



Come & See Step 5

Pope Francis call to serve, leading by example:

<http://cathnews.com/cathnews/32427-pope-s-message-to-new-cardinals> 29 June 2018

Pope Francis tells the Newly appointed cardinals,

‘Don’t waste your time being involved in palace intrigue and focus solely on serving Christ and his Church.’

‘What does it profit us to gain the whole world if we are corroded within? What does it profit us to gain the whole world if we are living in a stifling atmosphere of intrigues that dry up our hearts and impede our mission?’



In keeping with what has become his custom, Francis’s new appointments to the College of Cardinals come from remote corners of the globe, including non-majority Catholic locations such as Pakistan, Madagascar, Iraq, and Japan. Their locations reflect the *“universality of the Church, that continues to preach the merciful love of God throughout the earth.”*

‘Jesus teaches us that conversion, change of heart and Church reform is and ever shall be in a missionary key, which demands an end to looking out for and protecting our own interests, in order to look out for and protect those of the Father, ‘

“Conversion from our sins and from selfishness will never be an end in itself, but it’s always a means of growing in fidelity and willingness to embrace the mission,”

In his homily, Francis challenged the new cardinals to focus their activities and their energies on the needs of “real people” in order to provide a credible witness to the Gospel.

‘This is the highest honour that we can receive, the greatest promotion that can be awarded us: to serve Christ in God’s faithful people. In those who are hungry, neglected, imprisoned, sick, suffering, addicted to drugs, cast aside. To the real people, each with his or her own life story and experiences, hopes and disappointments, hurts and wounds. Only in this way can the authority of the shepherd have the flavour of the Gospel and not appear as a noisy gong or a clashing symbol.’

Urging the new ‘princes’ of the Church to shun wealth and embrace poverty, Francis concluded his homily with words spoken by JP II:

‘Appearances of wealth have frequently disguised thorns of frustrating poverty, which prevented me from giving to others as generously as I would have wished. I thank God for this grace of poverty to which I vowed fidelity in my youth; poverty of spirit, as a priest of the Sacred Heart, and material poverty, which has strengthened me in my resolve never to ask for anything – money, position, or favour, never, either for myself or for my relations and friends. ‘

This kind of poverty, Francis insisted, is the only way forward. *‘None of us must feel superior to anyone. None of us should look down at others from above – except when we are helping them to stand up! ‘*