The servant of God

[Francis] stood up before them all and said, "Up to this time I have called Pietro Bernardone father, but now I am the servant of God. Not only the money, but everything that can be called his, I will restore to my father, even the very clothes he has given me."

He piled the garments in a heap on the floor and threw the money on top of them. Then he turned to the bishop and received his blessing, like one who turns his back on society; and, according to the account, went out as he was into the cold world… He was penniless, he was parentless, he was to all appearances without a trade or a plan or a hope in the world; and as he went under the frosty trees, he burst suddenly into song…

He realised that the way to build a church is not to become entangled in bargains and, to him, rather bewildering questions of legal claim. The way to build a church is not to pay for it, certainly not with somebody else's money. The way to build a church is not to pay for it even with your own money. The way to build a church is to build it.

He went about by himself collecting stones. He begged all the people he met to give him stones. In fact, he became a new sort of beggar, reversing the parable: a beggar who asks, not for bread, but stone.

G. K. Chesterton, Saint Francis

> Lord of life and hope, fill me with the joy of knowing that you are beside me at every moment of every day. ✚ Amen.

Love makes the world go round

By Paul Higginson

In the musical *Cabaret*, Lisa Minnelli tells us that, "Money makes the world go round", but in today's Gospel, Jesus tells us quite forcibly that we can't serve both God and money. It's natural to seek salvation in money, to think that money will protect us and keep us safe: the more we have, the better life will be. But Jesus is saying today that we must always put relationships before money.

Money will never save us, but the relationships we foster with our family and friends most certainly will. Whilst wealth is fleeting, the love we share with each other is eternal. The dishonest manager in today's Gospel understood what the wealthy often cannot see: we need one another, or to put it another way, "it's love that makes the world go round."

Paul Higginson is a retired teacher and author of Doing Christianity: how religion is about what you do, not what you believe

> [The Church] is the womb from which we were born and at the same time the flock, the field, entrusted to us to protect and cultivate, to nourish with the sacraments of salvation and to make fruitful by our sowing the seed of the Word.
>
> Pope Leo XIV

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope
In joyful hope

May [the Jubilee] help us to recover the confident trust that we require, in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations, and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God's gift of creation. May the witness of believers be for our world a leaven of authentic hope, a harbinger of new heavens and a new earth, where men and women will dwell in justice and harmony, in joyful expectation of the fulfilment of the Lord's promises.

Let us even now be drawn to this hope! Through our witness, may hope spread to all those who anxiously seek it. May the way we live our lives say to them in so many words: "Hope in the Lord! Hold firm, take heart and hope in the Lord!" May the power of hope fill our days, as we await with confidence the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and glory, now and for ever.

Pope Francis, Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the year 2025:25

PILGRIMS OF HOPE

carbon footprint