

SOURCE MATERIAL OVERVIEW

In the previous section's overview, the point was made that what is called for, at first, is a change of heart or conversion in one's attitude toward work. The abundant source material provided in this section is intended to help bring about that change.

Included here are biblical, Franciscan and ecclesial sources. The biblical sources are grouped first under the general heading of "what the Bible says about work." Following are sections including "what the Bible says about industriousness," "what the Bible says about laziness," and sections containing biblical excerpts about the employer – employee relationship.

St. Francis, as in all other aspects of his life, formed himself and his followers after Gospel precepts concerning work – he abhorred laziness and embraced industriousness. We see these sentiments reflected in the *Early Franciscan Sources on Work* section. St. Francis refers to a lazy brother as Brother Fly. And, significantly, St. Francis devotes entire chapters to work and how work should be performed in his two early (and brief) Rules for the Friars Minor. There is no doubt that work was important for St. Francis from the very beginning.

The *Recent Franciscan Sources on Work* section begins with Article 16 of the Secular Franciscan Rule. This article has its roots in early Franciscan writings and in the Second Vatican Council as the citations note. The sections of the Constitutions related to work are also included. Then follow four recent and substantial articles written by two Secular Franciscans, a Franciscan sister and a friar. In *Work in the Writings of St. Francis*, Sr. Joan Schwacke, O.S.F. considers St. Francis' early writings and what they mean for us today. Mary Zablocki, SFO incorporates biblical, early Franciscan and contemporary Franciscan sources, especially the Secular Franciscan Rule, in her reflection *Work as a Gift of Love*. Richard Morton continues this line of reflection, giving special consideration to the application of Franciscan values at work in his article entitled *Integrating Franciscan Spirituality Into the Leadership of the Workplace*. Fr. Daniel McClellan, OFM conveys the complementarity between American (democratic) and Franciscan ideals in *To Evangelize American Culture: A Franciscan Approach* and suggests that the Franciscan perspective on work can make an important contribution to revitalizing American culture.

Included in the final section, *Ecclesial Sources* are a series of quotations from the early Church Fathers including Augustine, Origen and St. John Chrysostom followed by excerpts from the Second Vatican Council, papal and episcopal statements regarding work.