

Special Issue

Vivere Sine Proprio: The Relevance of Franciscan Spirituality for Today's Big Questions

Message from the Guest Editor

The aim of this Special Issue is to explore the wicked problems of our time through the lens of Francis of Assisi's spirituality. While Francis did not solve the problems of his era, he approached them in a way that elevated them to a higher level, where the underlying mystery of the problem became tangible. Of course, the wicked problems in Francis' time were different from ours. That is why we need to actualize the dialogue to the problems of today.

Francis' own experiences demonstrate that wicked problems cannot be solved conventionally but require encountering the mystery within them. The invitation is extended to choose a wicked problem, examine how Francis dealt with a similar issue, uncover the mystery revealed in his approach, and consider how this sheds new light on the contemporary problem. Various wicked problems are suggested, including 1) sustainability, 2) healthcare, 3) poverty, 4) war and peace, 5) interreligious relations, 6) refugees and migrants, 7) leadership, and 8) social exclusion. The goal is to encourage diverse perspectives and thoughts on Franciscan spirituality and its applicability to wicked problems.

Guest Editor

Prof. Dr. Willem Marie Speelman

Franciscan Study Center, Tilburg School of Catholic Theology, Tilburg University, 5000 LE Tilburg, The Netherlands

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
religions@mdpi.com

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Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community – disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

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Professorship Quality of Life, Spirituality and Coping, Faculty of Health,
Witten/Herdecke University, Gerhard-Kienle-Weg 4, 58313 Herdecke,
Germany

Prof. Dr. Klaus Baumann

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