

Introduction

(Miscellaneous Introduction)

As we all listened to Mary beautifully give witness, to our sacred & shared responsibility to “take care of our common home”, the words of St. Francis’, *Canticle of Brother Sun*, kept running through my mind. It occurred to me, that those words of St. Francis, written some 800 years ago, are still speaking to us today through Laudato Si. I pray we all respond creatively and boldly in all we do to the prophetic voices of St. Francis and Pope Francis. Inspiration will come as we look into the eyes of our children and grandchildren.....

Before I continue, I wanted to share something personal...

[As I heard Mary’s words “All of creation is bowing down to bless us”I couldn’t help but think of the children I worked with on the East Side of Detroit.....where they live, they are not blessed with all of God’s creation. They are surrounded by lots of cement, very little green space, unclean air, conditional access to clean water, etc..... and we know the list goes on... knowing that children’s brain development is directly affected by continued exposure to limited color, one of the first things the Capuchin’s Children’s Program did was to plant gardens. Now when the children come to programming there, they are embraced by color... this is just one of the ways in which these children are given what most of us take for granted]

We all know St. Francis & St. Clare were deeply rooted in scripture.

The manner in which they brought both Gospel values and the Spirit of the Beatitudes to life, invite each of us; JUST like our Blessed Mother Mary, to say “Yes” and then to reach out in service to our “Sister, Mother Earth” and to ALL our brothers and sisters. We are called by our Profession to reach out in service as a Fraternity through Fraternity Apostolates just as we are called to reach out in our own personal ways in all that we do.

Today, I invite all of us to think about Service to ALL our brothers and sisters through the lens of today’s Gospel reading, Sacred Scripture and Article 7 of our Rule as we all go from Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel both in Fraternity Apostolates and out.....