

Understanding the Economic Trinity



Divine Economy to Human Economy

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1. All are equal

1. God entered into **mutual relationship** with us

2. Resources meet the needs of all

Divine Economy leads us to
fraternal economy

Characteristics derived from the
dynamics of the Blessed trinity

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**1. All are equal, created in the
divine image (Jesus) - uniquely
Franciscan**

evangelical community
envisioned by Francis is based
on equality, not hierarchy or
authority – all are servant

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2. God has entered into **mutual relationship** with each one (as well as all creation) - God's Poverty (Incarnation) & Humility (mutuality – desiring us)

mutual relationship, family

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3. Resources are to meet the needs of all so that all realize their dignity and have the **fullest potential mutuality, & participation**

And confidence to make needs known (freedom and trust) [RnB]

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Francis images the Kingdom of God
as “KIN”-dom

We are members of a household
and as such all have a stake
[stakeholders] in building up the
family of God.

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Economy of Gift

From a talk by William Short OFM

Based on the work of Peter John Olivi
&
Bernadine of Sienna

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Franciscan Tradition

- we are inter-related, and are a reflection of the Trinitarian Communion
 - emphasis on goodness
 - giving & receiving of gifts
 - gratitude
 - points to approach for all parts of human activity

Foundation expressed by Francis

- God is Good (Praise of God)
- God is the source of all good
- All good belongs to God

- If Francis statement is true then:
- anything I have, make, think, accomplish, any good I am capable of expressing comes to me as gift from the source of all goodness
- & that goodness describes who God is

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Gift

- 1st thing is to:
 - acknowledge and rejoice in your gifts and recognize they are not for you.
- Then:
 - Put them to use, so others may be enriched and have more abundant life

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- using your gifts for others expresses the goodness that is God -- **complete self-giving (kenosis)**
- giving allows the giver of all gifts to constantly re-fill and enrich you -- **receiving**

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- using your gifts for others is accepting God's goodness and reflecting it back to God
- **This is true praise**

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Reality or the opposite image

- accumulate, hoard, consumes
- everyone is here to enrich me
- independence
- I am self-sufficient, therefore
I am God

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- This is the basic sin for Francis, to appropriate (our own will & freedom – possessing or claiming ownership of what is not mine) for self that which belongs to God
- this is the “original sin” grasping, making things my own for my exclusive use or enrichment

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- Economy of Gift focuses on the Gospel actions of Jesus
- Compassion, healing, loving
- Turning to the other and esteeming the other for the sake of enriching the other who is in need

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To the disciples:

- Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, **follow me.**” (Mt 19:21)
- Not a test or a self-renunciation exercise, but rather of **IDENTITY.**
- **If you would follow me, live in the world as I live**

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- Everything is gift
- live trusting the generosity of God and others, lightly on the earth, simply
- sharing your gifts w/o claiming ownership
- always being the guest as was Christ

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- in other words, learn to see society from the bottom up
- everything beyond authentic needs belongs to someone else who is in greater need
- We are stewards not owners

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- taking only what we need allows us express goodness to all creation
- allows us to be in communion as brothers and sisters reflecting the Trinity
- and to live peace as the only real and radical option for society

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- vision - gospel life
- Giftedness – offering true praise

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Giver of every good and perfect gift, we, who consume more than we need and own more than we can use, come before you now to confront the truth that our deepest need is not met by possessing things, but by being a part of something bigger than our selves and beyond the reach of our control.

Allow us to employ our gifts in your kingdom, making the crooked straight, the blind to see, the lame to walk, the lost found, and the dead alive again. Amen.