

My Father's House Retreat Center

Communities

"In my Father's house there are many mansions.

If not, I would have told you: because I go to

prepare a place for you." John 14:2

My Father's House in addition to being a Retreat Center, also offers various forms of communities. A community of Living in the Divine Will, a Charismatic community, a secular order Franciscan (SFO) community, and the SFO's Order of Eden community. These four communities have become Institutes at MFH. All are invited to be involved in the community lifestyles at My Father's House. For a more in-depth explanation of each, please click on the corresponding buttons.

My Father's House Communities orientation embraces the paradigms of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in their different expressions of the faith and of community lifestyle. From the beginning, MFH founders, Fr. Bill McCarthy, MSA and the late Sr. Bernadette Sheldon, SSJ, embraced and fostered a strong Charismatic lifestyle.

The Four Gospel approaches are examples of four different biblical approaches to the faith. They can also relate to four different types of community cooperatives.

Mark - A very Jewish orientation such as confraternities or solidarities. Mark's Gospel was very focused on the Jewish-Christian community and family lifestyle.

Matthew - Intentional communities of various faiths bonding together had a broader ecumenical orientation both Christian and non-Christian. Intentional Communities usually don't have many formal commitments like religious or secular orders. The Gospel of Matthew is Jewish-Christian but also very broad-minded with interest in non-Christian and ecumenical interest.

Luke & Acts - Charismatic communities were like the modern covenant communities; with an emphasis on praise, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, the Pentecostal gifts, tongues, healing, ecumenical and evangelization, as in Luke's Gospel & Acts.

John - Religious orders and religious communities are mostly for celibate men and woman, stemming from the early centuries. John's Gospel has more of a contemplative emphasis as a community, embracing a religious order, hermetical and monastic dimension in the Church. Secular Order communities are formal or approved ecclesiastical societies which also have a strong orientation with both John and Luke.

In Scripture and in the Tradition of the Church, building community is part of the process. "You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundations of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone" (Eph 2:19-20). Paul called all his fellow believers saints: (see Rom 12:13, 16:15; 1 Cor 16:1, 15; 2 Cor 1:1; Eph 1:1; Phil 1:1; 4:21-23; Phlm 5). (translations "saints" as "holy ones," has the same meaning.) The term "communion of saints" refers to the bond of the living and dead in Christ.

