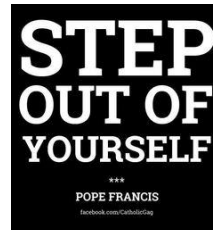


Pope Francis Lesson 5: Embrace (February)



Living Holy Week means entering ever more deeply into the logic of God, into the logic of the cross, which is not primarily that of suffering and death, but rather that of love and of the gift of self that brings life. It means entering in the logic of the Gospel. Following and accompanying Christ, staying with him demands “coming out of ourselves,” requires us to be outgoing; to come out of a dreary way of living faith that has become a habit, out of the temptation to withdraw into our own plans, which end by shutting out God’s creative action. God came out of himself to come among us; he pitched his tent among us to bring us his mercy that saves and gives hope. Nor must we be satisfied with staying in the pen of the ninety-nine sheep if we want to follow him and to remain with him; we too must “go out” with him to seek the lost sheep, the one that has strayed the furthest. Be sure to remember: we need to come out of ourselves, just as God came out of himself in Jesus and Jesus came out of himself for all of us.

- General Audience, March 27, 2013

What does tending and having the “permanent daily care of their sheep”(Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, *Lumen Gentium*, no. 27) actually mean? Three brief thoughts. Tending means welcoming magnanimously, walking with the flock, and staying with the flock. Welcoming, walking, staying.

- Address to a Group of Newly Appointed Bishops Taking Part in a Conference, September 19, 2013

This home is a place that teaches charity; it is a “school” of charity, which instructs me to go and encounter every person, not for profit, but for love.



- Address to Missionaries of the Homeless Shelter Dono di Maria, May 21, 2013