



Good and blessed day to you!

I have been thinking about what it means to live in community. Father Richard Rohr, a Franciscan Friar, has written:

“Living in community means living in such a way that others can access me and influence my life and that I can get ‘out of myself’ and serve the lives of others. Community is a world where brotherliness and sisterliness are possible. By community, I don’t mean primarily a special kind of structure, but a network of relationships. On the whole, we live in a society that’s built not on community and cooperation but on individuality, greed, and competition—often resulting in oppressive economic systems, unnecessary suffering, and environmental devastation.”

He is right in saying that community is a network of relationships. Our Western way of life is often based on radical individualism. As the song goes, we love to say that “I did it my way.” We celebrate individual achievements and advancement.

Nothing is wrong with that. On the other hand, our life is more than climbing up the ladder of success or achieving great things for our individual selves. It is more about how we use our lives to build loving relationships...and expand them.

To me, that was the vision of Jesus when he came to preach good news to the poor, recovery of sight to the blind, release the captives free, and proclaim the year of the Lord (Jubilee). In the midst of the culture of individuality, greed and competition in our society today, those of us who follow the way of Christ can and need to offer an alternative – creating God’s beloved community.

In my own relationships with my family, my extended church family, my co-workers, and my community in Morristown, I am seeking to build and strengthen a greater sense of community, which says that “you belong to me and I belong to you as we belong to God together.”

This coming Sunday is Mother’s Day and the Festival of the Christian Home Sunday. We will honor all the mothers, so please come and bring your mothers. I will preach on “Jesus’ Family Values” based on Mark 3:31-35 and Ephesians 6:1-3.

Looking ahead. . . Please remember to come to church on Sunday, May 27th. We will have a joint worship service with members/friends of our Nueva Esperanza Ministry to celebrate its 2nd Anniversary and special Youth Confirmation (15-17 youth). If you can, please bring your favorite salad and/or dessert.

In God’s Peace and Grace,

Pastor Brandon