**General Commission Communal Reflection No. 2**



**Mutuality and Communal Relationships**

**Introduction**: Today we are invited to reflect and express

our feelings on the theme of “mutuality and fraternal/

communal relationships.” Every relationship begins with

welcoming and adopting an impression of the other, a going out of self and reciprocity. The dialogue and building of relationships of communion will only be possible if we return to the Gospel. Clinging to the person of Jesus Christ is fundamental in nourishing our fraternal/communal relationships. Let us take this opportunity to ponder our readings, seek for inspiration and nourish ourselves in our encounter with one another.

**Mantra:** Ubi Caritas (or other appropriate song)

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.

**Scripture Reading:** Phil. 2:1-5

If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing.Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves,each looking out not for their own interests, but everyone for those of others. Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus.

**Quiet Reflection**

**Reading 2: Pope Francis - The Joy of the Gospel, no. 92**

…never tiring of our decision to live in fraternity…*in this* we find true healing, since the way to relate to others which truly heals instead of debilitating us, is a mystical fraternity, a contemplative fraternity. It is a fraternal love capable of seeing the sacred grandeur of our neighbor, of finding God in every human being, of tolerating the nuisances of life in common by clinging to the love of God, of opening the heart to divine love and seeking the happiness of others just as their heavenly Father does. Here and now, especially where we are a “little flock” (Lk. 12:32), the Lord’s disciples are called to live as a community which is the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Mt 5:13-16). We are called to bear witness to a constantly new way of living together in fidelity to the Gospel. Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of community!

**Quiet Reflection**

**Reading 3: adapted from Franciscan Sources**

Francis and Clare made fraternity a central point of their spirituality. The first companions loved each other with great love and each served their sisters and brothers as a mother loves and nourishes her child. Blessed is the servant who loves and respects all people as sisters and brothers when they are far away or close, and says nothing in secret that they cannot say with charity in front of them. It was a continual discovery of God’s kindness in the life of the brothers and sisters. The joy of Francis and Clare was to welcome such a variety of gifts in all the brothers and sisters.

**Quiet Reflection (10 minutes)**



What message do these readings have for me, for us today?

Personally and communally, what is emerging within?

How can I/we be companions on this journey?

**Personal Notes:**

**Group Sharing:**

**Closing Prayer:** For what do we want to pray … (voice your intentions)

**Blessing of St. Francis:** (Read Together)

May God bless you!

Fill your feet with dances and your arms with strength!

Fill your hearts with tenderness and your eyes with joy!

Fill your ears with music and your nose with perfumes!

Fill your mouth with joy and your soul with pleasure!

May God grant you always the gifts of the desert: silence, pure water and trust!

May God incessantly flood you with new energy so that your face is filled with hope! May God bless you!