

 *Dear Brothers & Sisters*

From the Minister

I begin this letter with a thank you to all of our Franciscan fraternity for your vote and nod of encouragement for our new council. We will pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as we work together for you in these next three years.

And I pray that our council as well as our entire fraternity will practice these six qualities that I found in the April 2021 issue of St. Anthony Messenger:

1. **Vision:** What does it mean when we pray..."Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven?" We know enough to dream of a world in which truth, generosity and justice hold sway and all have what they need to thrive.
2. **Curious:** "We must be curious. Because our knowledge is always limited and often flawed, we must always be learning to correct our errors, to discover new ideas, and to discern what strategies will help us bring about a kinder and more caring world."
3. **Caring collaboration:** We are a Franciscan fraternity...we work in community, we are in the same boat...so let's paddle together.
4. **Courage:** And this requires us to trust in the Spirit that we pray to guide us. Let us try new things and work joyfully together.
5. **Discipline:** "We can't always control outcomes but we can...and keep choosing to...do what is ours to do. Discipline gives us the patience and steadfastness to keep at it, even when it's hard or we are uncertain or hopeless."
6. **Humility:** Humility keeps us from being too rigid, too driven, too egotistical. Humility keeps us learning, serving, and reaching out to others with love and kindness. Humility reminds us that life is a gift from God and that our mere human efforts will always be insufficient to the task.

And so...not in my own words, but in my heart and thoughts...these are my hopes for our journey together these next three years.

And one last thought. Please do not forget that our next fraternity meeting date has changed. We will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, October 4th at Holy Family Parish to celebrate the Transitus of St. Francis. Please, if you cannot attend, call or let me know in some way. Or I will be calling to check on you and make sure you are okay.

Peace and all good,
Sue G. OFS

Our Monthly Gathering

Our monthly gathering will be on **Monday, October 4, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Senior Center** at **Holy Family Parish in Inverness**. There will be a fraternity member in the narthex to guide you to this room. **Please note that this is the First Monday of October.** We cannot meet on the second Monday because the entire campus will be shut down beginning October 11 for a major water main repair. The change in dates is actually a blessing since October 4th is the Feast Day of St. Francis. We will be celebrating the Transitus of St. Francis. Please bring your own beverage and a small snack that can be shared with your sisters and brothers. Thank you.

And So We Pray ...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR OCTOBER

Intention for evangelization - *Missionary disciples*

We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavor of the Gospel.

Bring the Gospel to Life and Life to the Gospel

LET US PRAY...

While this prayer has been attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, he did not write it. But in its few words, it describes his life better than all the thousands of books that have been written about him. We sing Make Me a Channel of Your Peace all the time. Today, read the words slowly and let each phrase speak to you. This is what we are to aspire to as secular Franciscans.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.
O, divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born
to eternal life

Profession Anniversaries

10/1986 Kathleen B 35th Anniversary of Profession
10/11/2010 Sue B. Cyndy S

Abundant blessings be Yours!

Council Members

Minister	Susan Gribbon, OFS	<i>minister@nwfranciscans.org</i>
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Spiritual Assistant	Jerry Stecker, OFS	<i>sa@nwfranciscans.org</i>
Councilor-at-Large	Marion Tuttle, OFS	

For privacy, all personal addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, prayer intentions, and (for non-council members) last names are removed from this web version.

Congratulations to our newly elected Council. They have taken to heart the secular Franciscan message of service and have offered to serve the fraternity in the midst of their already busy lives. Through their service on the council, they will tackle the difficult issues that arise, prioritize the various needs of the fraternity, and work with a dedicated Spiritual Assistant to further our formation as seculars.

*It is now the **duty of every fraternity member** to offer our help to the Council to assist in any and every way that we can to lighten the burdens that they have willingly offered to assume. Each of us has been given different gifts by God. Each of us has a different family life, health status, capabilities. But **ALL** can do something. This is what each and every one of us promised to do at our profession.*

Newsletter Editor

Common Fund

Please remember the Common Fund donation each month. This is the only source of income to offset our fraternity expenses. If you forget your donation on a gathering night, send it to our Treasurer, Kathy, afterward. Thank You.

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2021

- Monday, Oct. 4** Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in Breakout Room 1 at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. **NOTE DATE CHANGE**
- Monday, Nov. 8** Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in Breakout Room 1 at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. Remembrance Liturgy
- Sunday, Nov. 21** Council Meeting, Minister's home at 1 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 13** Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in Breakout Room 1 at Holy Family Parish, Inverness.

Stone Houses

Some people live without anything and have everything. The example that always comes to mind for me is in Africa, where I preached. This little old black African man and I prayed together after a long session. He prayed with such tenderness. He said, "O Lord, help us never to move into stone houses." And everybody echoed, "Yes, Lord. Yes, Lord." Afterward I asked the missionaries what he meant. "Well," a priest said, "look at the villages. They're all doorless thatch huts. And so as long as you live a simple life in a thatch hut with no doors, you don't know where your family ends and where the next family begins. You move in and out of one another's lives, and it's all really one family. And there's no possessing, there's no mine and thine; it's ours. It's a world of community.

"Once the first stone hut is built in a village," the missionary continued, "very quickly a door and locks are put on it. Immediately the world of mine and thine is created. The entire social worldview, the entire understanding of self, changes."

We've got to realize the world of stone huts is the only world you and I have ever known. We've paid a price for that inheritance. We can't reverse it. We're not going to live in thatch huts, and I'm not here to say we should. But we've got to know what we've given up by the so-called technological advances of this very sophisticated society. It's one reason why we are producing neurotic and psychotic people as such an unbelievable rate. Teen suicides, for example, doubled in the 1980's. Crime in general was increased 500 percent since 1960!

We've chosen security over solidarity in First World countries, in Western Europe and North America. Jesus said you can't serve God and mammon. I'd say you can't see God very well if you spend too much time inside your stone house.

Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM
Letting Go: A Spirituality of Subtraction

This article was written over twenty years ago. The statistics have changed since then.
