**Slide 1: Title**

**What Kind of Anthropological Vision Does Our Time Need?**

**Slide 2: Introduction**

* **Franciscan Anthropology**: A way of understanding human life based on the teachings of St. Francis of Assisi.
* This vision can help guide us in our modern world, offering a fresh perspective on what it means to live a good life.

Franciscan anthropology, rooted in the teachings of St. Francis of Assisi, offers a unique perspective on understanding human life. It emphasizes the inherent dignity of every person, the value of simplicity, and the importance of living in harmony with all creation. Unlike modern views that often prioritize material success, control, and individual achievement, Franciscan anthropology invites us to see life through a lens of humility, solidarity, and interconnectedness. In this vision, humans are not just creators or economic agents, but spiritual beings who seek meaning, relationships, and a deeper connection with God and the world around them.

This approach provides a fresh way to navigate the complexities of modern life. It challenges the common focus on self-interest, consumerism, and competition by offering an alternative based on community, love, and care for both people and the environment. By following Franciscan principles, we are encouraged to value not just what we produce or own, but who we are in relation to others and to the world. This anthropological vision helps guide us toward a life of fulfillment, not by chasing after material goods, but by fostering meaningful connections and living in a way that reflects our deepest spiritual values.

**Slide 3: Modern View of Humans**

* **Homo Faber**: The "maker" — someone who controls their environment through work and tools.
* **Homo Oeconomicus**: The "economic man" — focused on profit, efficiency, and self-interest.
* These ideas shape much of our world today but can lead to stress, inequality, and harm to nature.

In the modern view, humans are often seen as \*\*Homo Faber\*\*, the "maker," who controls the world around them through work, technology, and tools. This perspective highlights our ability to shape our environment, but it also fosters a mindset focused on productivity and control. Paired with this is the concept of \*\*Homo Oeconomicus\*\*, the "economic man," which emphasizes self-interest, efficiency, and the pursuit of profit above all else. Together, these ideas dominate much of today’s economic and social systems, pushing people to prioritize personal gain and material success.

However, this outlook has significant downsides. It can lead to stress, burnout, and a growing sense of isolation as people are caught in cycles of work and consumption. The relentless drive for profit often results in inequality and environmental harm, widening the gap between the wealthy and the poor and depleting natural resources. This modern anthropological view is efficient in terms of economic growth but falls short in nurturing human well-being, relationships, and a sustainable way of life.

**Slide 4: Problems with These Views**

* Leads to constant pressure to produce and consume.
* Causes social and environmental harm: economic crises, inequality, and strained relationships.
* Humans are seen as competitors, and the planet's resources are drained.

The modern views of \*\*Homo Faber\*\* and \*\*Homo Oeconomicus\*\* create significant challenges for both individuals and society. They foster a constant pressure to produce and consume, which can lead to stress, burnout, and a sense of meaninglessness. This emphasis on work and profit-driven success often strains relationships, leaving people feeling isolated as they compete with one another for resources and status.

On a larger scale, these views contribute to social and environmental harm. The focus on short-term economic gains can trigger recurring economic crises, deepen inequality, and exhaust the planet's natural resources. As a result, the gap between the rich and the poor grows wider, and the natural environment suffers from over-exploitation. This framework, while profitable for some, ultimately creates a world that is unsustainable and damaging to both human well-being and the environment.

**Slide 5: A New Vision - Homo Culturalis et Religiosus**

* **Homo Culturalis**: A person focused on culture, relationships, and community.
* **Homo Religiosus**: A person who seeks spiritual meaning and connection with others.
* This vision encourages solidarity, sharing, and living a life that values relationships over material gain.

The concept of \*\*Homo Culturalis et Religiosus\*\* offers an alternative anthropological vision, emphasizing the importance of culture, community, and spirituality. \*\*Homo Culturalis\*\* refers to a person who values relationships and shared cultural experiences, fostering connection and solidarity among individuals. This view encourages living in harmony with others and prioritizing meaningful interactions over material success.

\*\*Homo Religiosus\*\* highlights the human search for spiritual meaning and a deeper connection with both people and the divine. This perspective moves away from self-centered, profit-driven pursuits, urging individuals to live in a way that promotes unity, compassion, and a sense of shared purpose. Together, these views offer a path toward a life rooted in love, community, and spiritual fulfillment, placing human relationships and spiritual growth at the center of existence.

**Slide 6: Desire vs. Deficiency**

* Modern views focus on **human deficiency**: always needing more to cover our shortages.
* The **Franciscan view** focuses on human **desires**: the deep longing for love, happiness, and connection.
* It's not about endless consumption, but about fulfilling deeper, more meaningful desires.

In modern society, humans are often viewed through the lens of \*\*deficiency\*\*, meaning that we are seen as constantly lacking something and needing more to fill those gaps. This leads to a cycle of endless consumption, where we feel driven to accumulate more material goods, wealth, or success in order to feel complete. The assumption is that by acquiring these things, we will satisfy our needs, but the reality is that this constant striving often leaves people feeling empty or unfulfilled. This mindset turns human life into a never-ending quest to cover shortages, whether they be financial, social, or emotional.

In contrast, the \*\*Franciscan view\*\* sees humans not as deficient, but as beings of \*\*desire\*\*. This means we are fundamentally driven by deeper, more meaningful longings—such as the desire for love, happiness, purpose, and connection with others. Rather than focusing on what we lack, this perspective emphasizes our innate yearning for things that truly fulfill the human spirit. It's about recognizing that our deepest desires go beyond material possessions and are centered on relationships, community, and spiritual growth. In this view, the goal is not to endlessly consume, but to seek fulfillment through genuine human connection and living in harmony with both people and nature. This approach encourages a more balanced and compassionate way of life, where satisfaction comes from shared experiences and spiritual well-being, rather than the accumulation of things.

**Slide 7: Key Values of Franciscan Vision**

* **Sharing and Solidarity**: Moving away from selfishness, towards caring for each other.
* **Contemplation**: Being aware of the dignity of all people and creatures.
* **Love and Appreciation**: Fostering relationships with each other and with God.

In the \*\*Franciscan vision\*\*, key values are centered on creating a more compassionate, community-oriented, and spiritually fulfilling life. One of the most important values is \*\*sharing and solidarity\*\*, which encourages people to move away from selfishness and individualism. Instead of focusing solely on personal gain, this value emphasizes the importance of caring for others and supporting each other, particularly those in need. Solidarity creates stronger communities by fostering generosity and interconnectedness, making sure that everyone is valued and included.

Another key value is \*\*contemplation\*\*, which means taking the time to reflect on the dignity of all people and creatures. It invites us to appreciate the sacredness of life in all its forms, urging us to live in harmony with the natural world and respect the inherent worth of every person. Lastly, \*\*love and appreciation\*\* are fundamental to the Franciscan view. This value calls for nurturing relationships with one another and with God. By building connections based on love, respect, and gratitude, we can create a sense of belonging and purpose, both within our communities and in our spiritual lives. Together, these values encourage a way of living that promotes kindness, unity, and a deep appreciation for all life.

**Slide 8: A Balanced Life**

* The Franciscan view sees humans as part of a larger community — both with other people and with nature.
* **Body and Soul**: Both are valued and dignified, especially through the teachings of Christ.
* Humans are seen as on a journey, always striving to be better.

The \*\*Franciscan view\*\* presents a holistic understanding of life, seeing humans as deeply connected to a larger community that includes both other people and the natural world. This vision emphasizes the idea that we are not isolated individuals, but part of an interconnected web of relationships that encompasses all of creation. In this sense, our actions and well-being are tied to the health and harmony of the entire community—both human and environmental. This perspective encourages us to live in a way that honors these connections, promoting care for others and stewardship of nature.

The \*\*body and soul\*\* are both seen as valuable and dignified in this view, particularly through the teachings of Christ. In the Franciscan tradition, the physical body is not something to be neglected or separated from spiritual life; rather, it is respected as part of our overall humanity. This holistic approach affirms that caring for both our physical and spiritual well-being is essential to living a balanced life. Moreover, humans are seen as being on a continuous \*\*journey\*\* of growth and self-improvement. Life is understood as a path toward becoming better, more compassionate, and more aligned with God’s will. This journey requires constant reflection, learning, and striving to live according to values that enhance both personal and communal well-being.

**Slide 9: Conclusion**

* The world needs a shift from the narrow focus on work and profit.
* We should embrace a more **human-centered vision** that values culture, relationships, and spirituality.
* This **alternative way of life** can bring healing to individuals, societies, and the planet.

The \*\*conclusion\*\* emphasizes the need for a major shift in how we understand and live our lives. Today’s world often places too much importance on \*\*work and profit\*\*, where success is measured by how much we can produce or earn. While this focus on productivity has led to economic growth, it has also caused significant harm—both to individuals, who feel constant pressure and stress, and to the environment, which is being depleted and damaged by overconsumption.

The solution is to adopt a more \*\*human-centered vision\*\*. This means valuing things that go beyond material wealth, like culture, relationships, and spirituality. A human-centered approach prioritizes the deeper aspects of life that make us truly fulfilled: meaningful connections with others, a sense of community, and spiritual growth. By placing greater value on these things, we can create a way of life that is not only more fulfilling for individuals but also healthier for society and the planet as a whole.

This \*\*alternative way of life\*\*—rooted in solidarity, care for others, and respect for the environment—can bring healing. It offers a path toward personal well-being, stronger communities, and a more sustainable world. Rather than being driven by profit and consumption, this approach encourages us to live in harmony with others and nature, leading to a more compassionate, balanced, and meaningful existence.