

Pope Francis is revered today by many people. Not only are many Catholics in awe of him but so are many non-Catholics. It seems to me that his appeal comes from his joyful preaching of the Christian message. He doesn't scare people into obedience but rather, he tries to inspire. He is a simple man who chooses to be among the people rather than tucked away in a palace.

I recently read some advice he gave to people of good will. Let me paraphrase his thoughts for you, good readers.

Pope Francis reminds us that life will go by fast and because of that, one shouldn't fight with people; nor should one criticize one's body so much; nor should one complain so much.

He continues - don't fret over bills. Look for the people who delight. When a mistake is made, let it go and continue the quest for happiness. He urges parents to never stop being a good parent, not worrying about buying luxuries and comforts for the home. Something very interesting he mentions to parents is this, "Don't kill yourself trying to leave an inheritance for your family. Those benefits should be earned by each person, so don't dedicate yourself to accumulating money."

He continues by encouraging people to enjoy life – travel, see new places. He must be a dog lover because he even encourages allowing dogs to get close. He recommends that one use the good crystal glasses, the china and good flatware, and wear one's favorite perfume every day.

So let me quote him directly in conclusion: "Everything perfect doesn't exist. Human beings can't accomplish this because it simply was not intended to be completed here. .. So take this challenge that is life and do it now . . . Love more, forgive more, embrace more, love more intensely and leave the rest in God's hands. Amen." Please pray for all those affected by the devastation from Harvey.