

The “Linking” of the Beatitudes, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and Modes of Christian Response

<u>Beatitude</u> ¹	<u>Gift</u> ²	<u>Mode of Response</u> ⁴
1) Poor in Spirit	1) Fear of the Lord	1) To accept all as a gift from God
2) Mourn	2) Knowledge	2) To put aside all that is not useful in the fulfillment of one’s vocation
3) Meek	3) Piety	3) To accept one’s limited role in Christ’s body, and fulfill it
4) Hunger & Thirst for Justice	4) Fortitude	4) To endure fearlessly whatever is necessary in the fulfillment of one’s vocation
5) Merciful	5) Counsel	5) To be merciful as Jesus is merciful
6) Pure in heart	6) Understanding	6) To strive to bring my entire being into living faith, and purge what doesn’t belong
7) Peacemakers	7) Wisdom	7) To respond to evil with good
8) Persecuted for Justice’s sake	8) “Gift of Self” ³	8) To suffer evil <i>with Christ</i> to be a co-redeemer in love with Him

¹ Matt 5: 3-10

² Is. 11:1 ...Christian tradition, in keeping with the vulgate translation of Isaiah, adds “piety”

³ Augustine assigns no correspondent gift here, because there are only seven. But we might see this unique “gift of self” as a most fitting one. Please see the 2nd Vatican Council document *Gaudium et Spes*, 24:3, “Man cannot find himself except by making a total and complete gift of himself.”

⁴ The lineup of beatitudes and gifts is a “traditional” list proposed by Aquinas and Augustine. The correspondent modes of Christian response are proposed by Germain Grisez, a contemporary moral theologian. For a more detailed look at this, please see Dr. William May’s “An Introduction to Moral Theology”, 2nd edition, p. 229-233 (Our Sunday Visitor, 2003).