

The First Principle and Foundation

As translated and interpreted by David Fleming, S.J.

The goal of our life is to live with God forever.

God who loves us, gave us life.

Our own response of love allows God's life to flow into us
without limit.

All the things in this world are gifts of God,
presented to us so that we can know God more easily
and make a return of love more readily.

As a result, we appreciate and use all these gifts of God
insofar as they help us develop as loving persons.

But if any of these gifts become the center of our lives,
they displace God

and so hinder our growth toward our goal.

In everyday life, then, we must hold ourselves in balance
before all of these created gifts insofar as we have a choice
and are not bound by some obligation.

We should not fix our desires on health or sickness,
wealth or poverty, success or failure, a long life or short one.

For everything has the potential of calling forth in us
a deeper response to our life in God.

Our only desire and our one choice
should be this:

I want and I choose what better
leads to the
deepening of God's life in me.

Questions for consideration in writing your own First Principle and Foundation:

- What is the purpose of why I am here?
- What is the most foundational part of my life?
- Where does God fit in my foundation?