

JOY of the Gospel quotes

1. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being... If we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others? #8

2. Every authentic experience of truth and goodness seeks by its very nature to grow within us, and any person who has experienced a profound liberation becomes more sensitive to the needs of others. As it expands, goodness takes root and develops. If we wish to lead a dignified and fulfilling life, we have to reach out to others and seek their good. #9

3. Life grows by being given away, and it weakens in isolation and comfort. Those who enjoy life most are those who leave security on the shore and become excited by the mission of communicating life to others. #10

4. The real newness is the newness which God mysteriously brings about and inspires, provokes, guides and accompanies in a thousand ways. The life of the Church should always reveal clearly that God takes the initiative, that 'God has loved us first.' (1Jn 4:19) and that God alone 'gives the growth' (1Cor 3:7) This conviction enables us to maintain a spirit of joy in the midst of a task so demanding and challenging that it engages our entire life. God asks everything of us, yet at the same time God offers everything to us. #12

5. Christians have the duty to proclaim the Gospel without excluding anyone. They should appear as people who wish to share their joy, who point to a horizon of beauty and who invite others to a delicious banquet... God's word is unpredictable in its power. #15,22

6. True faith in the incarnate Son of God is inseparable from self-giving, from membership in the community, from service, from reconciliation with others. The Son of God, by becoming flesh, summoned us to the *revolution of tenderness*. #88

7. The way to relate to others which truly heals instead of debilitating us, is a *mystical* fraternity, a contemplative fraternity. It is a fraternal love capable of seeing the sacred grandeur of our neighbor, of finding God in every human being, of tolerating the nuisances of life in common by clinging to the love of God. #92

8. Let everyone admire how you care for one another, and how you encourage and accompany one another: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.: (Jn 13:35) This was Jesus’s heartfelt prayer to the Father: “That they may all be one ... in us ... so that the world may believe” (Jn 17:21) Beware of the temptation of jealousy! We are all in the same boat and headed to the same port! Let us ask for the grace to rejoice in the gifts of each, which belong to all. #99

9. A sure sign of the authenticity of a charism is its ecclesial character, its ability to be integrated harmoniously into the life of God’s holy and faithful people for the good of all... To the extent that a charism is better directed to the heart of the Gospel, its exercise will be more ecclesial. #130

10. Accepting the first proclamation, which invites us to receive God’s love and to love God in return with the very love which is his gift, brings forth in our lives and actions a primary and fundamental response: to desire, seek and protect the good of others. #178

11. “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge and you will not be judged. Forgive and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you ... For the measure you give will be the measure you get back. (Lk 6:36-38). What these passages make clear is the absolute priority of “going forth from ourselves toward our brothers and sisters.” as one of the two great commandments which ground every moral norm and as the clearest sign for discerning spiritual growth in response to God’s completely free gift. #179

12. All Christians, their pastors included, are called to show concern for the building of a better world. This is essential, for the Church’s social thought is primarily positive: it offers proposals, it works for change and in this sense it constantly points to the hope born of the loving heart of Jesus Christ. #183

13. We may not always be able to reflect adequately the beauty of the Gospel, but there is one sign which we should never lack: the option for those who are least, those whom society discards. #195

14. I want a Church which is poor and for the poor. They have much to teach us. Not only do they share in the *sensus fidei*, but in their difficulties they know the suffering Church. We need to let ourselves be evangelized by them... We are called to lend our voices to their causes and to embrace the mysterious wisdom which God wishes to share with us through them. # 198

15. A human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and in any stage of development... Every violation of the personal dignity of the human being cries out in vengeance to God and is an offence against the creator of the individual. #213

16. A first principle for progress in building a people: time is greater than space. This principle enables us to work slowly but surely, without being obsessed with immediate results. It helps us patiently to endure difficult and adverse situations, or inevitable changes in our plans... Giving priority to time means being concerned about initiating processes rather than possessing spaces. #223

17. Conflict cannot be ignored... it becomes possible to build communion amid disagreement, but this can only be achieved by those great persons who are willing to go beyond the surface of the conflict and to see others in their deepest dignity. This requires acknowledging a principle indispensable to the building of friendship in society: namely, that unity is greater than conflict... The sign of this unity and reconciliation of all things in him is peace. Christ "is our peace" (Eph 2:14) #228-9

18. Realities are greater than ideas. This calls for rejecting the various means of masking reality: objectives more ideal than real, ethical systems bereft of kindness, intellectual discourse bereft of wisdom. #232

19. The whole is greater than the part. We need to pay attention to the global to avoid narrowness and banality. Yet we also need to look at the local, which keeps our feet on the ground. To the Christian this principle evokes the totality or integrity of the Gospel. Its fullness and richness embrace everyone. The genius of each people embodies the Gospel in expressions of prayer, fraternity, justice, struggle and celebration. The Gospel has an intrinsic principle of totality: it will always remain good news until it has healed and strengthened every aspect of humanity. The whole is greater than the part. #237

20. We must never forget that we are pilgrims journeying alongside one another. This means that we must have sincere trust in our fellow pilgrims, putting aside all suspicion or mistrust, and turn our gaze to what we are all seeking: the radiant peace of God's face... If we really believe in the abundantly free working of the Holy Spirit, we can learn so much from one another! #246

21. 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. The Church urgently needs the deep breath of prayer. #262

22. How good it is to stand before a crucifix, or on our knees before the Blessed Sacrament, and simply to bask in God's presence! How much good it does us when God once more touches our lives and impels us to share new life! What then happens to us is that "we speak of what we have seen and heard." 1Jn 1:3 #264

23. The best incentive for sharing the Gospel comes from contemplating it with love, lingering over its pages and reading it with the heart. If we approach it in this way, its beauty will amaze and constantly excite us. But if this is to come about, we need to recover a contemplative spirit which can help us to realize ever anew that we have been entrusted with a treasure which makes us more human and helps us to lead a new life. There is nothing more precious which we can give to others. #264

24. We have a treasure of life and love which cannot deceive, and a message which cannot mislead or disappoint. It penetrates to the depths of our hearts, sustaining and ennobling us. It is a truth which is never out of date because it reaches that part of us which nothing else can reach. Our infinite sadness can only be cured by an infinite love. #265

25. Jesus wants us to touch human misery. He hopes that we will stop looking for those personal or communal niches which shelter us from the maelstrom of human misfortune and instead enter into the reality of other #270

26. When we live out a spirituality of drawing nearer to others and seeking their welfare, our hearts are opened wide to the Lord's greatest and most beautiful gifts... Only the person who feels happiness in seeking the good of others, in desiring their happiness, can be a missionary. #272

27. "*We have a treasure in earthen vessels*" This certainty is often called a "sense of mystery." It involves knowing with certitude that all those who entrust themselves to God in love will bear fruit. (Jn 15.5). This fruitfulness is often invisible, elusive and unquantifiable. #279

28. Let us learn to rest in the tenderness of the arms of the Father amid our creative and generous commitment... This calls for firm trust in the Holy Spirit ... It is true that this trust in the unseen can cause us to feel disoriented: it is like being plunged into the deep and not knowing what we will find. I myself have frequently experienced this. Yet there is no greater freedom than that of allowing oneself to be guided by the Holy Spirit, renouncing the attempt to plan and control everything to the last detail, and instead letting him enlighten, guide and direct us, leading us wherever he wills. #280

29. On the cross, when Jesus endured in his own flesh the dramatic encounter of the sin of the world and God's mercy, he could feel at his feet the consoling presence of his mother and his friend... Jesus left us his mother to be our mother ... She is the woman whose heart was pierced by a sword and who understands all our pain ... As she did with Juan Diego, Mary offers them maternal comfort and love, and whispers in their ear: "Let your heart not be troubled ... Am I not here, who am your Mother?" #286