



Dear Brothers & Sisters

From the Minister

We are living in thankfulness during these warm summer days. So happy to have had the profession of our Sue R, Marion, RoseAnn and Mary Anita. And being able to resume our normal fraternity meetings on the second Monday of each month at Holy Family Parish.

Today (July 25th) the council discussed plans for our fraternity, taking us up to our scheduled elections on Monday, September 13th. We hope to present our slate at the next fraternity gathering on August 9th. If any of you are interested in running or think someone else would be a good candidate...please let me know.

Starting in August, we will be taking up an added collection for Amazon Relief, lasting three months. Amazon Relief works internationally, caring for the poorest of the poor, assisting victims of leprosy, helping families break out of poverty and educating "at risk" children. Two years ago, we sent them a check for \$700. Let's see what we can do to help now. Then, at our August fraternity gathering, we would like to hear from you, and brainstorm for service projects that we can do together to help make a difference in our community. So put your thinking caps on and come ready to discuss this.

Our next Vocation Night will be scheduled for April 11, 2022. However, we are looking for several members from our fraternity to create a Vocations Committee. Our growth should not be dependent on one meeting a year. We need to be looking at ways to reach out and share our charism with others. This committee will report back to the fraternity. So think about this. It would be a way of sharing your calling to be a secular Franciscan and how or what you would do to accomplish this.

For our future hospitality at our fraternity meetings, we are asking you all to bring something to share (it doesn't have to be a lot as we are all sharing) and BYOB...bring your own beverage. Mary Kay will bring plates/napkins and plastic ware. If whatever you bring to share needs a serving utensil...please bring one. We still need to disinfect tables and arm rests of chairs when we are done. Let's see how this works. We are trying hard not to overburden any one person with carting lots of stuff back and forth.

And lastly...The Feast of the Portiuncula on August 7th at Mayslake. Currently we have several from our fraternity attending and carpooling. Thank you for your great response.

And so I end...St. Francis, pray for us...

Profession Anniversaries

There are no specific anniversaries to celebrate this month.

Our Monthly Gathering

Our monthly gathering will be on **Monday, August 9, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.** in the Senior Center at Holy Family Parish in Inverness. We will discuss Chapter 6 of *Fratelli Tutti*. Please read the chapter and answer the question in the Guide.

We will pray the Liturgy of the Hours, so please bring your Liturgy books with you. There will not be any handouts to save paper.

And So We Pray ...

PAPAL INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST

Intention for evangelization – *The Church*

Let us pray that the church, that She may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

LET US PRAY...

For all **Friars of the First Order of Franciscans** throughout the world, that they may follow faithfully in the footsteps of their brother Francis, we pray to the Lord,

For all **Poor Clares** throughout the world who have willingly and joyfully embraced a life of poverty and prayer for the glory of God and the salvation of many souls, we pray to the Lord,

For all members of the **Third Order Regular** throughout the world, who happily share their charisms in many walks of life, we pray to the Lord,

For all **professed secular Franciscans** throughout the world, that each day they will bring the Gospel to life and life to the Gospel, we pray to the Lord...

For all **Inquirers and Candidates** throughout the world, that they will be given the support and knowledge they need to discern their vocation, we pray to the Lord,

For our **shut-in fraternity members**, that their health and isolation will be relieved by our prayers, we pray to the Lord...

Council Members

Minister	Susan Gribbon, OFS	<i>minister@nwfranciscans.org</i>
Formation Director	Jackie Leo, OFS	<i>formation@nwfranciscans.org</i>
Secretary	Tim Panzica, OFS	<i>secretary@nwfranciscans.org</i>
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Councilor-at-Large	Kay Crnich, 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.

Calendar of Fraternity Gatherings 2021

August 9, 2021	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Senior Center at Holy Family Parish, Inverness.
September 13, 2021	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in Breakout Room 1 at Holy Family Parish, Inverness. Fraternity Elections will be held at this gathering. It is of great importance for all professed to attend this meeting and vote.
September 26, 2021	Council Meeting, Minister's home at 1 p.m.
October 11, 2021	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in Breakout Room 1 at Holy Family Parish, Inverness.
November 8, 2021	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in Breakout Room 1 at Holy Family Parish, Inverness.
November 21, 2021	Council Meeting, Minister's home at 1 p.m.
December 13, 2021	Monthly gathering will be held at 6:30 p.m. in Breakout Room 1 at Holy Family Parish, Inverness.

Common Fund

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

Poverty Defined

There are four descriptions of poverty in the Scriptures.

Poverty as Sin

First, there's poverty as sin, emptiness, the poverty of people who are dead inside. That obviously is not the poverty that Scripture idealizes. And yet it does play a part in the whole pattern of salvation. Sin and grace are related. In a certain sense the only way we really understand salvation, grace, freedom, is by understanding their opposites. That's why the great saints are, invariably, converted sinners.

When you finally have to eat and taste your own hard-heartedness, your own emptiness, selfishness and all the rest, then you open up to grace. That is the pattern in all our lives. That's why it was such a grace in my hermitage year when I was able, at last—even as a male and German—to weep over my sins and to feel tremendous sadness at my own silliness and stupidity.

I think all of us have to confront ourselves as poor people in that way. And that's why many of our greatest moments of grace follow upon, sometimes, our greatest sins. We are hard-hearted and closed-minded for years. Then comes the moment of vulnerability and mercy. We break down and break through.

Poverty as Destitution

A second way the Scriptures describe poverty is as destitution and dehumanization. Such poverty is the result of injustice, oppression or racism. When we talk about the glories of poverty, we're not talking about the oppressed human being on the earth who has never had a chance to take in cultural, social, emotional, familial values.

Oft-times work with the poor in more developed countries is very discouraging. In the United States we have people who have been familially destitute, culturally destitute, spiritually destitute. Although they're physically poor, they in fact have middle- and upper-class values through television and advertisements. They want the same things you and I want. The trouble is, they can't get them. That's the worst of both worlds. They are trapped inside and outside. It is a state of sin—one which we must work to change.

We really need the wisdom of God to know how to break in to some of the subcultures of affluent countries. In great part, I think many of these brothers and sisters are going to have to do it themselves because that's the only way they're going to experience *their own empowerment* and God's presence and life within *them*. The best we can do, perhaps, is to stand there with them and not hold them down, not give them any more negative voices than they've already been given by society. Our evangelization is perhaps to believe in them, support them from the side and at least not give them bad news. That's *our* poverty that we can't do more.

Poverty as Simplicity

The third biblical description of poverty is simplicity. People poor in this way are centered in chosen values instead of possessions. And because their life is so centered in clear values—usually God, family and work—they normally don't need to compensate by spending their afternoons in shopping malls, buying more things or filling up their boredom with distractions.

I was recently in a California shopping mall. Walking through the entire place, there wasn't a single shop that sold a single thing that was *necessary*. We have leisure time and the money to produce endless luxury items. Then it's considered patriotic to buy them! The people I saw, all with their shopping bags, were feverishly walking around to get these things that no one needs but feeling good about it "because it helps the economy." Now that's a trap! It's certainly the opposite of poverty as the simple and uncluttered life.

Few things are needed or desired by the one who lives simply because life is centered on another level of value. And maybe it isn't always specifically religious; maybe it's music, art, nature, or even work for a great ideal.

St. Teresa of Avila put it, "When they serve me partridge, I'll eat partridge; when they serve me porridge, I'll eat porridge." So when the nice dress comes along, you're not going to sneer at it in the name of simplicity. No, it's a nice dress, it's pretty, and you'd probably feel great wearing it. But you don't *need* it. That's the difference, and the simple person knows the difference.

The Poverty of Being Human

The fourth and final poverty described in the Bible is the poverty of being human. This is the ideal poverty of Scripture. Jesus became human yet never sinned because he never rejected this level of poverty. He never rejected the limitations of the human scene, never fought or railed against it. He was happy to "empty himself...and become as humans are" (Philippians 2:7).

It's a gift to joyfully recognize the accept our own smallness. That's my best definition of Christian maturity. It's very hard for an affluent culture to accept a limited world, and that's why Jesus said the rich person cannot easily enter in the Kingdom of God (Matthew 19:23, Mark 10-23, Luke 18:24).

I meet many holy priests who are recovering alcoholics. I can almost pick them out by now; there's a kind of littleness from the very beginning, a kind of vulnerability, a relaxed-ness with themselves and with one another. They're not living in their heads anymore. They had to face, at one point in their lives, their littleness, their poverty. They had to wake up one day and say, I'm an alcoholic. They are some of the greatest priests I meet.

Humility and *human* come from the Latin word, *humus*, dirt. A human being is someone, as we are reminded on Ash Wednesday, taken out of the dirt. A humble person is one who recognizes that and even rejoices in it!

When Carl Jung was toward the end of his life, a student who was reading the classic book *The Pilgrim's Progress*, asked him what his pilgrim's progress had been. Jung said, "I have had to climb down ten thousand ladders so that at the end of my life I can reach out the hand of friendship to this little clod of earth that I am." That's the poverty of spirit that Jesus chose and that he calls "blessed". It's his very first statement in his Great Sermon and his very last action on the cross.

Richard Rohr, OFM

Letting Go: A Spirituality of Subtraction

Whom I Have Chosen

*I count as nothing the kingdoms of the earth
and every worldly adornment,
because of my love for the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*I have seen the Lord and I love him;
I have placed all my trust in him
Whom I have chosen.*

*My heart overflows with a noble theme
as I sing my ode to the King.*

*I have seen the Lord and I love him;
I have placed all my trust in him
Whom I have chosen.*

Liturgy of the Hours