

The Way of St. Bartholomew: Constructing Your Vows

Greetings,
I'm so glad to be on this journey with you this school year.

Your job is to go through each of five elements of The Way of St. Bartholomew and figure out how you are going to enact it as part of your rule of life. Each of us will have different ideas about how each element should shape our life, and that's good. Just remember to keep two things in mind:



- 1.) **The goal is make promises that we can actually keep.** So, whatever you choose err on the side of too little rather than too much. We are all baby stepping our way into this “rule of life” thing and better to adjust toward doing more later than scaling back and doing less.
- 2.) **Keep your technology in mind.** We have seen over the years that in several of these categories it was our technology that was working most against us having more whole lives with God.
- 3.) **This is supposed to be live-giving.** The goal for this process is adopting a rule of life that makes us flower as Christians, not wilt. It's not about adding extra stuff to our lives. It's about shifting our praxis to best reflect Jesus.

Once you've considered how you will inhabit each element write down your plan and bring it on Sunday night. We'll share and talk about it then.

Way of St. Bartholomew

Prayer:

Basically this is the devotional component of your vows involving some sort of intentional Bible reading and prayer. Some folks have tried to read all the gospels between now and Easter for this, other sought to just read the Daily Office once a week and say Compline. Think along these lines for this vow.

If you consider taking on our Liturgy readings, or the lectionary readings from the Daily office I've attached a [digital copy of the prayer book](#). Check out pages 135-138. Likewise the lectionary readings are available online [here](#).

Practice:

This vow involves some sort of outward action or observance for the duration of your time in "The Way". Think things like, taking an intentional sabbath once a week. Doing a service project twice a semester (like mobile loaves and fishes) – this sort of thing.

Poverty:

This vow deals with transparency regarding your possessions. Questions like, "What do you own - that owns you?" are helpful to get at what we might give up, take on or give away in regard to generate a healthy Christianity.

Think, "How do you need to bring your money and possessions under the lordship of Jesus?"

Pilgrimage:

Part of the process will be going away together on Pilgrimage to a monastery (near or far). Check the dates on March 5-7*

This is the date we're after. Check it!

Prescence

This one is a commitment to come to Liturgy so we can look at each face to face. This may take the form of dinners together once a month before Liturgy or even "soul care small groups" that meet off campus. Think about what your soul needs and how often you'd like to meet.