

August 2021

Dear Ministers and JPIC Animators,

As we move forward after this most challenging year, we remember that we serve a God of hope. Therefore, we hopefully step out of our homes and back into our activities in the community, walking in safety, praying for the well being of all.

For the fall, let us consider organizing two events in our fraternities. First...

PLANT A TREE FOR THE GOOD OF THE EARTH

The Diocese of San Diego Care for Creation team is animating a tree planting in San Diego and Imperial Counties. You can learn more about it on the Diocesan website. Perhaps your fraternity would want to consider planting a tree as a fraternal effort. As we know, trees are an important part of the ecology cycle of life and our planting can stand as a symbol of our Franciscan spirit of universal kinship. The Diocese is sponsoring a tree planting workshop on September 11. If you wish to come to San Diego, you can register for it online.

Secondly, let us consider organizing our fraternities to....

WALK FOR WATER

Each fraternity can consider organizing this in any way that works best for your group. For example, you may want to plan a walk in a local park, or forest, or just around the block at one of your gatherings. Between now and the appointed day, each Franciscan can ask every friend and relative they encounter for one dollar to donate to the Franciscan water project. If each of us collects \$20 we can send thousands to the fund. The fund uses the money to support the digging of wells in areas of the world that do not have potable water. Please make your donations to:

National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order

and send to
Claudia Kauzlarich OFS
2007 Maverick Trail
Harrisonville, MO 64701

For each of these projects we can unite with other fraternities in our area or just work as a solo fraternity. We will be with each other in Spirit.

I would appreciate your updating me on your efforts. We all know that we begin all that we do in prayer, and I offer you the prayer of Pope Francis from Laudato Si.

Peace and All Good,

Patricia Grace, OFS
JPIC Animator, St. Francis Region

A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH

All powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and
forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light

We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love, and peace.

Pope Francis,
Laudato Si'

