



Discernment in the 3 Volumes, Francis of Assisi

The Admonitions: XXVII, 6 (Vol. I, p. 137)

Where there is a heart full of mercy and **discernment**, there is neither excess nor hardness of heart.

The Second Life of Saint Francis by Thomas of Celano: Chapter VI: 102 (Vol. I, p. 272)

One had outstanding **discernment**, another had extraordinary patience, one was famous for his simplicity, and the last had great physical strength along with gentleness of spirit.

The Assisi Compilation: 120 (Vol. II, p. 229)

He also used to say: "If a servant of God, with **discernment**, has satisfied his body well enough and as decently as he could, but Brother Body wants to be lazy, negligent, and sleepy in prayer, vigils, and other good works, then he should punish it like any wicked and lazy beast of burden, because it wants to eat but refuses to work or carry its weight."

The Remembrance of the Desire of a Soul by Thomas of Celano: Chapter XV: 22 (Vol. II, p. 259)

Once *they had taken their food in the fear of the Lord*, so that nothing would be lacking in this act of charity, the father wove for his sons a long parable about the virtue of **discernment**. He ordered them to *season with salt every sacrifice to God*. With concern he reminded them that *in offering service to God each one should consider his own strength*.

The Major Legend of Saint Francis by Bonaventure of Bagnoregio: Chapter Five, 7 (Vol II, p. 564)

Although he energetically urged the brothers to lead an austere life, he was not pleased by an intransigent severity that did not *put on a heart* of piety and was not seasoned with the salt of **discernment**.

Related Documents: Richer of Sens: 4 (Vol II, p. 810)

Blessed Francis admonished the birds that since human beings, who possessed intelligence and feeling, disdained to listen to the word of God, at least they, who lacked **discernment**, should not fail to listen to God's decrees.



The Tree of the Crucified Life of Jesus: Book Five, Chapter Five, 42 (Vol. III, p. 199)

The spirit of the devil, who from the outset raised obstacles against this most holy *Rule*, prompted a crowd of ministers and others who had the name of being men of **discernment**, to convene at Rieti for reasons of human timidity.

The Beginning of A Mirror of Perfection of the Status of a Lesser Brother. The Sabatier Edition, Chapter One (Vol. III, p. 269)

He considered that he could not bear so much labor alone, and that they were called to this, even though they would be ashamed to do this, because they did not fully understand; but neither had they been **discerning** enough to tell him: "We also want to go for alms."

The Beginning of A Mirror of Perfection of the Status of a Lesser Brother: The Sabatier Edition, Chapter Two (Vol. III, p. 279)



We who were with him bear witness to this fact about him: although during his whole lifetime, he was **discerning** and moderate with the brothers, provided that in the matter of food and other things, they at no time deviated from the norm of the poverty and the decency of our religion;

The Beginning of A Mirror of Perfection of the Status of a Lesser Brother: The Sabatier Edition, Chapter Five (Vol. III, p. 338)

And he admonished them particularly to provide for their bodies with **discernment** from the alms which the Lord would give them,

The Beginning of A Mirror of Perfection of the Status of a Lesser Brother: The Sabatier Edition, Chapter Seven (Vol. III, p. 344)

In eating, sleeping, and fulfilling other bodily needs, a servant of God must satisfy his body with **discernment**.

The Deeds of Blessed Francis and His Companions, XI (Vol. III, p. 459)

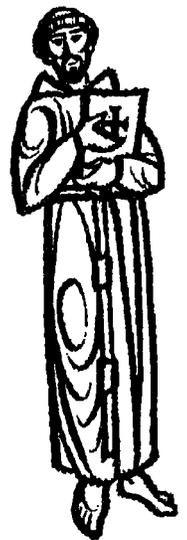
Saint Francis once started out on a journey with Brother Masseo. He took him for a companion very willingly because of his gift of words, outstanding **discernment**, and the help provided him when in rapture, satisfying the rushing crowds and hiding the saint so they would not bother him.

The Deeds of Blessed Francis and His Companions, XXXI (Vol. III, p. 502)

He (Brother Riccerio) was made Minister in the March of Ancona; and because of the zeal for God which always burned in his heart, he directed the Province with the greatest peace and **discernment**, following the example of Christ who first wished to do, rather than teach.

The Little Flowers of Saint Francis, Chapter 10 (Vol. III, p. 583)

Once Saint Francis was staying in the place of the Portiuncula with Brother Masseo of Marignano, a man of great holiness, **discernment** and grace in speaking of God . . .



The Little Flowers of Saint Francis, Chapter 45 (Vol. III, p. 642)

And during this time he (Brother John of Penna) carried out several times the office of Guardian with great **discernment** and through him God worked many miracles.

The Kinship of Saint Francis by Arnald of Sarrant, Chapter VII (Vol. III, p. 730)

Seventh, blessed Francis was like Christ principally in his array of merits, especially in humility and obedience, in poverty and indigence, in charity and friendship, in purity and continence, in infirmity and patience, in strictness and penance, in impartiality and justice, in piety and clemency, in devotion and joy, in **discernment** and wisdom, in employment and diligence.

Francis of Assisi: Early Documents (Vol. 1: The Saint; Vol. II: The Founder; Vol. III: The Prophet), Editors: Regis Armstrong, O.F.M. Cap.; J.A. Wayne Hellmann, O.F.M. Conv.; and William J. Short, O.F.M., 1999 – 2001