

## Feast of St. Francis; an invitation to renew my vocation...and let me begin again

Yet, again we celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi amidst Covid-19 pandemic. Life has been hard for many of us. Our plans, dreams and even hope are lost at times. What will St. Francis tell me today as I celebrate his passing to eternal glory? This feast is an invitation for me to renew my Franciscan vision of life and wholeheartedly embrace and live the life that I have chosen.

As I celebrate this year the feast of St. Francis, it's time to renew my prayer life because it keeps me strongly connected to God in ups and downs of life. When I kneel before God, I know for sure He stands for me. I have experienced that prayer works miracles in life. For St. Francis, our seraphic father, prayer was an integral part of his being. He not only prayed but became a prayer himself. Others could see in him the living presence of God and he could see in others the same, thus calling God his father and others his brothers and sisters. Prayer made him what he was meant to be. Like St. Francis, it's an invitation never to disconnect oneself with God, but find time to pray, to give precious time and not spare time to communicate with God.

This feast is a strong reminder for me to uphold the life of fraternity. One could get so busy in work that one can forget that one belongs to a fraternity is not outdated but most needed. It's a reminder in life, as a Franciscan, equally important. In fact, fraternity has offered me to the fraternity. Obviously, without the fraternity.

Care for the 'common home' sisters' is rooted in our very much aware of the pain Indigenous people and their are still going through. There now to bring truth and healing sisters. As a Franciscan, being vulnerable and the Willingness to accompany and concrete action will bring



fraternity. The life of up to date for the world and is that whatever else is important fraternity and minority is during this hard time, much more than I could offer life could not be happier

pain and agony of millions of brothers and sisters who are forced to flee their home in search of better life cannot be ignored. Living in the awareness that the other is also created in the image and likeness of God's Son, will reshape one's Franciscan vision and lifestyle. I commit to whatever I can do personally to bring truth and healing with the wounded brothers and sisters, and care for a common home.

and care for the 'brothers and Franciscan spirituality. We are and trauma that Canadian fraternity have suffered and is no better time than right with indigenous brothers and in solidarity with the poor, the marginalized is our calling. others with a listening heart healing and peace. Also, the

Dear brothers and sisters of St. Francis in Jesus Christ, we are living in uncertain times. Rather than living in the fear of survival, which paralyzes our life, let us live the Franciscan charism as best we can. While there is an honest concern about the future, let's not forget to live the present with passion. The world needs Franciscans who are joyful witnesses of the Gospel. It is the Lord who has called us to the Franciscan way of life, and He expects us to be faithful in living our vocation. Like the faithful servant He expects us to be active and vigilant in carrying out service for Him and our fellow humans. God will help us when we help ourselves by being His best sons and daughters. ***I invite you and myself to renew the commitment we have made to God by living and following Him through the spirituality given to us by St. Francis of Assisi...and let me begin again.***

**Happy Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, God bless.**

(Fr. Manoj Xalxo, OFM)