



## *Dear Brothers & Sisters*

### **From the Minister**

**Healing, helping and listening.** Wow! As I write this, we are approaching Lent. And I am so excited to share with you how the fraternity is responding to so many needs. First of all, after sharing with all of you the story of Anita Lopez and Lukas Cichon, so many of you stopped me and asked if we could help Lukas with funeral expenses. The fraternity council took a vote...and today I sent Lukas a check for \$400. I called him to say that we wanted to help. I asked that he not be a stranger and that our doors would always be open to him. Thank you all. We helped.

Secondly, our Mary Kay has asked for prayers. And she promised to try and make it to our next gathering in March. Please keep her in your prayers. Call her and let her know that she is missed and how special she is to ALL of us. We listen and pray for healing.

Also keep in mind our Lea Nicholson. She recently broke her ankle and is in a boot. She has been in a wheelchair to keep her safe and off her foot. We are not sure how her balance and safety will be going forward. She, too, would appreciate a call or visit. We listen.

And so...we **Live, Love and Act.**

I apologize for my email being hacked recently (for the second time). I have changed all my passwords and so going forward will be more careful. I am sorry for all of you who received requests for gift cards from Grundy044@outlook.com. That is not my email. My email address is the one that is in our fraternity directory. Or I can be reached at the fraternity email address listed in this newsletter.

I will not be at our next gathering in March. Jerry will be running it. So, if anyone cannot make the gathering, please call him and let him know.

And lastly, Lent 2022 ... let us practice small acts of kindness and love as we fast and pray more. So that we can **Help, Listen and Heal** ourselves and those around us.

Sue G., OFS

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### **Our Monthly Gathering**

Our monthly gathering will be on **Monday, March 14, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Brennan Library** at **Holy Family Parish in Inverness**. We will pray the Stations of the Cross.

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## And So We Pray...

### PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR MARCH

#### A Christian response to bioethical changes

We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

### A Lenten Meditation

Whatever your life situation may be, find some way to be in immediate contact with the little ones, the nobodies. Get in touch with the people who are of no account, who haven't made it into the great American midstream. Maybe they don't talk "right" and smell "right". They may not seem to be part of the "in" group.

If we of the middle-class Church have found ourselves scandalized by our own brokenness and imperfection, it's because we have separated ourselves from the broken character of almost all of reality.

When a severely disabled person confronts us, we're scandalized and afraid. Everything in our being, says, Oh, it shouldn't be that way, let's change it. But we can't change it. The only thing we know how to do is to draw apart, to pull away in fear, anger and disappointment with God. But God gives us each other. Those who are disabled can remind the rest of us who we are. We live under an illusion, thinking we're not handicapped or retarded, thinking we got it together. We are afraid of those who appear to be weak because they come with the faces of the crucified Jesus. We push them to the edge of society. The elderly we shove aside because they remind us, that we, too, one day will be old. We ignore little children, thinking they don't know anything yet and have nothing to teach us. We shun disabled people, who remind us that our bodies are also one step away, any moment, from crippledness. People with mental disabilities painfully remind us that we really aren't very smart.

Refugees bring forth the fear within each of us of not having a place to lay our head. Gays and lesbians remind us that we all are both feminine and masculine. Prisoners remind us we also are imprisoned and trapped.

There is a reason we push all these people far away and far apart. They represent everything we fear and everything we deny about ourselves. Yet to be touched by these people is to discover the deepest recesses of our own life.

*Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM  
A Spirituality of Subtraction*

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## Profession Anniversaries

This month we will celebrate the profession of our shut-in sister, **Dorothy B.** who has been professed for 48 years. Dorothy. was professed on March 30, 1974.

Through almost fifty years, Dorothy has lived her vocation as a secular Franciscan through whatever trials and blessings God has sent her way.

## Gifts From God

I LOVE GOD.

He makes good days when I'm sad  
So that I can't feel sad for the wonder of it;  
The clean sharp feel of His blues and greens,  
Trees on the top of a hill, His hands on earth.

I LOVE GOD.

He makes my children naughty, mischievous, quarrelsome...  
Then He makes them laugh and puts Pure Joy in them,  
And He comes through their bodies and eyes,  
So beautiful, so funny angel-like, I want to cry out at their fresh, sweet loveliness.

I LOVE GOD.

He made perfections like leaves.  
He startles me with orioles  
And puts funny little plants in the woods for me to wonder at.  
He makes wild, vast storms, rising up shrieking,  
To tear down His stately makings...oaks and rivers...and man  
Just to tell us we cannot do without Him: He is Lord.

I LOVE GOD.

He attends me as He attends the intricacies of a tiny conch shell  
on a flat expanse of beach.  
So very small...  
He must have loved it to make it so.  
I like to believe He had as much joy making me.  
He gave me so many God-huge feelings I cannot use them up,  
But I feel He meant me to...  
He made me love a man whose soul shines in his eyes  
And in his face when he sleeps.  
I love Him for that.

He gave me laughter to give and exhilarant happiness to sow,  
And told me their worth  
By giving me frights and fears and sickness  
To make me strong.

He holds my hand And I know Love.

Anon.

# Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2022

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|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Monday, Mar. 14</b>  | Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Stations of the Cross</i>     |
| <b>Sunday, Mar. 27</b>  | Council meeting, minister's home at 1:00 p.m.   |
| <b>Monday, Apr. 11</b>  | Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Welcoming Evening</i>         |
| <b>Monday, May 9</b>    | Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Crown Rosary</i>              |
| <b>Sunday, May 22</b>   | Council meeting, minister's home at 1:00 p.m.   |
| <b>Monday, June 13</b>  | Newly professed celebration will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness.                        |
| <b>Monday, July 11</b>  | Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Day of Recollection</i>       |
| <b>Sunday, July 24</b>  | Council meeting, minister's home at 1:00 p.m.   |
| <b>Monday, Aug. 8</b>   | Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Lectio Divina</i>             |
| <b>Monday, Sept. 12</b> | Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Liturgy of the Hours</i>      |
| <b>Sunday, Sept. 25</b> | Council meeting, minister's home at 1:00 p.m.   |
| <b>Monday, Oct. 10</b>  | Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Transitus</i>                 |
| <b>Monday, Nov. 14</b>  | Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Commemoration of deceased</i> |
| <b>Sunday, Nov. 27</b>  | Council meeting, minister's home at 1:00 p.m.   |
| <b>Monday, Dec. 12</b>  | Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Brennan Library at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. <i>Day of Recollection</i>       |

## Council Members

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|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Minister</b>            | Susan Gribbon, OFS  | <i>minister@nwfranciscans.org</i>     |
| <b>Vice Minister</b>       | Tim Panzica, OFS    | <i>viceminister@nwfranciscans.org</i> |
| <b>Formation Director</b>  | Kay Crnich, OFS     | <i>formation@nwfranciscans.org</i>    |
| <b>Secretary</b>           | Suzanne Rogers, OFS | <i>secretary@nwfranciscans.org</i>    |
| <b>Treasurer</b>           | Kathy Fischer, OFS  | <i>treasurer@nwfranciscans.org</i>    |
| <b>Spiritual Assistant</b> | Jerry Stecker, OFS  | <i>sa@nwfranciscans.org</i>           |
| <b>Councilor-at-Large</b>  | 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.*

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