

Poverty for Fr Paul



Poverty: Archbishop Hickey blesses Father Paul – accepting his vow of poverty.

Photo: Neil Smith

The East Fremantle-based Cross Roads Community celebrated the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi last Tuesday October 4 with community leader Father Paul Baczynski taking a new vow of poverty.

As an ordained priest, Fr Paul had already taken his vows of obedience and celibacy.

After last Tuesday's Mass he has renounced his stipend and vowed to live by the rules of Saint Francis who lived from 1182 to 1226.

Archbishop Barry Hickey celebrated the Mass.

Friends and supporters of Cross Roads and

members of the East Fremantle congregation attended the Mass at the East Fremantle church of the Immaculate Conception.

Fr Paul said the Mass marked the official spiritual character of the ongoing work of Cross Roads Community, an East Fremantle-based counselling and therapy centre.

By taking the vows, Fr Paul has pledged to live by the example of St Francis, but is excused from becoming a member of the Order which would have meant giving up the valuable work he does with Cross Roads.

- Neil Smith