

Franciscan Times

Address for submissions:
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Praise be to Thee,
my Lord,
for all those who
forgive
for
Love
of
Thee

CHRISTMAS/EPIPHANY -- 1987/1988

THE FIRST news on the stack is from The Fellowship of the San Bernadine chapter of the Society of Saint Francis Third Order. They met on October 17 at the home of Sylvia Broadbent in Riverside, CA. There were ten people present.

Fr. Woodfield presided and election of officers was the first item on the agenda. Before the meeting began, the Eucharist was celebrated in honor of St. Ignatius. By mutual consent, Fr. Woodfield was again elected as the convenor and Ruth Floyd as recording secretary.

The Convenor announced that all reports had been sent in. Three of the professed members renewed their vows: Fr. Woodfield, Ruth Floyd, and Sylvia Broadbent. There was a brief study on All Saints' Day and Thanksgiving, and joy in the reality of the Spirit awakened by continuous giving and receiving.

The group also reported on interesting experiences, thanksgivings, and requests for prayer.

In the summer, the group met at the home of The Rev. and Donna Woodfield. Again a Eucharist preceded the meeting. Josh Eric Maneese, a professed member of the Fellowship, was recently ordained deacon and now has a parish in East Los Angeles --The Church of the Epiphany.

Doris Diener is the reporter for this Fellowship.

Also in California, the Santa Barbara Fellowship met in August to celebrate the Feast of St. Mary the Virgin. They met at noon for a sack lunch and discussed Franciscan Spirituality and Marian Devotion: How does a Protestant/Catholic Franciscan affirm the feminine dimension of God without resorting to Tridentine "Mariolatry"?

Yet another California Fellowship is the New Umbrian in San Francisco. Professed members met on September 4 at Kay Salinaro's in El Sobrante. They shared eucharist, prayers, concerns, and a sack supper. They also enjoyed listening to a taped excerpt of the Roman Catholic Franciscan Convocation attended by Mary Ann Jackman in San Diego.



On October 2, they met for renewal of vows, followed by a potluck. Guests and inquirers were invited. And on November 6, they held a family meeting, with a program on simplicity and what it means in a rule of life. Becky Goldberg is their new convenor. Sharolyn Welton was ordained to the diaconate on December 5. Sister Amanda made her first profession on December 28. They plan an open meeting for January 9, and are already making plans for next year's (1988) convocation, "Fun in the Sun with Francis."

Jerry Rogers Acts for Peace

In 1982, to celebrate the end of the 800th anniversary year of the birth of St. Francis, the West Coast Roman Catholic Franciscan brothers sponsored a Lenten Vigil at the Nevada site for underground nuclear testing. Attended by 200 people, this Lenten Desert Experience was the largest demonstration ever held at the test site. Since then, these Franciscans have had an active role in supporting ecumenically-sponsored legal witness and civil disobedience at the test site.

At 6:30 a.m. on the Feast of the Transfiguration, 1987, I was one of several hundred people who met at the Nevada Test Site to commemorate the bombing of Hiroshima. I was part of an ecumenical delegation from New York City that had travelled to Las Vegas together and, with others, taken part in non-violence training on August 5th.

The desert air was still cool as we arrived at the test site entrance - nothing for miles except sage brush, barbed wire, a huge NO TRESSPASSING sign, and the distant mountains. For an hour we lined the road in silent vigil as the cars and trucks of the test site employees passed on their way to work. Then we gathered in a field near the highway for a service of witness: poems and readings about Hiroshima, prayers for peace, and a procession to the gate to place flowers in a basket as a memorial to the victims of the bombing 42 years ago.

Next, with over a hundred people, I took part in nonviolent civil disobedience. In small groups we linked arms and walked to the gate, paused briefly to kneel on the line, and stepped across. There the county police arrested us for trespassing and led us to a waiting bus. We were driven to a small trailer, given a citation, and then released. Since March of 1987, all protestors at the test site have had charges dropped, as the county cannot afford to prosecute the numbers that continue to come.

For me, even with the small risk involved, it was not an action to take lightly. I knew with all my heart that I wanted to step across the line and say "no" with my body to nuclear testing. Yet I believe civil disobedience is a serious matter and I was deeply moved by the careful and prayerful preparation that went in to planning this action by the coordinators in Nevada. As I walked toward the gate, even in my nervousness I could tell I was floating on the prayers of many people. I remember most clearly the face of a Mennonite pastor standing at the side of the road who smiled at me as I went by and said, "The peace of God go with you."

I have been blessed by membership in a strong chapter of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship in my parish that supports its members diverse callings to act as peacemakers in our own environments and helps us discern when we may be called to special actions like this one. The Third order profession vow also helps sustain me in situations where my own heart is far from reconciliation! and the support of my Franciscan sisters and brothers has helped show me ways of peacemaking beyond my own experience, in many very blessed ways.

(For information about the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, write to EPF, 620 G St. S.E., Washington D.C., 20003. For information about further actions at the Test Site, write to Nevada Desert Experience, P.O. Box 4487, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89127).



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER

815 SECOND AVENUE/NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

The First Sunday of Advent 1987

Dear Friends in Christ:

I would like to share a part of my address which I gave for the Blandy Lectures at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas, last October.

"...Christian ministry is a ministry that is characterized by the spirituality of compassion. Spirituality, for me, is very difficult, if not impossible to define. I cannot define it - it is like a fragrance that comes from the depth of a personality but to define it - well that's impossible so don't expect it of me. But what maybe you might expect is a challenge - the challenge is that through the sharing of some clues/thoughts about what the spirituality of compassion means for me - you might attempt to define for yourself the spirituality that will strengthen you in your ministry.

MATTHEW 16:21-28 - What I sense the spirituality of Jesus to be - I call this the spirituality of compassion. I begin with the sharing of some clues about spirituality by saying that Jesus's life of servanthood - His life of a ministry in the Father's love - His offering of self - His sacrifice of self - the spirituality of compassion had as a major characteristic - had as a major force...a dynamic...a knowledge...wisdom of faithfulness and love. He knew of his own worth and dignity and personhood. He knew of the meaning of total acceptance - including the strengths and weaknesses of life.

And from this wisdom, followed acts of mercy - acts of compassion - what I want to hold up for you is that there was a consistency about his teachings and his activities:

He preached about love and He loved!

He preached about forgiveness and he forgave!

He said not to judge and he was open to all - Now don't misunderstand - I said he was opened to all persons but not to self-righteousness, or racism, or manipulations, or bitterness - but even as he faced those elements He in His openness - in His willingness to be encountered and to encounter he was calling forth the best in the person! For you see through these acts of compassion He was offering the possibility of wholeness.....".

Our spirituality must serve as the foundation from which we witness to the Gospel of Christ...the basis of our Christian lifestyle...the fulfillment of our Baptismal Covenant.

Edmond L. Browning
Presiding Bishop

(We thank the Presiding Bishop for his response to our request for a message that we could include in our Third Order newsletter.)

7 N E - T S F

7th annual Northeast Conference, Third Order, Society of St. Francis, Aug. 28-30, 1987.

A gentle, light rain was falling as 67 tertiaries gathered for the 1987 Northeast Conference at the Graymoor Ecumenical Institute, north of Peekskill, New York in the Hudson Valley.

Hosted this year by the Washington, DC Fellowship, the theme was Healing. By the time participants left for home on Sunday afternoon, the sun was shining brightly, and the Spirit of Healing had touched everyone through meditations, workshops and the Laying-on of Hands.

Healing stations were utilized at each of the three Eucharists during the weekend, and many tertiaries availed themselves of the opportunity to receive the laying-on of hands and anointing from ordained clergy, with assistance from lay people.

Visitors to the weekend included Guardian Dee Dobson, Assistant Chaplain Marie Webner, Fellowship Coordinator Anita Catron, Formation Director Alden Whitney, as well as Br. Dunstan, SSF, and Sr. Susanne Elizabeth CSF. Br. Dunstan and Marie Webner offered inspiring homilies at two of the Eucharists. On Friday, Peter Funk gave the keynote address. Saturday panelists were Alden Whitney, Bill Haynes, Ed Medina and Jean Carr.

Fellowships represented, in addition to the hosting group, were New York City, Long Island, Mustard Seed (upstate New York), Philadelphia-New Jersey, Mt. Subasio of Maryland, Juniper Branch (Massachusetts), and Toronto.

Within the context of the Saturday Eucharist, Marcia Shaw was professed, Yolande Chan and Bill Haynes were noviced, 13 renewed their professions, and 5 renewed their novice vows.

The 1988 Northeast Conference was announced as being again at Graymoor, on August 26-28, with the Long Island Fellowship as host.

- Robert Durand & Helen Webb, reporters

We're a bit slow on reporting this, but last December the Third Order sent a contribution to the work of St. Martin's Center, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Because they didn't have a return address available, The Rev. Susan Sager, executive director of the center, wasn't able to send a "thank you" until July. At that time, the center was serving close to 300 men, women and children daily by providing for basic human needs.



What so ever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me.

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THE LONG ISLAND FELLOWSHIP received Rick Lehmann as a novice in October. After the service, some members stayed for coffee and sharing. In November, Elva Ann Norian was professed in the Secular Franciscan Order. The group is discussing whether they might promote closer relations with the Secular Franciscans. At their November 17 meeting, Bob Teudesman was readmitted to profession. The topic at their December meeting was "What the Lord is doing in my life in 1987."

A January meeting is planned at Bob and Jacqui Smith's, with the topic of "Our Franciscan Walk." The February meeting will be at Ed Medina's home.

These thoughts by Joanne Maynard were originally printed in The Episcopal Evangel, newspaper of the Diocese of Montana:

From the Editor

On August 5, during the noon hour, I was sitting at a table on the downtown mall. I was giving peace literature to anyone who would take it, as a part of the observance of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Week, sponsored by The Last Chance Peacemakers, Clergy and Laity Concerned, and Physicians For Social Responsibility.

Among the wares on my table were some brightly colored balloons bearing the message, "Blow up balloons, not bombs."

Onto the mall came a group of twenty or so Japanese children, part of a musical group which was visiting Helena. With their local adult guides, they gathered around the lunch carts on the mall and were soon sitting on the grass and on benches enjoying

their hot dogs, tacos and pop.

On this day, forty-two years ago, my country and their country were at war; we were "enemies." At that time, I was about the age of these children, and I remember well my feelings about "The War." On the following day, forty-two years ago, the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, and over 100,000 people, many of them children like these, were killed, and others badly burned and made ill by the blast.

I was sitting at the table because I've learned a lot in forty-two years, and I believe that humankind must learn somehow to live in peace and friendship, beyond war.

I took a big handful of the "no bombs" balloons and gave them to the woman who was with the

group, asking her to give them to the children. The kids were surprised and happy and said "Thank you" to the woman, who pointed across the mall to me, saying that I had given them. The children smiled and gave little bows in my direction. They laughed and blew up the balloons, and laughed again when one boy's balloon got away from him and zipped around like a little jet-propelled rocket.

A little later, my three-year-old grandson, Thad, came walking up the mall with his mamma, and he got a balloon too.

What will the world be like, forty-two years from today? I may not be here, but I hope that these children will still be on this planet, and that the world will be a better place to live by then.

THE MUSTARD SEED FELLOWSHIP, located around Watertown, New York, celebrated St. Francis Day by visiting Epiphany Church in Trumansburg for a Blessing of the Animals service. They enjoyed a brown bag lunch and discussed the conventor's report and listened to a tape on St. Francis and prayer by Murray Bodo. In the afternoon, they traveled to Ithaca to a Roman Catholic Third Order celebration, followed by a covered dish supper.



In April, the Fellowship held a retreat at the Thornfield Conference Center on beautiful Gaszenovia Lake in Central New York. Leader was the Rev. H. Alan Smith. The retreat included a half hour of exercise each morning, in addition to daily Offices, healing service, and the usual retreat menu. Kathy Eichwort made her life profession. Next year's retreat is tentatively set for May 5-7 at Brant Lake -- The Diocese of Albany Retreat Center.

BOOK REVIEW

BY Brother John-Charles, SSF

Troubadour for God: The Story of John Michael Talbot

by Dan O'Neill, with notes. (Crossroad/

Continuum, New York \$9.95 -- hardcover)

This is the compelling story of how God led one of the famous singers of the sixties from bluegrass rock to a ministry of Christian song. Talbot's professional career began when he was ten and **5** has been marked by a refreshing (over)

(Book Review, continued)

musical originality which has captivated the young. A broken marriage and a growing sense of emptiness with worldly success and with the big band scene led John to look for deeper meaning. In that search, St. Francis played a major role. From fundamentalism to commitment as a Franciscan Tertiary, John's story is told with deep humility. Today he is committed to a vocation as a contemplative with a semi-withdrawn life. Infused with prayer, love for God, a keen social awareness, and a powerful presence, John now offers his life in the cause of Christian unity and as a bridge between the Protestantism he has left and the Roman Catholicism he has made his spiritual home. His message of hope makes this book an excellent present for teenagers and a tonic for drooping spirits everywhere.

The Juniper Branch, from the Massachusetts Fellowship, reports that Keith French was professed in August at St. Martin's Church in Pittsfield. Their July meeting was held under difficult conditions; the temperature was 90°. Sounds pretty good now, doesn't it? They decided to include a prayer list with their newsletter. They incorporated the discussion on love, humility, and joy into the Office of Morning Prayer and prayed together.

On October 24, they met at St. Mary's Church in Pockport for a Quiet Morning with meditations, shared with St. Mary's parishioners. Renewal of vows and a festival luncheon followed, with community concerns and planning for 1988.

On St. Francis Day, St. Mary's Church was again the scene of the celebration, with a Festival Eucharist, in which members of the Fellowship took part. They also renewed their vows at that time. St. Mary's is the only parish in the Diocese of Massachusetts to be named a Companion Parish of the three orders in the Society of St. Francis. The vicar, The Rev. Alfred Zadig, received part of his training for the priesthood with the English Franciscans, with whom he is still in touch. It was his idea to have the Festival Eucharist on St. Francis Day. Mona Hull is a parishioner there.

An added note about Keith's profession: his friends from the Berkshire Bagpipe Band offered "a glorious arrangement of Amazing Grace that nearly knocked the roof off!"

Two members are putting together the history of the Third Order in Massachusetts. A scrapbook is also being made, to show to newcomers.

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A note received in July says that the LEXINGTON FELLOWSHIP met on the 23rd at St. Augustine's Chapel to discuss the Gospel life. Peg Shull wrote an article for The Advocate about Franciscans in general and a little about the local group.

They met again in August and discussed "With and Through the Church." They've been writing letters to Amnesty International.



You'll notice that a lot of news items are very sketchy. That's because I glean the news from the Fellowships' newsletters. Because the newsletters are written for people already familiar with certain people, places, and activities, they are sometimes very mysterious to me. I try to flesh them out as best I can, trying to avoid assuming something that isn't true. The point I'm making is that it would be great if someone from each Fellowship would write an article about something of interest that's taken place, especially for the Times. I think that would make it more interesting. g.M.

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This version of the St. Francis Peace Prayer, along with the note, is to be found in the little book St. Francis Prayer Book, "Compiled from the Writings and Early Biographies of St. Francis of Assisi by A. van Constanje O.F.M." This book is published by Franciscan Herald Press in Chicago.

PEACE PRAYER

Lord,
Make me an instrument of your peace:
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is discord, harmony;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is error, truth;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek:
To be consoled, as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love.
For, it is in giving, that we receive;
It is in forgetting self, that we find
ourselves;
It is in pardoning, that we are pardoned;
and
It is in dying, that we are born to
eternal life.

The so-called "Peace Prayer of St. Francis" was not written by Francis, but it admirably expresses the spirit of "the Man of Peace." For the origin of this prayer, see *Franciscan Herald*, May, 1974, p. 151. Cf. K. Esser, *Opuscula*, p. 54. The English version given here has three additional lines which are found in European versions: the French, Italian, and Spanish versions add petitions for establishing *harmony* where there is *discord* and *truth* where there is *error*; and in the second part the French states that we *find ourselves in forgetting self*. The translation, by M. A. Habig O.F.M., is from *Franciscan Herald*, loc. cit., pp. 152-153, where the French, Italian, and Spanish texts are also given. Cf. A. van Constanje, *Francis: Bible of the Poor* (Franciscan Herald Press, Chicago, 1977), pp. 203-211.



1. No. 1 of the Kingsport, Tennessee Fellowship newsletter arrived last week. This new Fellowship had its first gathering in October at the home of Fr. Boulet in Lenoir City. Present were Fr. Boulet, John Tolbert, and John Dotson. Morning Prayer was read and they discussed the formation of a Fellowship. John Dotson agreed to be the convenor.

The November meeting included Morning Prayer, lunch, and listening to a tape.

They were invited to join the Land of the Sky Fellowship in Asheville, N.C. for a Christmas meeting on December 19 at the home of Fr. Heber Peacock. This event included good food, fellowship, and participation in a play about the first creche, inspired by St. Francis at Greccio.

We're glad to hear from this new Fellowship, and look forward to issue number 2.

FIRST ORDER NEWS: David Stewart, Glenn Charlton, and Gilbert Pineiro were clothed as novices in The Society of St. Francis by Br. Rodney Gooden, SSF on August 15, 1987 at Little Portion Friary.

Br. Leo's sister, Orpha, died on August 1. Leo was at home at the time of her death.



Tune: Jacob's Ladder

The Tertiaries' Accord

Words: M. Anne Hocker

- 1) We are climbing up with Francis
To our place with Christ Our Lord.
We use separate personal Rules
Though with one accord.
- 2) We take Eucharist once weekly
And on Feast days when it's given.
We seek Penitence and find there
Sins atoned forgiven.
- 3) We pray for our needs and others'
Meditate and give thanksgiving.
We deny our worldly longings
Serving with thanks living.
- 4) We retreat to make advances
In the realm of spiritual graces
Tertiaries come together
Making God-felt places.
- 5) Study we God's Word in words,
Printed, taped or VCR'ed
Also lessons given in nature
Speak when ev'n it's marred.
- 6) We put off the superfluous
Hoping to retain the best
For the use of God through us
Giv'n to those less blest.
- 7) Work is witness to our Baptism
Showing Christ through work and labor.
Help us, Francis, so to see Him
Christ in every neighbor.
- 8) To enable us to live thus
We say Morn' or Ev'ning Prayer,
We report and keep our pledge up
Doing all with care.
- 9) Let us now seek out a new friend
"Welcome to our family," saying.
"Come in brothers, sisters, join us
Joyful join in praying:
- 10) "Francis, Brother, Father, guide us
Help us show Our God more clearly
To our neighbor, sad or joyful,
Bring Your Love more nearly.
- 11) "Bring Your Love through my own speaking,
Touching, caring, and perceiving
Christ is now again incarnate
Serving and receiving."

Here's A REPORT FROM OUR AREA CHAPLAIN, BOB DURAND,
ON THE CONVOCATION AT GRAYMOOR ~

A gentle, steady rain was falling as 67 tertiaries gathered on the weekend of August 28-30 at the Graymoor Ecumenical Institute north of Peekskill, NY, for the 1987 Northeast Conference of the Third Order, Society of Saint Francis.

The Juniper Branch Fellowship was well represented by Adrienne Dillon, Robert Durand, Rik Fitch, Keith French, Janet Houghton, Nancy Kangas, and Joan Shelton. Of these, Adrienne, Robert, Janet, and Joan renewed their professions during the weekend.

Among others in attendance were First Order Visitors Br. Dunstan SSF and Sr. Susanne Elizabeth CSF, Third Order Guardian Dee Dobson, Assistant Chaplain Marie Webner, Fellowship Coordinator Anita Catron, and Formation Director Aiden Whitney.

The weekend theme was Healing. In addition to talks, meditations, and workshops on the subject, three Eucharists with Healing and Anointing took place with some powerful and exciting results, both corporately and individually. Among those who were called to be healers at these services were Joan Shelton (who is a priest and rector of St. Paul's Church in Portsmouth, RI) and Nancy Kangas.

In a ceremony at the Saturday night celebration and party, the Juniper Branch Fellowship was awarded the magic Tolger's Coffee Can to fill with wishes and visions and God's Love until next year. Adrienne Dillon will bring the Can to the next meeting on October 24, and Robert Durand promises to reveal the story behind this Northeast tertiary tradition.

The 1988 Northeast Conference of the Third Order will again be at Graymoor, this time on August 26 to 28. Please mark your calendars now!



LILIES OF THE FIELD FELLOWSHIP

*This report was taken
from the Juniper
Branch newsletter.
Thanks!*

On October 3, they met at the home of Fr. Allen and Mary Lou Hall in Fort Lupton, Colorado. Professed tertiaries who were present were Fr. Kale King, Alice White, Dorothy Storey, Sally Hicks, Fr. Allen Hall, Mary Lou Hall, and Dearlie Moline. Shirley Werden, an inquirer, was also with them. After a time of fellowship, they discussed the Three Notes of the Order: Humility, Love, and Joy.

Dearlie, who writes the newsletter, wrote that after thinking it over, she felt that the most difficult part of the discussion was how to define humility. She also said that Bishop Frey visited St. Timothy's Church later in October and from him she got some insight into humility. "The Bishop quoted that bit of Micah about walking humbly with one's God. All of a sudden a light went on in my head. We had been trying to define humility in terms of relationship to other humans. But that's not what it's all about. Humility is our proper relationship to God, the relationship of the imperfect recognizing and acknowledging the perfect. St. Francis most definitely was humble towards the Lord. But a close inspection of his relationships with people shows not humility, but rather modesty, respect, love, kindness and even anger when appropriate. He was most certainly self-effacing, a trait we often mistakenly define as humility, but he never recognized any other person as perfect."

The group has decided to just have one formal meeting a year, at St. Francistide, because people live far apart. Those who live closer will get together informally at other times as they are able.

In the wilds of Montana, it's "catch-as-catch-can" for meetings between tertiaries. Two such occurred during the past two months. The Rev. Lindsay Warren was visiting briefly in Helena with his wife Mary. They were staying at a wonderful home called "His Place," a healing home and retreat center. I go every Thursday morning to His Place for a breakfast and Bible study with long-time friends, and on this particular Thursday, there was the added treat of a visit with the Warrens. They were in Montana to help plan the Northwest Regional Meeting of the International Order of St. Luke which will be in Butte in the summer of '88. The Warrens have a newsletter called "Vital Signs" -- about the healing ministry. I also hope to visit with them in February when I go to Portland for the N-W region get-together of General Ordination Exam Readers.

The second meeting occurred at Thanksgiving time when Ann Haggert of Whitefish, MT came to Helena to visit her sister. A mutual friend had us all to lunch -- what a special time that was.

-- Joanne Maynard

LAND OF THE SKY FELLOWSHIP

This Fellowship, in North Carolina, is very active. In August, they hosted an open house at Wolf Lake for the Diocese. "...the place is delightful and the fellowship unexcelled," to quote their newsletter. At their July meeting, they discussed their rules of life, with particular attention to self-examination and confession on a daily basis.

Their Convocation was held in September. Br. Jon Bankert presented powerful messages on The Valley of Dry Bones, The Trinity, and St. Francis. Two films were shown; "Art and Worship" and "Julian of Norwich." This Fellowship had made the plans for this event.

Prior to their November meeting, some of the members took part in a conference titled "Peace Through Faith." At the meeting, they made plans for next year's ('88) events. The meeting also included Eucharist, lunch, and prayer. One plan calls for an Information Day on February 20, "to spread the news of our presence and answer questions people might have about religious orders in the Episcopal Church. The event will be held at Grace Church, Asheville and will begin in the morning with an open house and Eucharist. Lunch and a regular fellowship meeting will follow. They also plan to have a booth at Diocesan Convention next May.



They have decided to bring their Devotional Companions to meetings, to use and become more familiar with.

The bells are sweetly
ringing
Great Jesus' robes
around;
The odour of pomegranates
Suffuses all the
ground;
Forgiveness for the
sinner,
And peace and joy
supplied
Through him whose
faultless offering
The Father satisfied.

Ann Griffiths

AN INTERESTING BOOK is Songs to her God by A.M. Allchin. (Cowley Publishing, 980 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA 02138 \$7.95)

As Fredrica Thompsett writes in her Foreword, "The clarion voice of Ann Griffiths, Welsh poet, mystic, and theologian, rings throughout this publication in English of her writings." The first part of this book tells about this little-known Welsh woman who lived from 1776 to 1805, who did not speak English, and who had very little schooling. Surviving of her writings are just 30 hymns and 8 letters. If you are on her wave-length, the poetry will make a strong impression on you, I'm sure.

Joanne Maynard

THE AUSTIN FELLOWSHIP meets each month in a different location; their newsletter always features a very good map showing how to get to the right spot. In August, they met at the home of Bill Beare for a potluck lunch and worship led by Fr. Al Palermo and Fr. Murray Powell. Fr. Palermo, who is a Roman Catholic, presented a program on Mary.

In September, they met at the home of Sheila Fling. The Rev. Bob Hibbs celebrated the Eucharist and presented a program on "Simplicity and Practicing the Presence of God." Inquirers and guests were urged to attend.

All Texas tertiaries, inquirers, and guests were also invited to the annual Franciscan Retreat, October 2-4 at the beautiful Well Spring Retreat Center near Blanco, Texas. Sister Cecilia, C.S.F. led the retreat, with the theme of "Humility, Love, and Joy."

The November meeting was at the home of Caroline Benjamin in Melotes (another good map). The Eucharist was celebrated by Canon A. Nelson Daunt, who also spoke on "Penitence."



THE CHI-RHO FELLOWSHIP sends a notice every month of their meeting, but there are hardly any details to pass on to you about what they're doing. Joy Effer was noviced at their July meeting. At the August meeting, Glen Ann Jicha shared her experiences at Interprovincial Third Order Chapter at Hillfield Friary, Dorset.

In September, Judy Schmidt led a meditation on "The Francis Days." Members shared Eucharist, coffee, and fellowship. In October, they met for Renewal of Vows, program, and Eucharist.

In December, an Advent Quiet Day was led by Brother John George. The topic was "Advent and the Joy of Rule." They're looking forward to a Quiet Day with Bishop Griswold in February.

The Midwest Convocation for the Third Order will be June 3-5, 1988 at St. Francis Retreat House in Oakbrook, Illinois.



THE MESSENGER is the name of the newsletter of the MINNESOTA FELLOWSHIP. Their August meeting must have been interesting, when they discussed the debate held between The Rt. Rev. William Wantland, Bishop of Eau Claire, and The Rt. Rev. John S. Spong, Bishop of Newark, as reported in The Living Church earlier this year. The title was "Changing Patterns of Sexuality." The discussion continued during their September meeting.

They met for Renewal of Vows on October 3 at the Oratory of St. Mary. After Mass they enjoyed lunch together. Nine people attended. It was a real "family" gathering and celebration. Lois Keen was re-elected convenor.

The November meeting concerned plans and goals. Their Fellowship treasury is now footing the bill for a subscription to The Franciscan for each member. Other groups might consider this. It is a worthwhile magazine, and helps one to feel a part of the larger Franciscan fellowship.



THE KANSAS FELLOWSHIP has a newsletter called "The Smaller Portion." I have only one issue of this letter, but it has a lot of news. David Ryniker, convenor was at Bishop's Ranch in California for the Western Convocation. He reported that Dee Dobson led the meditations, and a marvelous time was had by all.

Nancy Schenk took several of her American History students to Philadelphia this summer to participate in the celebrations of the 200th birthday of the Constitution.

Ruth Groves has moved from Kansas to Hamden, CT. Tami Randolph and David Ryniker met Gretchen GoodPancratz in Great Bend in July and "caravanned" to Liberal to spend the weekend. They sang an exuberant Evensong with their friend Jeanice Hantz on Sunday afternoon. Then David and Tami started back for Wichita.

Their Fall Retreat was held at Bethany Place in Topeka on mid-November. Retreat Master was The Rev. Jeffrey Black. The theme was "Icons." It was open to "all who desire a break in the routine activity of daily life." Fr. Black used slides during his meditations to help retreatants visualize his points more clearly.

THREE POEMS FROM NINA ANDREWS

Vision

*I see humanity
Struggling o'er a path,
Wide of way,
Encompassing All.
Children of God,
Our souls are linked;
Save one,
The soul of Christ.*

*Sinless is He
Having walked on earth
The golden mean of life,
Which glows
A burning thread
Between extremes.*

What Are You?

*"What are you?
A question box
Whose queries are well-shuffled;
To be out-drawn
In an un-ordered way.
And -- what am I?
Oh! isn't it a lovely day?"*



Love's Trinity

*This is
Love's Trinity:
the body warm -- the mind
within the first -- the soul
that makes all whole.*

HERE'S ANOTHER REMINDER that Ann Harris, Provincial Secretary, has copies of the BASICS. If you need copies, here are the prices:

<u>The Devotional Companion</u>	\$4.00
<u>The Way of St. Francis</u>	\$2.50
<u>The Source Book</u>	\$2.50
<u>The Religious Life</u>	\$2.00

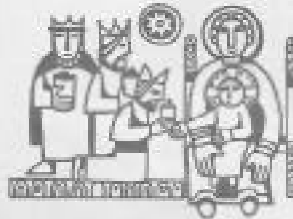
You may contact Ann at 555 Reed Dr. Davis, CA 95616.

Also, when you're moving, please let Ann know before you move. This saves a considerable amount because the Postal Service charges for every change that they have to make. *

MORE HELPFUL than the British price and address might be the fact that many Marshall-Pickering books are distributed in the US by the Zondervan Company. If you're interested in this book, you might write to them at:

1415 Lake Drive, S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49505.

(616) 698-6300



All things shall pass like a dream.
All nations shall come to know.

DEEPER INTO GOD

The new book
by Brother Ramon



A handbook on spiritual retreats

What is a spiritual retreat? What kinds of people go on such things? How does one prepare for the experience? What are the blessings—and the dangers? Can a retreat experience deepen my life of prayer, of discipleship, of compassion, of social action? Where can I go, and what kinds of retreats are offered?

These and many more questions are taken up in Brother Ramon's new book *Deeper into God*. There is a solid biblical grounding, with theological and devotional material which makes this book one of breadth and depth addressed to Christians of all denominations seeking to mature in their spiritual life.

£4.95

Brother Ramon (right) formerly a Cistercian monk and theologian, left the monastery in 1962 to become a member of the Anglican Society of Friends, and a founder of the Christian Fellowship for the Americas, which he founded in 1968.

Deeper into God's will of Wisdom: The way to a deeper life of prayer, compassion, discipleship, and social action. Marshall-Pickering, 1415 Lake Drive, S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49505.



We didn't have much word from THE ARIZONA FELLOWSHIP. Andrew is serving as Phoenix co-convenor and Holly continues as Tucson co-convenor. We hope for more news from them by next Times time.

BOOK REVIEW:

Thomas More: A Biography by Richard Marius (562 pages with bibliography, notes, and index. Alfred A Knopf, New York)

This is a stirring book, written in an elegant style, full of perceptive insights, wise judgements, and possessed of a fine balance. A work of genuine historical scholarship with the right combination of fact and interpretation. A five star achievement.

Marius paints a wide canvas which reveals More in context, and does so better than any other work in print. This brilliant study establishes criteria for historical and biographical writing which will be a standard of judgment for years to come. It will remain the definitive biography of More for a long time.

The author has been working on the More corpus at Yale for twenty years, and gives us such new information. He deals with More and Luther with a precise theological understanding. His study of the relationship of More with Henry VIII, and of the issue of the "divorce" is of particular interest to Anglicans, and has ecumenical significance. The wholly felicitous style of the book is enlivened with a keen wit.

Here we have More 'warts and all' — and the result is a more human understanding which adds to rather than detracts from More's sanctity.

John-Charles SF.

13

PLUGGED IN

It was two weeks after Christmas, and my little grandson and I were taking down my Christmas tree. We had put the ornaments into their boxes and I was removing the strings of lights. One string lay on the floor. Thad picked it up and plugged one end into the other.

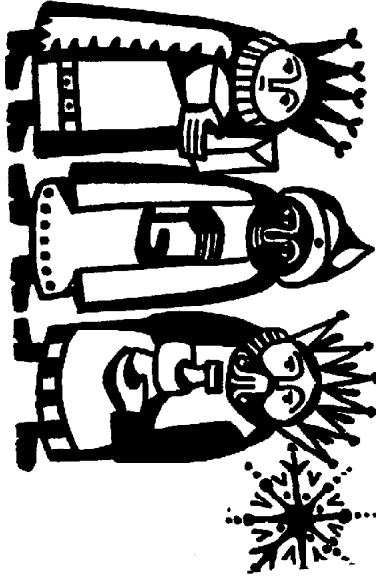
He looked at the bulbs in a puzzled way, saying, "Hot? Hot?"

No, Thaddus; the bulbs won't light up and get hot when the light string is plugged into itself -- only when it's plugged into the electric power outlet in the wall.

I spend a lot of time being plugged into myself. As long as I think that I can control my little world and the people in it; as long as I think that it's all up to me to "make things turn out right"; as long as I try to do things on my own power, I'm like Thad's string of Christmas lights, plugged into myself and unable to show any warmth or light.

It's only when I turn things over to God's care and power; when I let go and let God handle it; that I have my string of lights plugged in where they need to be -- into God's power.

J. Maynard



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*Praise be to Thee, my Lord,
for all weather; for the
seasons by which Thou supportest
all Thy creatures in life.*

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