



Name \_\_\_\_\_

### **Rising 7th Grade Summer Assignment**

**Directions:** Read “My Journey Home: The Kingdom of the Poor” by Fr. Charles Strobel. After reading the book, complete the assignment below.

#### **Background Information**

This book is partly autobiography and partly spiritual reading compiled from Father Strobel’s homilies. Father Strobel, a Nashville native, became a priest in 1970. His years in the seminary gave him two theological structures that shaped his work: the Sermon on the Mount, which opens with Jesus telling his followers, “Blessed are the poor,” and the Jewish concept of “Anawim,” a word that draws everyone together in common poverty and common humanity. He often referred to “Beatitude Moments,” which he described as “grace-filled occurrences in life that are examples to us of our faith lived out on a daily basis.” This book details many of those “Beatitude Moments” throughout his life.

**Assignment:** read the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), then choose one example from Fr. Strobel’s life that exemplifies one of the beatitudes. Use at least one piece of text evidence in your response. Please use my example below as a template.

#### **Example:**

Father Strobel exemplifies the beatitude, “blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted,” because he experienced the losses of both his father and his mother. He was only four years old when his father died. He talks about how hard it was for him to grow up without his dad, but he also said that God took care of him by giving him other father figures, like Father Dan. Father Dan was the Strobel’s parish priest, and he helped Charles’ family a lot, taking to heart Christ’s message to help “widows and orphans.”

After Fr. Charles’s mother was murdered, Fr. Charles had to grapple with this injustice, but he found comfort in forgiveness. He wrote, “as long as revenge remains in our hearts we are enslaved.” He found peace and comfort in forgiving his mother’s murderer. In doing so, he illustrates what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

