Francis and Clare: the early documents; Discussion Two

The list of early Franciscan documents and abbreviations used:
(all documents are found in links to the first class of this section)

*Francis:*
Early Rule: ER
Later Rule: LR
Testament: Fr. Test.
Rule for Hermitages
Admonition 5
Canticle

*Clare:*
Rule: Clare Rule
Testament: Clare Test.
Letters to Agnes of Prague: Letter 1, 2, 3, 4

The “Rules” are cited by chapter and verse, e.g., ER 7.5 means “Early Rule, Chapter 7, Verse 5”
Other works are cited by verse, e.g., Fr. Test. 40 means “Francis’s Testament, Verse 40”
Verses are indicated in superscript numbers before each verse

**Tasks for all topics:** what do early Franciscan documents say about those issues/topics and what scriptural texts (if any) do they use to support the points?

**Topics for Discussion Two and documents to use:**

**Topic 1.** Francis and Clare: the issue of authority, “minority” and greatness.
Franciscan documents: ER 4, ER 5.9-12; ER 6; Fr. Test. 1-2; Clare Rule 4.9-10; Clare Test. 61-66
issues examined: who is considered greater or lesser; service and ministry

**Topic 2.** Francis and Clare: respect for all creation and the dignity of the human person.
Franciscan documents: ER 7.14-15; ER 10; ER 11; LR 3.10-11; LR 6.1; Admonition 5; Canticle; Clare Rule 8
issues examined: how one should relate to other human beings (especially the weak, the marginalized, and outcasts) and why; how one should relate to other creatures and why

**Topic 3.** Clare on possessions.
Franciscan documents: Clare Rule 1-2, 4.19; 6, 8; Clare Test. 33-36, 38-39, 45-47, 53-55; Letter 1.18-30; Letter 2.2
issues examined: how should Franciscan sisters relate to possessions and property? how is this different from male Franciscans?
**Topic 4.** Clare on work.
Franciscan documents: Clare Rule 7; Clare Test. 27-29
issues examined: work (what kind of work?); how is this issue different for the sisters compared to male Franciscans?

**Topic 5.** Clare and Francis on the status of women.
Franciscan documents: Clare Rule 3; Clare Test. 27-29, 37-39; Letter 3.29-40; Rule for Hermitages; M. Bartoli, *Saint Clare: Beyond the Legend*, 99-103
issues examined: what can we say of the difference between the positions of men and women at the time and how does this impact the idea of “following the gospel”?