

Reflection

*Offered by Sr. Shirley Krull
November 8, 2015*

WE are gathered. I want to emphasize WE. This is the wonder of community in its growing expression, in its Beautiful variety, in its commonness and its differences, in its searchings and its stability.

And WE gather to listen and do ritual. We all have done this for many a year. We have done it with readings that have been listened to by so many cultures and peoples over thousands and hundreds of years. The scripture readings for over 1000 years. The reading of Francis for over hundreds of years by how many people?

WE do Eucharistic ritual that is done today throughout our world in such a wide variety of churches. WE come in gratitude and praise, and humility and readiness. Our desire is to be here. We take a breath and let ourselves be here.

We celebrate with new community members. We welcome them. We acknowledge our newness because of their being with us. Our new Covenant Companions have come home to be with us. They come home to themselves anew. They belong now to us and to their true self in a deeper way.

Let me say just a few sentences about each of them. There's David Pfeiffer. This is what one calls a gentle man. He brings a gentle Spirit, a bright intelligent spirit. He brings the home of his family to us. We recognize him because of his being with us at Sunday liturgies with daughters Amy and Rachel, who is away at University. He also brings with him wife Joanne.

Let me introduce Joanne Pfeiffer, another of our Covenant Companions. Joanne rejoices in the Franciscan charism and spirituality that has always been a part of her life, but now it is a part that she recognizes as Franciscan. Before this it was her natural expression now she knows that it's a Franciscan natural expression. We rejoice with her as she comes home to this Franciscan expression of herself.

Tom Ruggaber is a new Covenant Companion. Tom has, through our time of orientation, come more to the home of his soul and heart

that is one of contemplation and action. For him there is the depth that he now recognizes in his spirit of knowing and action, the spirit of the justice of God.

Dave, Joanne, and Tom are at home now with us. They can live from a new home a heart that is at home with the Franciscan spirit that we all know.

And in the words of Francis that we heard earlier, "How happy and blessed are these men and women when they do these things and persevere in doing them because the Spirit of God rests upon them and makes its home and dwelling place among them.

So WE are all at home with each other and WE rejoice!