

# FRATERNAL ECOLOGY



**HOLY NAME PROVINCE 2017 - 2020**

## **What is Fraternal Ecology?**

It is a process of revitalizing the life and ministry of the friars of our province. Through study, evaluation and dialogue it is our desire to determine the number of Fraternities in Mission we can best sustain going forward. Inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical letter **Laudato Si**, in which he urges an integral ecology that responds to "the cry of the earth" (natural ecology) and to "the cry of the poor" (human ecology) we friars recognize our responsibility to be attentive to the welfare of our brother friars (fraternal ecology). We know we must realistically plan for the future in light of our diminishing numbers and the ever-increasing challenges of our ministries. We hope to right-size our commitments, to reorganize and reimagine them, that we might reestablish Fraternities in Mission that assure a quality of fraternal life for the brothers and thus empower them to better serve the Church.

## **When did it begin?**

In June 2017 our Provincial Chapter mandated that by our next Chapter in 2020, the friars evaluate and make decisions concerning the quality and sustainability of our existing Fraternities in Mission. In December 2017 our Provincial Minister wrote to the friars, their Partners in Ministry and their local bishops to explain the process of Fraternal Ecology and the timetable it would involve.

## **What process followed?**

Between December and March 2018 each of our thirty Fraternities in Mission completed a thorough self-study and worked with our Fraternal Life in Mission Directorate in developing a resultant report. Between September 2018 and July 2019 visits were conducted by members of the Directorate to each of our Fraternities in Mission to allow the friars, their Partners in Ministry and their local bishops to discuss this report and share their particular concerns about the future.

## **Where are we now?**

These reports were shared with all the friars of the province in July 2019 and their responses solicited. In October 2019, based upon their two year study, the Directorate made recommendations to the Provincial and the Council concerning the Fraternities in Mission they believed ought be sustained after Chapter 2020.

## **What are the next steps?**

The Council continues to review and study these reports and recommendations and will discuss their findings with the Guardians and Pastors at their annual meeting in November 2019.

Given the wisdom gleaned over the previous 2½ years, the Provincial and the Council will prayerfully make their final decisions in December 2019. In January 2020 these decisions will be announced to the friars, their Partners in Ministry and all local bishops.