



Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Pastor's Column

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Pope Francis Reveals Top 10 Secrets to Happiness

This article appeared in the Catholic News Service and was written by Carol Glatz. For the full article go to: www.catholicnews.com.

In an interview published in part in the Argentine weekly "Viva" July 27, the Pope listed his Top 10 tips for bringing greater joy to one's life.

1. **"Live and let live."** Everyone should be guided by this principle which has a similar expression in Rome with the saying, "Move forward and let others do the same."
2. **"Be giving of yourself to others."** People need to be open and generous toward others because if you withdraw into yourself, you run the risk of becoming egocentric. And stagnant water becomes putrid.
3. **"Proceed calmly in life."** The Pope used an image from an Argentine novel by Ricardo Guidaltes in which the protagonist—gaucho Don Segundo Sombra—looks back on how he lived his life.

He says that in his youth he was a stream full of rocks that he carried with him; as an adult, a rushing river; and in old age, he was still moving, but slowly, like a pool of water.

The Pope said that he likes this latter image of a pool of water—to have the ability to move with kindness and humility, a calmness in life.

4. **"A healthy sense of leisure."** The pleasures of art, literature, and playing together with children have been lost.

Consumerism has brought us anxiety and stress, causing people to lose a healthy culture of leisure.

Their time is swallowed up so people can't share it anyone.

Even though many parents work long hours, they must set aside time to play with their children; work schedules make it complicated, but you must do it.

Families must also turn off the TV when they sit down to eat because, even though television is useful for keeping up with the news, having it on during mealtime doesn't let you communicate with each other.

5. **"Sundays should be holidays."** Workers should have Sundays off because Sunday is for family.
6. **"Find innovative ways to create dignified jobs for young people."** We need to be creative with young people. If they have no opportunities they will get into drugs and be more vulnerable to suicide. It's not enough to give them food.
7. **"Respect and take care of nature."** Environmental degradation is one of the biggest challenges we have. I think a question that we're not asking ourselves is: "Isn't humanity committing suicide with this indiscriminate and tyrannical use of nature?"
8. **"Stop being negative."** Needing to talk badly about others indicates low self-esteem. That means, "I feel so low that instead of picking myself up I have to cut others down." Letting go of negative things quickly is healthy.
9. **"Don't proselytize. Respect other's beliefs."** We can inspire others through witness so that one grows together in communicating.

But the worst thing of all is religious proselytism, which paralyzes. "I am talking with you in order to persuade you." No. Each person dialogues, starting with his and her own identity. The Church grows by attraction, not proselytizing.

10. **"Work for Peace."** We are living in a time of many wars. The call for peace must be shouted. Peace sometimes gives the impression of being quiet, but it is never quiet, peace is always proactive and dynamic.

F. Mike