

During the week of Jan 24-28, 2022, the Mountain friars along with Mike Fenn met with friars from across the US in person and via zoom and also friars in Ireland, Rome and Costa Rica as well as one lay woman who is a founding member of the Assisi Community in Washington, DC.

The focus of our discussions was on revitalizing Franciscan Life by listening to each other's experiences of living in "new" or "inserted" communities and the document *Ite Nuntiate*.

This document was put out by the Franciscan Order a few years ago and invites friars to "Go out and Announce" the Good News through new living situations and new ministries. The document encourages us to renew and revitalize our fraternal life through eight points. These points are:

- 1) *The primacy of prayer and of active listening to the Word.*
- 2) *The promotion of deep, authentic fraternal relations that will give clear witness to life in brotherhood.*
- 3) *A lifestyle characterized by moderation and simplicity, minority and witness.*
- 4) *Welcome people and sharing of life with them - above all with the poor.*
- 5) *Ensuring that evangelizing mission retains characteristics such as: openness to mission 'inter gentes' (among people), itinerancy, being present in unknown, difficult and risky locations, being close to those who are poor, suffering, and excluded; having a pioneering approach to new forms of evangelization; being involved in inserted fraternities.*
- 6) *Being in communion with the local church.*
- 7) *Having a willingness to actively collaborate with laypeople and other members of the Franciscan Family.*
- 8) *A commitment to the transversal values of justice, peace and integrity of Creation; and to working for the social transformation of the structures in society and the reconciliation and healing of the social and natural world.*

We thought it would be good for you, the Trustees of the Mountain Way of Life to understand and draw inspiration from these eight points as we work on our strategic plan to renew Mountain Life.

Kevin, Joe, Lou and Dan