourages growth in the Christian life.

#209  Pg. 105

Jesus, the evangelizer, par excellence and the Gospel in person, identifies especially with the little ones (Mt 25;40) This reminds us Christians that we are called to care for the vulnerable of the earth.  But the current model, with it emphasis on success and self-reliance does not appear to favor an investment in efforts to help the slow, the weak or the les talented to find opportunities in life.

#262  Pg.  126

Spirit-filled evangelizers are evangelizers who pray and work.   … What is needed is the ability to cultivate an interior space which can give a Christian meaning to commitment and activity.  Without prolonged moments of adoration, of prayerful encounter with the word, of sincere conversation with the Lord, our work easily becomes meaningless; we lose energy as a result of weariness and difficulties, and our fervor dies out.

#264  Pg. 127

The primary reason for evangelizing is the love of Jesus which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to even greater love of him.  What kind of love would not feel the need to speak of the beloved, to point him out, to make him known?

#267  Pg. 129  In union with Jesus, we seek what he seeks and we love what he loves.  En the end, what we are seeking is the glory of the Father; we live and act “for the praise of his glorious grace” (Eph 1:6).

#114  Pg. 58

Being Church means being God’s people, in accordance with the great plan of his fatherly love.  This means that we are to be God’s leaven in the midst of humanity.  It means proclaiming and bringing God’s salvation into our world, which often goes astray and needs to be encouraged, given hope and strengthened on the way.  The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcome, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel.

There is so much … it is a call to action, a call to own our faith, an imperative to deepen our faith and engage with all others.

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