

## Gospel

Mark 4:26-34

Jesus said to the crowds, 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time: he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

**Reflections to ponder as we journey outside the walls with Francis & Clare.**

### Pope Francis



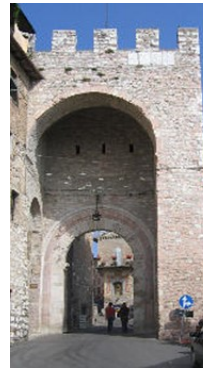
"People today certainly need words, but most of all they need us to bear witness to the mercy and tenderness of the Lord which warms the heart, rekindles hope, and attracts people towards the good.

What a joy it is to bring God's consolation to others! The men and women of our time are waiting for words of consolation, the availability of forgiveness and true joy. We, as consecrated women and men are called to bring to everyone the embrace of God, who bends with a mother's tenderness over us." (*Rejoice p32*)

**TOR Rule & Life 29,30:**

"The brothers and sisters are to love the Lord with their whole heart....

Let them glorify the Lord in all they do. For He has sent them into the world so that they may witness by word and work to God's voice..... As they announce peace with their lips, let them be careful to have it even more within their own hearts..... The sisters and brothers are called to heal the wounded and to bind up those who are bruised....



### TS Eliot:

We shall not cease from exploration  
And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time.

**Walk quietly down through the city and intentionally move from inside the walls to outside the walls.....**

**As you walk through the gates:**

**What gives you joy and hope?**

**What anxieties and fears arise within you?**

**What walls within, do you need to break open and pass through, to be Christ in our world today?**

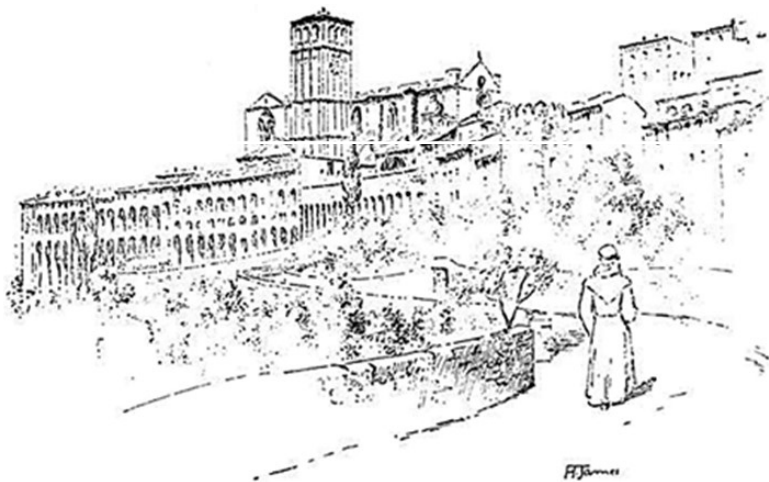


**FROM THE LETTER TO THE ENTIRE ORDER 29, 50-52**

Hold back nothing of yourselves for yourselves,  
that He Who gives Himself totally to you  
may receive you totally!.....

Almighty, eternal, just and merciful God,  
give us the grace to do for You alone  
what we know you want us to do  
and always to desire what pleases You.

Inwardly cleansed,  
interiorly enlightened  
and inflamed by the fire of the Holy Spirit,  
may we be able to follow in the footprints of Your beloved  
Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and, by Your grace alone, may  
we make our way to You, Most High, Who live and rule  
in perfect Trinity and simple Unity, and are glorified God  
almighty, forever and ever. Amen



# Assisi Chapter of Mats

Day 2 Pilgrimage - Friday 27th January 2017



**A New Heart for a New World**

Trish Watts

*Create a new heart, Holy Lord, beckon our lives through your word,  
open our eyes to your call, united as one for your world.  
Heighten our minds to your thoughts, heal us of pride and of hurt.  
May we go forth in your name Pray our hearts change.*

The heart of the Cross, lowly and poor calls us on.  
Lord it is You promising hope, promising truth.

Restless, the hearts who yearn for your peace in this land.  
Deepen the dream justice brings life, justice redeems.

