



«[...] one cannot speak of life in the Gospel without speaking of love – if we speak of real life – and one cannot speak of love without this transformation from servants to friends. And these three words are so important for life but all three have a common root: the will to live. And I permit myself to recall here the words of Bl.

Pier Giorgio Frassati, a young man like you: “Live, don’t just get by!” Live!».

POPE FRANCIS, *Meeting with children and young people*,
Turin 21 June 2015



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«Live, don't just
get by!»

Pier Giorgio Frassati, a man of the Beatitudes

«I think of the example of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. He said, “Jesus pays me a visit every morning in Holy Communion, and I return the visit in the meagre way I know how, visiting the poor”. Pier Giorgio was a young man who understood what it means to have a merciful heart that responds to those most in need. He gave them far more than material goods. He gave himself by giving his time, his words and his capacity to listen. He served the poor very quietly and unassumingly».

POPE FRANCIS, *Message for the XXXI WYD*, Krakow 2016



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PIO XI



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Pier Giorgio Frassati

Turin, 6 April 1901

4 July 1925

Beatified 20 May 1990

Liturgical memory: 4 July

He was born into a prominent family. Pier Giorgio lived a serene youth. He enrolled at the Politecnico in Turin. After a voyage in Germany, to the industrial Ruhr valley, he dreamed to devote himself to the miners. He thought that any profession is a service to our neighbour. He dedicated much of his time to works of social action and charity, he was active in the St. Vincent Society serving the sick and the poor. In 1919 he joined the Fuci (Federation of Catholic Action Students in the University), then in 1920 the Popular Party, and in 1922 the Society of the Catholic Youth. He lived the dimension of friendship to the utmost and founded the Company of the Tipi Loschi in order “to serve God in perfect joy”. The true link was faith and prayer. He died owing to a sudden attack of polomyelitis.

«Imagine that, on the day before his death when he was gravely ill, he was giving directions on how his friends in need should be helped. At his funeral, his family and friends were stunned by the presence of so many poor people unknown to them. They had been befriended and helped by the young Pier Giorgio».

POPE FRANCIS, *Message for the XXXI WYD, Krakow 2016*



A man of the Beatitudes

«What does it mean to be “blessed” (*makarioi* in Greek)? To be blessed means to be happy. Tell me: Do you really want to be happy? In an age when we are constantly being enticed by vain and empty illusions of happiness, we risk settling for less and “thinking small” when it comes to the meaning of life. Think big instead! Open your hearts! As Blessed Piergiorgio Frassati once said, “To live without faith, to have no heritage to uphold, to fail to struggle constantly to defend the truth: this is not living. It is scraping by. We should never just scrape by, but really live” (*Letter to I. Bonini, 27 February 1925*). In his homily on the day of Piergiorgio Frassati’s beatification (20 May 1990), John Paul II called him “a man of the Beatitudes”».

POPE FRANCIS, *Message for the XXIX WYD, 21 January 2014*

«By his example he proclaims that a life lived in Christ’s Spirit, the Spirit of the Beatitudes, is “blessed”, and that only the person who becomes a “man or woman of the Beatitudes” can succeed in communicating love and peace to others. He repeats that it is really worth giving up everything to serve the Lord. He testifies that holiness is possible for everyone, and that only the revolution of charity can enkindle the hope of a better future in the hearts of people».

ST. JOHN PAUL II, *Homily on the day of Pier Giorgio Frassati’s Beatification, 20 May 1990*

