



Dear Friends of Poverello House,

It is the day before Thanksgiving as I sit down before the computer to write this. Our friars in the Tucson diocese, about fourteen of us, will be gathering tomorrow at the home of friars Art & Dennis on the east side of Tucson. As Franciscans we have much to be thankful for. Poverello House is just one of many ministries we are involved in. We have a history of 100 years of ministry with the Tohono O'odham nation, including the well-known San Xavier Mission. Also two friars work on the marriage tribunal at the chancery.

Last Saturday, Richard Rohr, ofm, one of our most well-known Franciscans in the U. S., came to the Franciscan-inspired St. Francis Shelter, now run by Carl Zawatski, to speak about the future of the Church, and packed Sacred Heart Church with 400 people for the fundraising event. Richard's presence was especially significant as his health has not been the best, yet he made the drive to Tucson from Albuquerque with his assistant (and friendly dog "Opie") to be with us. The tape of his 50-minute talk will be available, so let me know if you'd like a copy. We give thanks to God for his prophetic creativity, that is welcomed each day by his daily reflections now sent to a half million, yes, a half million people. Soon, he'll be visiting with Pope Francis, to have a dialogue as part of the Vatican's effort to bring "synodality," a more grass roots effort at discernment of the Church's future.

As you may recall, our name comes from the Italian word, "Poverello," which was a term of endearment for St. Francis of Assisi as he wandered the Italian Umbrian lands eight centuries ago. The people around Assisi used the word for him as it means, "the little poor man." Pope Francis, now in his 9th year of service to the Church and the World, took the name "Francis" on purpose. After his election in 2013, he was told by another Cardinal, "don't forget the poor." And he hasn't, putting a focus on the world wide current situation of hundreds of thousands of migrants "on the move" around the world.

Our homeless guests at Poverello House are not migrants, but they do live their lives "on the move" around the streets of Tucson. Poverello House is that one day a week refuge—like the field hospitals that Pope Francis would like the church to be—providing a welcoming and safe haven for the suffering people of the world, which includes our weekly 50-60 homeless guests.

This Advent, please consider a donation to Poverello House to support our ministry. Thank you!

Yours in Christ and Francis,



Br. David Buer, ofm