

Franciscan Times

APRIL, A.D. 1984

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ and Francis,

Here are excerpts from Fellowship newsletters and other communications, all designed to bring us up to date on what has been going on in the Third Order, Society of St. Francis since last Advent.

Something new is the bulk mailing permit for Helena, Montana, which I finally obtained this very morning. I had a very hard time convincing the postal service that I should be able to get one. "How many people belong to this group?" "Maybe 500 copies is what I'll be sending." "How many live in Helena?" "Just me." Well, he couldn't understand how that could be possible. I finally convinced him that everything was on the up and up. And today I got the permit.

If there's someone out there who is better than I am at lettering (and one wouldn't have to be very good in order to be) maybe you'd like to design a heading for this newsletter. I bought a book of alphabets, but it's practice that I lack. My talent for lettering has always been marginal anyway. So send something if you're so inspired.

I suppose I should allow another 3 months or so before the next deadline. Can you imagine that it will be July in three months? (It's snowing today in Helena.) So the deadline will be near the end of June, ok?

Send whatever you have to share to me at 2020 Hauser Blvd., Helena, MT 59601.

*Peace, Love & joy -
Joanne Maynard*

THE NEW UMBRIAN FELLOWSHIP
(San Francisco, California)



Mary Ann Jackman is the one who sends out their newsletter. She reports that they had good November and December meetings, with Eucharist, discussion, and pot luck. They celebrated New Year's Eve at the Cathedral. The evening featured an organ recital, Eucharist, and reception. Kenneth Wilkes, aspirant to the Third Order, has completed a screenplay for a full-length animated feature film based on "Troubadour of the Great King," the best-selling record album by John Michael Talbot (who is a R.C. Secular Franciscan). It's a fable about St. Francis.

They held a retreat March 9 - 11 at the Bishop's Ranch. Meditations were shared by Gary Ost, Kay Salinaro and Peter Nelson. Chris Dettner put the whole thing together.

FRANCISCAN NOTE CARDS

The Third Order's Western Convocation will be held July 27, 28, 29 at El Rancho del Obispo. In order to provide some scholarship aid to some brothers and sisters, the New Umbrian Fellowship is selling Franciscan Note Cards. Three styles: St. Francis dancing, on a beige background; and "To the prayers of the saints I commend you...." or "The Lord bless you and keep you..." in informal calligraphy on red. 10 cards for \$5.

Orders to: Mary Ann Jackman, TSF, 1632 Great Highway, San Francisco, CA 94122.

OREGON

Charlanne Van Beveren, N/TSF writes: "...We've moved to the coast. My husband has two mission churches now. Keeps him busy. We love it though and the folks are wonderful. Couldn't ask for kinder, more in tune folks. God's Blessings. She also sent a poem to share:

TO MY FRANCISCAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Light dawns as it binds us
ever closer
it unites us
in the womb
eternal Being
Light from Light
eternal seeing
Calling forth
Heaven's Message
Out of chaos
Gentle passage
Coming forth
joining forces
Sons of Light
erase the darkness
Circling round
the golden binding
never ending
always finding
God --

In Christ

Charlanne N/TSF

PLIGHT OF THE ISOLATED

I wonder, sitting here reading the latest Franciscan Times, how many Fellowships large and small, realize or remember what it is to be isolated; To be one of the "hermits" just as nameless and faceless to you as you are to us.

It's hard out here in the "desert" -- hard to keep life and limb together. Hard to keep the world in perspective. Harder still to keep your rule and your smile at the same time.

It's been 10 years since I was part of the San Francisco Fellowship. 8 years since my last Tertiary meeting. It's a 1½ hour minimum drive, one way, over dangerous roads to the nearest church service on Sundays. Consequently it's been 5 years since I have attended Mass on any regular basis.

I receive the Fellowship news from San Francisco and other Franciscan publications every month. Franciscan Times every three. Perhaps a card or two at Christmas: these cut through some of the barrier. But there are days and weeks when the only contact with you is through thought and prayer for a name. Not a face or a life familiar. Just a name whispered in hope that the stars aren't deaf.

There hangs on my workroom wall a card reading "Lift up the stone, there shalt thou find me; cleave the wood and I am there." It is most times my only hope; probably the only hope of us all.

I remain

Your sister in Christ,
Mary Moberg

Although Lent may be over before you read this, I'll include this bit from Mary Ann Jackman's newsletter:

the O.T. reading, from Isaiah 58, which I offer now for your careful and joyous meditation:

This, rather is the fasting that I wish:

release those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; Setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; Sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn and your wound shall be quickly healed; your vindication shall go before you and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

One of the things about our lives, in this Franciscan family, is that it is always Lent. We are always making an attempt to go to the desert to pray and to learn, and to live the fast that the reading from Isaiah calls for. Our perpetual Lent is interspersed with many Easter events, and unlike the official Lent, there are many Alleluias. Because Lent, either that of the Church or our own, is a time for which to praise God all the more, for the desert, the path, the vision, the essence of all that IS in the Journey. May your path, which leads also to the cross, be rich with joy.



THE LILLIES OF THE FIELD

Down in Colorado (or up, or over, depending on your location) Dearlie Moline is the newsletter person. She is Convenor until October of this year. They didn't have a meeting in December, but got together in January for lunch, a reading of the Angelus, and a study on Meditation and Contemplation. They are hoping to sponsor a Quiet Day or two, or even a retreat. In February they continued their study, and in March they met on the Feast of St. Joseph.

MONTANA

Joanne Maynard led a Quiet Evening at St. Peter's Cathedral, Helena on Ash Wednesday and a Quiet Day at St. Matthew's Church, Columbia Falls on April 14. The subject of both was the First Epistle of John as a plan for one's life. (Comparing it to the directions I received for installing my new telephones, believe it or not!)

MILWAUKEE FELLOWSHIP

The Milwaukee Fellowship met at St. Timothy's Rectory in January. We were pleased that Pat Drake, who was in town from Minnetonka, MN, visiting family could join us for the Eucharist. Our study that day was a discussion of Love from "The Way of St. Francis."

On February 18, Stephen and Sally Waller made a trip to St. Peter's in Chicago for a Quiet Day conducted by Br. John George. After it we brought him to Milwaukee where he preached at St. Timothy's and talked to everyone during the education hour on February 19. He was well received by everyone. The Fellowship was invited to the Rectory for lunch with Brother John, and those who could attend benefitted from his visit and enjoyed getting to know him.

Our March meeting was held at Ken Castello's home in Menominee Falls. The study that day was a discussion of Poverty from "The Way of Francis." Our next meeting will be hosted by the Halls at Nashotah House in June

--Sally D. Waller, Milwaukee

Hawaii Trip, by Pat Mahon

Last June Larry had a convention scheduled for the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. Larry is an amateur astronomer. Since the gathering was in Hawaii we decided that it would be wasteful to spend the air fare and only stay a week. How is that for rationalizing? So we went a week early and played the tourist.

First stop was Waikiki for three days. Sunday morning Barbara Hunt picked us up at our hotel and took us to the Cathedral. It is a stately old building of imported stone and fabulous stained glass. We recieved seed leis, given to all visitors. After church we met Edean Iwanaga and Dorothy Nakatsuji for lunch and had a delightful visit. Edean took us back to the hotel.

Next we went to Maui for three days, but there are no tertiaries on Maui. On to Kauai for three days. There we visited Bob and Ramona Walden at Kapaa. Bob is rector of All Saints' Church there. I noticed a vase full of lovely roses and they told me that was for their anniversary. Bob said three years ago he took his bride from smoggy L.A. and brought her to paradise. Ramona answered "Yes and now all I have to worry about is bofo toads jumping on my feet if I go out in the yard at night and gekos pottying on the walls." Even Paradise has its drawbacks. We went to church there before going to the airport and you never met friendlier people.

Then on to the big island of Hawaii for the convention. The first full day of the convention we visited Mauna Kea Observatories at 40,000 feet altitude. That's above 40% of the earth's atmosphere. I was dizzy, but so was everyone else, some much worse than I. John Filler, a priest in Kapaau met us at our hotel. His visit was mainly spent ministering to us. We had just learned by a call from L.A. that Larry's younger brother had been killed. It wasn't until the day before we left, while we were at the University of Hawaii, in Honolulu, for the last of the convention, when we called Larry's mother to find out when the funeral would be, that we learned that Neill had been murdered while on a business trip in Dallas, Texas.

We went straight to L.A. for the funeral. A sad ending for a beautiful trip. Just after Thanksgiving Larry's parents moved up here and bought a house ten blocks from us so we can look after them.

Perhaps this is a good time to inform my friends to whom I had mentioned my groin pain, it is apparently not a hernia, as had been suspected. It seems to be a pulled tendon. The doctor says the quickest cure for such an injury there is three weeks in a body cast and since that is totally impractical, the only alternative is many months of slow recovery. It has been bothering me since June and the only thing we can think might have caused it was when I got a terrible cramp while snorkeling in Hawaii. I had to swim to shore useing one leg and my arms. That was an expensive swim. I also got my hearing aides wet before remembering to remove them and they wouldn't work at all for a week. Then it cost \$85. to get one repaired. It was worth it though. I never saw such gorgious fish.

MINNESOTA FELLOWSHIP

LOIS KEEN is the newsletter person for this group. In December, they met at Messiah Church for a bag supper and discussion of "Peter Letter #3" on spiritual direction. They are working on lists of worthwhile reading, and books they are willing to share. They have designed a "Communication Tree" so that members can all be contacted in a short time. No meeting in January. In February, Kathy Staggs led a study on Japanese saints. Milan Schmidt was professed and Kathy Staggs was noviced in December. Ann Walton was professed on December 22 at the Oratory of St. Mary in Afton. In March, they met to discuss "Peter Letter #5" on personal prayer. Their 1984 group retreat will be June 1-3 at the Mount Olivet Retreat Center in Farmington. In March, they discussed "Four Qualities to Bring to your Spiritual Life." Ruth Harrington will be noviced in April.

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NEW PORTLAND FELLOWSHIP

by Pat Mahon



On February 11 most of the tertiaries in the Portland area met at my house for lunch and our first fellowship meeting. Besides myself and Larry, the only long suffering spouse present, we had Tom and Sue Pierson, novices, from across the Columbia in Vancouver, Washington; Jenny Steward, a postulant and The Rev. Lindsey Warren, an aspirant. Unfortunately Elizabeth Perine was out of the state. April 14 we are having a light pot luck lunch and inviting anyone in Oregon and Southern Washington to come and learn about us. I have sent a notice about it to the Oregon Churchman and Sue is sending one to the Olympian. So far the new fellowship is without a name.

The Voice of the Turtle~



THE CHI-RHO FELLOWSHIP, Chicago Area.

Their January meeting was held at the Church of the Holy Family, beginning with Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. The Mahans provided the program for meditation and discussion. Sack lunches and discussion were also on the menu. Their Quiet Day was on February, with Brother John George leading the meditations. Claire Mahan noted that members had better lay in a good supply of brpwn bags for future lunches. 29 attended the Quiet Day. At the Eucharist on that day, Hattie

Cockshoot was professed and Dutton Morehouse and Joan Weber renewed their novice vows. In March, they met at St. Barnabas Church in Glen Ellyn, with Judy Schmidt leading a discussion and meditation on "Community."

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LEXINGTON FELLOWSHIP

They met in February at the Church of St. Michael the Archangel in Lexington. At their November meeting, they welcomed Maurice McCormick of Louisville, a new postulant. At the November meeting, Terry served a wonderful breakfast at her new home. A.C. Hougham, who is also the newsletter reporter, led Morning Prayer that day. It was noted that Fr. Jack Stapleton has moved to Newark, Delaware.

PEG SHULL writes (in part) After all these years of thought, prayer, study, prayer, occasional fasting and sleepless nights -- and prayer, I talked with the kind and sympathetic Bishop of Northwest Texas yesterday (Feb. 7, 1984) and told him I am convinced I do not have a vocation to Holy Orders.

Why...did I go and do that?

Mainly, because I had wise spiritual directors ...both of whom say, "If in good conscience you can do anything else BUT be ordained, then go and do it." And I find.....that I am a writer....

For the next 18 months, I am under contract to St. Paul's Church on the Plains to manage its Church School program and organize the city-wide EYC, and to the Diocese of Northwest Texas to be its Campus Minister at Texas Tech University here in Lubbock.Rejoice with me. I don't know when I've felt so peaceful. And at the end of my contract, God willing, I intend to return to Kentucky: home.

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NEW YORK CITY FELLOWSHIP

Terry Rogers reports that the Fellowship welcomed Adrian Dumont as a postulant in January. Carolyn Denny was noviced in February and Tom Momberg renewed his vows. In December and January respectively, Barbara Henry and Alden Whitney were ordained to the priesthood. Barbara works in a parish in Washington and Alden in Connecticut. Adrian presented a program on Simplicity and Community in March. In April, a meeting at General Theological Seminary is planned, with Eric Menees, Tom Momberg, and Brother Donald Sullivan presenting a program on Living the Franciscan Life at the Seminary. May 18 - 20 are the dates for the Third Order Retreat at Little Portion. Terry wrote: "If you haven't seen Little Portion in the beauty of springtime you haven't lived."

Lord:



*make me an instrument
of Thy peace.*

ARIZONA FELLOWSHIP

Here is Marie Webner's description of a special day: "Break Forth into Joy, O My Soul" was lustily sung at 4 p.m. on December 3, 1983, by Franciscan Third Order members at the conclusion of their Advent Quiet Day, held at St. Michael's Church in Coolidge, Arizona. The song was a spontaneous demonstration of affection and approval for Father Donald Dunn, who had finally completed his rule of life and a letter requesting postulancy in the Third Order. When he presented his finished work to Marie Webner, she genuflected speech-

lessly and other tertiaries burst into song. The holy angels smiled and St. Francis laughed.

The Fellowship held their Lenten retreat in March. The highlight of the weekend was Fr. Paul's profession. The retreat was held at Picture Rocks Retreat in Tucson. Fr. Paul guided the study of the Psalms.

Marie, Jim Cain, and Fr. Donald Dunn have been talking and dreaming about a live-in community for tertiaries, either several small home on common land, or several apartments in a complex. Marie writes: "Well, it won't happen tomorrow....But the beginning of God's will is often a dream. To dream and to pray constitute a plan..."

The Southwest Regional Convocation will be held at the Dominican Retreat House in Albuquerque, New Mexico from June 17 to 18. The theme will be "PEACE: In the World and in the Heart." A quiet time will be led by Sister Pamela Clare. Representatives from Tulsa and Dallas are expected this year, plus tertiaries from Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona.

THE HANDBOOK FOR CONVENERs has been sent to all conveners and contact persons. Marie Webner has a small supply left, in case you didn't get your copy.

SANDY SHORTZ PROFESSED

In a letter to Fr. Goode, Sandy tells about her Profession:

"...as per my conversation w/Amory and your letter from me, I took my papers to Assisi for 3rd Order Profession.

I became good friends and spent much time w/ a lovely priest, Fr. Max. He is RC Conventual, yet very ecumenical minded.

...Fr. Max planned a special ceremony at the tomb of St. Francis and the spirit was really alive. I read one lesson actually standing close enough to touch the tomb. An incredibly moving time.

I spent 3½ weeks in Assisi, visiting daily some of the places special to Francis and Clare. The day before my profession, the priest took me to a cloistered Order nearby to pray with the sisters. A very unique 3 weeks.

There was an American couple (RC) who were tertiaries so I had some community -- also became friends w/ an American Franciscan priest."

--Sandy Shortz

THERE IS A SPIRIT CRYING

There is a spirit crying in the depths of me;
A ruby bird trailing hurt wings
Through the grey dust that gathers deep in me.
Dust which smothers with an awful, quiet certainty.
Storms rage within, then still;
And all is grey again.
Just one red bird fluttering,
Only a voice crying in the wilderness,
A flaming tongue singing its song
Through the storms' din or the dead emptiness.

--Nina Andrews

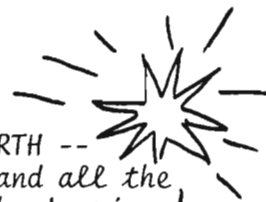
(This poem was sent to Carole Watson by Nina. It was published in New Start, Dec. 1942.)

THE SONG OF THE DAWN by Eloi Leclerc translated by Paul Schwartz Paper \$4.95 (0662-X)

The CANTICLE OF THE SUN is a song about light. This delightful work is a reflective statement about the CANTICLE and what it means. The world's all too scientific mind often refuses to speak of Brother Sun or Sister Water; the concept of cosmic fraternity is one that is shared with the reader. The author's bright warm style enlivens the work of St. Francis of Assisi and renews its definition and relevance to today's world.

AVAILABLE FROM

A GREETING:



Dear Helen: PEACE ON EARTH --
With best wishes to you and all the Third Order members in the American Province for a blessed and joyful Christmas, from all the Tertiaries in the Pacific Province.

Alan Samaras
SSP

Laraine Hinds

Joy Capron



CONVENER OR CONVENOR?

Our statutes use convener throughout. ER. not OR. The question remains one that is discussed in small bodies and large -- and even in Third Order Chapter. I hope the following spellings from four different dictionaries will suffice to convince the skeptical:
From Webster's Third Unabridged (1976)
convener, convenor (listed in order of preference)
from Webster's New Collegiate (1974)
convener (only form given)
from Random House (1982)
convener (only form given)
from Collins (London & Glasgow, 1979)
convener or convenor (listed in order of preference)

You can see that even the unbending English are spelling convener with an ER.

--MLW

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PRAYER FOR ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

Most holy and tender God, because your desire to love me and form your likeness in me exceeds every other circumstance of life, I turn to you asking that, as St. George in helplessness and by your power slew the dragon, so in me:

—slay the dragon of selfishness, so that freed of its fear, I might provide for the needs, even wants, of others.

—slay the dragon of fear, so that freed of its defensiveness, I might become more open and vulnerable to others close to me, trusting in your protection.

—slay the dragon of doubt, so that freed from its ambivalence, I might trust and act upon your word regardless of apparent consequences.

As I listen daily to your Word, listening for your word to me; as I offer my life at the altar, and receive the life of Christ in return, I wish to become a vessel of renewal, poured out on my family and my parish. Dear Lord, cleanse me, heal me, fill me, use me, so that I may become simple, joyous, giving — a witness to your generous Love.

AMEN

(This prayer was written by the late Bill Carr for his parish.) (see pg. 11)



THREE OF THE FOUR NEW ASSISTANT FORMATION DIRECTORS:
GRETCHEN GOOD-PANKRATZ, TERRY ROGERS, MARY ANN JACKMAN

FROM TORONTO

I have intended to write news from our Toronto Fellowship several times, but just procrastinated. I am writing news now from October 3, 1983 when we had our renewal service at St. James Cathedral, Toronto at their noon-day Eucharist. Then we all went to Fisherman's Wharf for a fish luncheon; about 15 of us.

Then November 3rd we had our monthly meeting in the Church of the Apostles, Toronto, where Brother Ewan MacPerson is Priest-in-charge. We had Brother Robert Hugh visiting us and he and I accepted the vow of Brother Ewan MacPherson. (I did as the only professed Tertiary present.) Brother Robert Hugh received the Renewal of an English Tertiary who was living in Niagara Falls, Ontario visiting he sister. She came to Toronto and I met her at the bus terminal and brought her to my apartment and then we went to the Church of the Apostles. After the service we had a pot luck supper and after supper, Brother Robert gave a most interesting talk on his life before and after he entered the Franciscan First Order.

In December, we had our Fellowship meeting and a Christmas social with Christmas crackers and coffee and tea and biscuits. We had a delightful time. We also had a speaker, Fr. Don Hutchinson.

On Saturday, Jan. 14th, we had a quiet afternoon in the Church of the Apostles from 3 until 5 p.m. Then a business meeting, and Eucharist. Brother Justus from Long Island was with us and gave us a talk, after our pot luck supper, on Spirituality and Franciscans. We also had a novicing and Warren's novice vows were received.

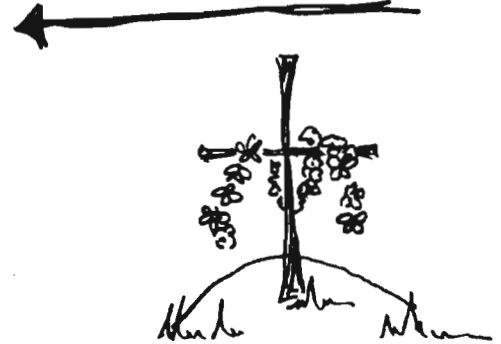
We have had a speaker at all of our meetings, which we enjoy immensely. We now have 4 Professed and 5 Novices and 4 or 5 Postulants, so we are steadily growing and hope someday to be a Province of our own, if we can get about 100 in Canada. We now have about 40.

--Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mary Downham, TSF



CHAPLAIN ROBERT GOODE
PRESENTS OMNIBUS OF FRANCISCAN
SOURCES TO RETIRING SECRETARY
HELEN WEBB AS GUARDIAN
DEE DOBSON LOOKS ON.



FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA

Here is some news that is a little late. (Part should probably have been in the last issue of the Franciscan Times) -- Better late than never!

Let's start at Francistide, 1983 when for the first time a number of us that hadn't met each other got together for fellowship at St. James, Vancouver. Ella Marie Mora and her husband Dale Hawkins from the Seattle Fellowship joined us and also Brother Warren, formerly of the Seattle Fellowship. (He just happened to be in Vancouver at that very time.)

At St. James, about 5 years ago, a Franciscan-minded group of people started meeting together for study and prayer. They called themselves the Companions of St. Francis. Eventually, they heard about the Anglican Franciscan Orders in North America. Contacts were made to Muriel Adey and myself. Last October the group formalized itself and invited the Vancouver Island Fellowship and the Seattle Fellowship to share in the celebrations. Leonardo Defillipis came on one of the days and presented "The Gifts of Love" -- the first six chapters of the Gospel of St. Luke. My heart is still warmed by the memories of this occasion and the joy and love shared by the "Companions." Two of the "Companions" have started trying their vocations with the Third Order.

In November, James Spencer from the Island Branch made his novice vows at All Saints, View Royal (close to Victoria). Muiel Adey officiated. Many of the "Companions" from St. James came over for the service and we enjoyed a luncheon before going our separate ways; The "Companions" on a 1½ hour ferry ride, plus about the same time driving by car, and myself a four hour drive north.

James Spencer has now joined the Vancouver Fellowship. He moved over in December.

Now, Jan. 22 we all got together again when Robert White made his novice vows at St. James, following a quiet day led by Bishop Hill, an old friend of Robert's. We were thrilled that Ella Marie and Dale were able to share time with us again. Brother Savio, a Roman Franciscan also joined us for the service. My husband and I came over from Black Creek to join the atmosphere of joy, peace, and love that has blessed our times together.

--Dorothy Couture, Fellowship Convener, British Columbia

A LETTER TO THE "TIMES"

How perfectly delightful to read in the Advent FRANCISCAN TIMES...that Sr. Marjory Reeson TSF has discovered that the word "cats" does appear in the Bible after all! I am happy to stand corrected. I looked up her reference (Baruch 6) in GOOD NEWS, but in that version Baruch has only five chapters. So I looked in JERUSALEM -- I keep both versions beside my chair, for use in reading my office, together with the Book of Common Prayer (of course) and the ANGLICAN BREVIARY (for hymns, legends, etc.) and, in that version, chapter 6 consists of "the Letter of Jeremiah" -- and lo, in vs 21, it does say "and cats prowl there."

My trouble was -- and I should have known -- that the edition of Cruden's Concordance that I use does not deal with the Deuterocanonicals/Apocrypha; so no wonder it does not list the word "cats."

Beholding her picture, I must agree that Guapa is a brave and handsome one. One can tell that just by looking; and I'm sure that she is a splendid Franciscan as well. My best thanks to Guapa's owner and protector for straightening me out as she did....

Faithfully yours,



The Rev. Wilber B. Dexter
St. Paul's Church, Mishawaka, Indiana

CONVERSATIONS IN UMBRIA by Alberic Dubois translated by Maggi Despot and Paul LaChance O.F.M. Cloth \$7.95 (0784-7)
This book is the result of the author's pilgrimages to Franciscan Italy in the company of young French Catholics. In format a series of informal, serious discussions dealing with events and places in the life of Saint Francis, the book gives one the opportunity to return in spirit to Assisi. It is an invitation to rediscover and deepen what has been lived. Franciscan scholar Raphael Brown states that *Conversations in Umbria* is one of the best works ever written on the subject.

from:

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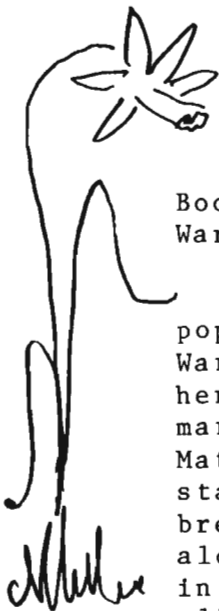


BOOK REVIEW by Pat Mahon
"A Book of Songs" by Merritt Linn

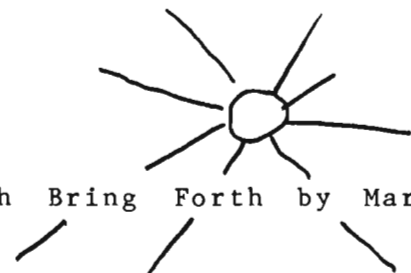
FORMATION DIRECTORS GLEN-ANN JICHA
AND ALDEN WHITNEY

Despite the title this award winning book is a novel, not poetry. While it is about the horror of a concentration camp, it never mentions a location or a date. Merritt's purpose is to present an allegory of the peril all people can face in a world where oppression is an everyday possibility. The narrator learns to survive but faces a peril when a speechless little boy shows up playing a violin and begging for his meager food. The food is essential for his survival but he cannot resist the boy. The developing story holds a message for a world in peril. A Book of Songs is by St. Martin's Press at \$13.95 in hard back. It is also available in paperback by New American Library for \$6.95. It is also available in the Third Order library.





Book Report, by Pat Mahon Let the Earth Bring Forth by Mary Warren



Mary Warren is the author of 16 previous books, and a popular writing instructor in Oregon. Her husband is Fr. Lindsey Warren, currently working at becoming a tertiary. The cover of her new book says, "A moving story of faith regenerated and a marriage restored". She dedicates it "To Lindsey and to Bishop Matthew Bigliardi who so graciously welcomed us home." those two statements say a lot about the book. Mary writes about the breakup of her marriage and leaving the church, which led to along period of reevaluation of her life. She found new meaning in such things the seasons, the regeneration of the earth, and all of the small things of life, including having to patiently wait for the growth of the seeds in her garden to supply much needed groceries. In time Lindsey returned home to her and they both returned home to the church and the ministry. They are now active in the healing ministry. Let the Earth Bring Forth is a Chosen Book publication for \$7.95. It is also available from the Third Order library.

Dr. William Carr— Singing His Song to the End

Most Third Order Franciscans spend the better part of their lifetime incorporating the spirit of St. Francis into their lives. Dr. William Carr is an Episcopalian Third Order Franciscan who has spent the better part of the last three years incorporating that spirit into his death.

You see, in 1980 Dr. Carr, a 44-year-old psychologist who lives with his wife, Jeanne (also a lay Franciscan), and their three sons in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, was told by doctors that he has multiple myeloma—a cruelly virulent form of blood and bone cancer. They also told him that he had somewhere between 18 and 36 months to live.

"I experienced the utter poverty of that diagnosis," Dr. Carr said evenly at his home recently. "But I also came to an experience of God that was so powerful it made me realize I really had a song to sing and a reason for celebration out of something that was otherwise quite difficult. So, along with my wife, who is a nurse, we decided to sing our song to other people and celebrate life in a way we had never done before."

Actually, Bill and Jeanne Carr had begun their song about four years earlier in 1976 when, like St. Francis of Assisi, they "heard a call from God to rebuild an element of his Church." With the help and encouragement of a couple of Franciscan brothers, they went out and founded the Institute for Christian Heal-

ing. According to Dr. Carr, they were looking for a ministry that fit with their personalities and Christian commitment.

"I guess I've always been something of a troubadour and a romantic," Dr. Carr reflected with a smile. "And I suppose nothing fits the two of us better than that Franciscan idea of joy in living, celebrating life, seeing its lilt, its dance, and the power of love in transforming the world."

With the doctors' stark revelation of his illness, however, Dr. Carr decided to add a few more stanzas to the celebration song, a few more steps to the dance. And so he and Jeanne and several friends began to conduct workshops on death and dying that they recently culminated with a videotaped series called "Dying to Live." With the helpful collaboration of two Jesuit priests, Fathers Matthew and Dennis Linn, the series (published by Paulist Press) looks at the psychological and spiritual completeness of Christ's seven last words.

"We try to show how death is an integral part of life, and how every time we decide, or love, or give ourselves to someone or for someone, there is a death.

"Life is a very messy business that sometimes just doesn't work out. But there is a sanctifying value in death, a resurrection that Francis of Assisi illustrated very beautifully for us in his own

[Bill Carr died
Nov. 19, 1983]

life and death. He was mortally ill for the last three years of his life with what was also supposed to have been bone cancer and tuberculosis. But he was able to go on with the rich expectation that God would live through him, even though he was dying."

In the last three years, Bill and Jeanne will tell you, they have grown closer than ever and have found God in a much deeper way by embracing death.

"Jeanne has a great capacity for honesty," Bill once said, "and neither of us has tried to escape to a safe place in any of this. We don't know how God will preserve our union but we trust him. He's certainly put his stamp on it."

By the time you read this, Dr. William Carr—husband, father, psychologist, troubadour—may no longer be alive. But Jeanne and his three boys and all his Franciscan friends will continue to dance his dance, sing his lilting song and celebrate his memory, because life and love, for this gentle, soft-spoken man, can never really end.

—Dick Ryan

FROM THE MINISTER GENERAL'S OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Br. Geoffrey had been visiting Franciscan Houses in England and Ireland and Scotland. The Provincial Chapter brought him to the Hilfield Friary. He says, "Lots of people of all sorts and conditions continue to find their way there." The group at Hooke School were saddened by the death of Randall. He shared in the Sisters' Open Day at Compton Durville. In Plaistow, London, the Brothers are much involved in the local scene, but missing Br. Nicholas since his death.

In the new house at Halcrow street in Stepney, brothers and sisters are working together. He remarks, "They are certainly living simply, and in fact most of the fruit and vegetables are picked up from throw outs of the market!"

At Paddington are two houses, one being renovated for the Sisters, and one where the Brothers are settled in.

He visited the Clares at Freeland. Sister Mary Grace arrived from America (and has now transferred there, as Sister Jane Ellen.) and another Sister was visiting from Australia.

In Birmingham, the brothers were renovating and reorganizing their house, and the sisters were "still battling" to get their house completed.

Br. Geoffrey's visit to Glashampton was brief. David has just returned from an exciting trip to France, and was making a good recovery from recent heart trouble. He recently celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. The main life of Glashampton is prayer and there is a steady stream of guests who come to share in this life.

He stopped in at Newcastle-under-Lyme to have a time with the Sisters there.

The brothers living in Liverpool are doing a variety of ministries.

In Dublin, a small group of tertiaries is starting. Br. Roger Damian met Br. Geoffrey and acted as his host. "The brothers are wonderfully well accepted by the Church of Ireland, with whom we are rather heavily identified."

He motored to Edinburgh, and found at Pilton that the friary had been restored and the brothers working together well.

Then he went to Alnmouth -- a focus for the Church in the North-East, with a constant flow of guests to the friary, including many unemployed and on the road.

At Truro, there remained only two friars, but they have a very healthy Third Order and a large number of Companions and Friends.

Br. Geoffrey saw a great deal of the Third Order, had meeting with groups in eleven different locations, as well as the West Midlands Regional General Chapter. He asks, "May it not be that we should hope that an increasing number of the different ethnic groups in the U.K. will find their spiritual needs helped by the Third Order?"

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FRANCISCAN PUBLISHERS, PULASKI, WISCONSIN 54162 -- has a large selection of pamphlets, books, and booklets. Priced at just 95¢ are four booklets, "Saints for Summer," "...for Winter," etc. At just 50¢ are booklets on "Help Yourself to Good Habits," "Help Yourself Right Now," and "When you Get up in the Morning." Another book asks "Do You Really Love Yourself?" Another tells "How to Make Happiness a Habit." Write to them for a complete listing of their publications.

A THOUGHT

*You are young only once,
But you can stay immature
indefinitely.*

LAUGHTER

*Faith without laughter leads to dogmatism and
self-righteousness. Laughter without faith leads
to cynicism and despair.*

--Conrad Hyer

HOMILY PREACHED BY DEE DOBSON
the Sunday after Chapter

The Gospel today speaks of a prophetic ministry. It could be a summation of today's world -- and is certainly just as applicable to society and civilization as we know it.

How we treat one another is not only the determiner as to what kind of relationship develops, but also the consequence of our behavior. Consequences can be far reaching and even though a vocation of the Church is to be a prophet to the society in which it finds itself, we need to be aware that this is a dangerous pursuit. The issue being to speak to society; but in the final outcome, society has the say, THE CHOICE IS THEIRS. How our free will is used is the determiner, but even more of a determiner is the very fundamental role of faith in Christian life. Without faith, there is no Christian life. I can love our Lord and follow Him only as I know Him by faith. Simply put; faith involves His gift of knowing Him and knowing what He has said. The human response to the divine initiative. Faith is what gives us the confidence to go ahead, to learn about the reality of the world, as we strive to receive the promises of Christ. One must of necessity establish a way of life to include meditation, prayer, Bible reading and study as well as being an active Christian in the world.

As Christians, we must be responsible students whether we are participating in reflective reading (or if you prefer, meditative reading) or occasional reading (which, according to Pennington, is reading done to meet the need of the occasion).

Prayer is one of the simplest acts to perform because of its direct relationship to God. It can be complex because of our human tendency to make that which is simple and beautiful be complex. We humans can create a crisis within our prayer life because our minds are filled with ideas of God, but the vital ingredient, our heart, remains far from Him. The central, unifying organ of our personal life is our heart. Consequently, a prayer that is directed to God from the heart comes from the center of our personality and effects the totality of our humanness. Prayer should not limit our relationship with God, but should transform our being into Christ, because it can open the eyes of our soul to see the truth of ourselves, as well as to open ourselves to the truth of God.

Whether our prayer is vocal prayer or mental prayer is not important. What is important is to pray, to begin to look at the world through the eyes of Jesus. To practice the presence of God in our lives.

The only hope for peace in the world is God-inspired, loving, intelligent, activity. Without faith there is no Christianity, but prayer is the heart of Christianity. Those who stress activity in the Church frequently forget that the true relevance and strength is rooted in prayer.

The activity of the Church in the world should be God-directed, this direction shaped by prayer.

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BOOK REVIEW:

Writings on Spiritual Direction by Great Christian Masters, Edited by Jerome M. Neufelder and Mary C. Coelho. (pp 205, including bibliography and index. Seabury Press, New York \$11.95)

The current interest in and demand for spiritual direction is met in this volume, the cooperative effort of a Roman Catholic priest and an Episcopal laywoman, with an excellent pastoral and ascetical tool. Almost all the topics needed are covered, with selections from the classical writings of various schools, including many modern masters, and there is a good guide to reading on the subject. Those involved in this ministry will benefit from this book.

+ John-Charles SSF

BOOK REVIEW

The Prayers of Catherine of Siena
Suzanne Noffke O.P., ed. pp. 257
Paulist Press \$9.95

The astonishingly active and productive life of Catherine of Siena was rooted in and grew out of her prayer. This is the first complete collection in English of her prayers. It provides us with an insight into her converse with God and also gives us one model of authentic spirituality.

In an appendix textual notes indicate variant readings, etc. There is an index of biblical allusions in the prayers, a select bibliography, and an index to the excellent Introduction and the notes.

Catherine's prayers are shaped by the sound and practical theology which earned her the title, Doctor of the Church. For the most part, they were also a growth from her participation in the Church's liturgical prayer. The daily liturgy and its scriptural readings were often the jumping off place for her reflective and affective devotions. They thus indicate in a special way the important connection between public and private prayer.

Here there is no one way or method of praying, but a rich diversity which, from day to day, followed the dictum much later given by Dom John Chapman O.S.B.; "pray the way you can; not the way you can't."

+ John-Charles SSF



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