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(In this mailing -)

Third Order Day of Penitence - Friday, April 13, 1973. (see page 2)

Lenten Retreat at Mount Sinai, N.Y.

Please send word immediately if you need to cancel your reservation.

General Chapter, May 4-6. There are three keynote themes, and Position Papers are enclosed for each of them. Also, there are further details about chapter.

Third Order Provincial Chapter plans: consideration of Third Order Constitution, Provincial Statutes, proposed Principles of SSF, election of a Secretary, instructions to delegates to international tertiary meeting

Family news, Chaplain's schedule, How to order books from England, etc.

Comments:

"The 'Franciscan Gospel life-style' does not simply describe how Franciscans interrelate with one another and integrate their own lives, who we are internally both as a group and as individuals. That internal life, that 'style', exists for a mission." see page 3

"We talked a little about the Rule with emphasis on spreading the spirit of brotherhood.." page 5

"We want to learn from other tertiaries.." page 6

"Sharing our experiences of Franciscan vocation in the context of the culture in which we live.." page 6

"With the direction of God the Holy Spirit, we are seeing many new beginnings of life and enthusiasm in the parish family." page 6

DAY OF PENITENCE - Friday, April 13, 1973

Included in a recent mailing was a leaflet with a Form of Penitence for use on the Friday before Palm Sunday - this year, April 13. For many years past, the English Province of the Third Order has kept this particular Friday, both as a preparation for Holy Week and as an expression of the tradition by which the Third Order was for Saint Francis his little brothers and sisters of penance.

Most tertiaries will not be able to meet with others on that day, so in drawing up the form, Brother David has tried to provide us with something we can use individually. However, for those tertiaries who can meet together then, or maybe for a meeting that takes place in Lent or Passiontide, there are suggestions for using it corporately. Each year a different Province is asked to prepare the form, for all Provinces to use, and this year was the turn of the American Province. We are very grateful to Brother David, SSF for his loving care in preparing this for us.

SPECIAL REQUEST

Br. Robert writes that the Third Order Retreat, of April 6-8, 1973 at Mt. Sinai, is already fully booked, with waiting lists for both Friary and Convent guest houses. Because of this we do urge that if you have reserved a place for this retreat and then find you cannot come, please send word at once, so that someone else on the waiting list can come on the retreat in your place. This retreat, as well as being offered for our tertiaries, is the regular Lenten retreat advertized by the Poor Clares in "The Monstrance" and for their Fellowship of Prayer. In the light of the encouraging response by tertiaries this time, we might well plan another year to arrange a separate retreat for tertiaries, as the demand now seems to warrant it.

ASSOCIATES AND TERTIARIES: GOING FURTHER

In the December "Newsletter", Brother Robert suggests that the difference between Associates and Tertiaries should be viewed in terms of their distinctive vocations. "The tertiary is called by God to live out his Christian discipleship in the context of membership of a Franciscan Order. The Associate finds that God has led him to enhance and deepen and enrich his discipleship and spirituality through a valued link with the ongoing life, worship and witness of the Society of St. Francis."

The Tertiary is in SSF; the Associate is linked to it. The Tertiary lives "the Franciscan Gospel-style"; for the Associate, it is "one among a number of deeply valued ingredients that go to enhance (his) Christian vocation." For Br. Robert, then, the distinction between the Tertiary's vocation and that of the Associate, seems to lie in the centrality of the "Franciscan Gospel-style" in the person's total life and Christian vocation. This approach seems to center on the internal life of the Tertiary and the Third Order. Let me explain. Br. Robert's criteria for being a Tertiary are: - a call from God to Third Order membership, - a commitment to the Brothers and Sisters of the Order, and - the centering of the "meaning and purpose and location" of "all my life, my family, home, work, activities" in the Tertiary vocation. He speaks of our "style" in terms that focus on the inter-relationship of Tertiaries, and the integration of the facets of the individual Tertiary's life.

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I would not deny what these statements say; but I would assert that what it means to be a Tertiary lies beyond them. The "Franciscan Gospel-style" does not simply describe how Franciscans interrelate with one another and integrate their own lives, who we are internally both as a group and as individuals. That internal life, that "style", exists for a mission. Our "life-style" is translated into the peculiar way in which we as Franciscans (as opposed to Benedictines, Dominicans, or whatever) bear witness to Christ before the world. Our style is the peculiar anatomy of one organ in the Body. We wouldn't be that organ if we weren't shaped in a particular way; but our shape is not an end in itself. Its goal is a contribution to the life of the whole Body, and the proclamation and witness of the Lord Jesus, for which the Body exists, which only this organ with its particular configuration can make.

Style is important, but if it is given a false centrality, we run the risk of being a confraternity "playing at monks and nuns". Our humility, love, and joy, the "three notes which should in a special degree mark the lives of Tertiaries", are not goals in themselves, but the foundations on which, serving through prayer, study and active work for God's Kingdom, we may pursue the Aims of the Order: to make our Lord known and loved everywhere, spread the spirit of brotherhood, and live simply. Our style exists not for our own corporate and individual life, but for our mission: "for the life of the world".

I think it perfectly possible that Franciscan spirituality and life-style could be the central and integrative element in a person's life-style; but that what he is called to do, as a witness to Christ, might not be what Franciscans are called to do. To be a Franciscan means the union in one person of the style and the mission.

For me, the difference between an Associate and a Tertiary, and the justification for calling Tertiaries an Order, lies not so much in how central the peculiarly Franciscan life-style is to you, but in how committedly and fully you undertake the peculiarly Franciscan mission for which that life-style exists.

Warren V. Tanghe

BOOKS

One Man's Journey, Brother John Charles, SSF. When Bishop John Charles Vockler resigned his See in 1968 to become a friar, one of his friends sent him a cable which read 'What you are doing is so mad, only God could have thought of it.' Brother John Charles, sometime Bishop of Polynesia, became a Novice in the Order of St. Francis, believing that his call to the Religious life, and in particular to the Franciscan life, was indeed thought of by God. His book attempts to show, at a critical point in the history of the Church, one man's journey and personal faith. As John Charles retraces his spiritual pilgrimage to date, it soon becomes clear that his new vocation is not a form of escapism. It is certainly not an easy way out. Here is a man who has passed through conservative evangelicalism, through Anglo-catholicism, through the 'Honest to God' debate, and has emerged with a faith for today which he finds workable for today.

(Books - continued)

A Gift of Light, A Collection of Thoughts from FATHER ANDREW, Selected and Edited by Harry C. Griffith. Father Andrew served for nearly fifty years as a priest to the poor of the East London slums. He could speak with great authority of prayer as 'the approach to Reality.' Through his writings shines the light of God's love, acceptance, and healing which enables us to become real and effective people. Father Andrew died in 1946, but his words speak directly to the needs of the present day. His first-hand knowledge of God comes as 'A Gift of Light' to Christians.

Note: One Man's Journey, and A Gift of Light are published in England. Brother Robert has a helpful suggestion: "From time to time we have occasion to recommend books published in England which are not presently available in the United States. Tertiaries who want to obtain such books might like to know that probably the simplest way is to send details of the book you want to: Blackwell's; Oxford; England. They will mail you the book and bill you."

The Jesus Myth, Andrew Greeley. Ken Cox writes: "Just a few lines to tell you about a very enjoyable book that I recently read. It's called 'The Jesus Myth' and is written by Roman Catholic Father Andrew Greeley. The word myth in the title refers to a larger truth, not to a legend. Father Greeley is a teacher at the University of Chicago and has written a number of books. I was so impressed by what he had to say that I'd find myself thinking as I read along - this makes sense! Father Greeley's main premise in the book is the idea that God loves us. While this is not news to a Christian, I think you'll enjoy the way he develops this idea in the book. Also, he makes the comment that some current writers have written about the irrelevancy of Jesus as though this were a new idea. Christ was considered irrelevant during his ministry by the powers that be of that time. The fact of His irrelevancy is the heart of the Christian message. Christians in all times are irrelevant when measured by contemporary standards. If you get the book and read it, I hope you enjoy it as much as I did."

CHAPLAIN ON THE ROAD AGAIN - - - WHAT TO DO ABOUT MAIL

From mid-February until late June, Brother Robert will be traveling most of the time. A brief outline of his movements follows:

February 20-28..with tertiaries in Florida, including a weekend retreat.

March 1-18..retreat and preaching engagements in the Diocese of Nassau and the Bahamas. March 21-22..with tertiaries in New Orleans. Mar. 23-27.. parish mission in Mississippi. March 28-30..with tertiaries in Memphis.

March 31-April 1.. with tertiaries in Arkansas. April 2..with tertiaries in Kansas City. April 6-8..Third Order Retreat at Mt. Sinai. April 12-15..with tertiaries in Denver. Holy Week and Easter..with the friars at San Damiano. April 27-30..First Order Provincial Chapter.

May 4-6..Third Order Chapter in California. May 11-14..with tertiaries in Texas and Oklahoma, in Fort Worth. May 16-22 ..at Little Portion. May 25-27.. International Third Order meeting in England. May-28-June 2 Worldwide First Order Chapter. Then he will be on vacation in England, returning to Little Portion in late June.

Because he will be traveling so much, Br. Robert has asked Br. Seth to sort his incoming mail - reports will be acknowledged as having arrived safely, and any checks for the Third Order deposited - but otherwise, will be left for Br. Robert's

What to do about mail (continued)

return. Therefore, if you have any urgent matter which requires Brother Robert's immediate attention, please mark the envelope "Urgent: please forward" and this will be done.

Please remember that all supplies (leaflets, report forms, etc.) should be ordered from Helen Webb and not from the Chaplain. Brother Seth will send out the appropriate materials to aspirants to the Third Order. Incidentally, if you know of someone who is interested in a possible Third Order vocation, by all means mention it when you write. But from the very beginning, that person should be responsible for writing in personally to ask for the informative materials.

We do not expect to send out another Newsletter or large mailing before the summer. At that time, we plan our annual revision of the Intercession and Address List. If your address should be changed for that listing, please send word to Mrs. Edward Webb, 4008 Buckingham Road, Baltimore, Md. 21207.

MEETINGS

The Newsletter Editor has been receiving notices and reviews of Fellowship and other meetings. Perhaps you'd be interested in hearing about some of them.

San Francisco "The Franciscan Fellowship Meeting will be held Jan. 23, 8 p.m., Tertiary at 7:30, at 809 Shrader St., San Francisco. See you there. God's peace, Mary Moberg " (also Feb. 11 - 8 p.m.)

San Bernardino (11/15/72) "Bro. Geoffrey, SSF, our Minister General was with us last evening. The San Bernardino Fellowship met for communion, followed by a meal, a visit, and discussion with Bro. Geoffrey about proposed rule changes. We thoroughly enjoyed meeting him. (Jan. 17, 1973) Just a few lines to say hello. Last night the San Bernardino Fellowship met at Christ Church in Ontario, California. We generally start our evening with the Eucharist and end it with the Tertiary office. We talked a little about the Rule, with emphasis on spreading the spirit of brotherhood, and did a little thinking about Chapter in May. We are very fortunate in this area at present to have a fairly good sized group that can meet. It gives us a real sense of having a community."

Miami "In October, this area Fellowship met and discussed the proposed new changes to the T.O. Constitution, etc. We also met Saturday a week ago (November), had Mass, lunch, and a report on what went on at the Third Order meeting with Br. Robert and Br. Geoffrey at Mt. Sinai. In October, we had two interested guests, and expect three guests to be with us in December."

Seattle "We have a small fellowship here, on Puget Sound: one postulant, three novices and one professed. We also consider Muriel Adey, in Victoria, B.C. as one of our group, and Elizabeth Perine down in Ocean Park, Washington, and Camilla Roswell "east of the mountains" in Sunnyside, as well. We've only recently begun monthly meetings (Jan. 1973) and were happy to have

Seattle (continued) Marie Hayes with us at a recent meeting. All of us here in Seattle are newcomers to the Third Order, so you can see that we are not familiar with how things are done in other areas. We haven't done anything as a group as yet, although individually some of our fellowship are doing great things. But I think we have some growing to do - we want to learn from other tertiaries."

Philadelphia "Next meeting: Feb. 10. Agenda: At our last meeting, we suggested sharing our experiences of Franciscan vocation in the context of the culture in which we live. A number of books for reading were suggested, and we eventually agreed on Hank Koning's suggestion of Philip Slater's Pursuit of Loneliness (Beacon paperback, 1970). A number of new books on Francis have been appearing. Read any and be prepared to share your impressions. Bring a box lunch as usual." (From John Scott, Feb. 14th) "At our last meeting, Saturday, Feb. 10th, at the home of Alice Vinik, eleven of us being present, I admitted as a novice, Rodney Cook. We had a stimulating meeting, and plan the next one for May 12."

Standing Committee "There will be a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis, American Province, on Wednesday, February 14, 1973, at the home of Dr. G. A. Hoffman, Plainfield, N.J. at 2:30 p.m."

ANNUAL FESTIVAL Saturday, June 16 - 12 noon, at the Little Portion Friary, Mount Sinai, New York. Come and bring your friends.

Retreat at the College of Preachers, March 30 - April 1, on the grounds of the Washington Cathedral, Washington, D.C. Conductor: the Rev. Samuel E. Purdy, St. Peter's Church, Mountain Lakes, N.J. Cost, \$40. For further information, write Mrs. V. Leipold, Episcopal Church House, Mount Saint Alban, Washington, D.C. 20016.

"WITH THE DIRECTION OF GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT" - - -

"The work here in St. John's, Oklahoma City, has been a challenge. With the help and support of my husband, we have built an active junior high youth group. There are some 18 to 20 regulars out of a potential 35 young people. Our service projects have been to the parish, where and whatever is needed. For Christmas, we swept the driveway and filled the chuck-holes along the driveway, also filled brown bags with sand and placed candles to light the walkways for Midnight Mass. Our meetings consist of reading Evening Prayer, a study in values, and recreation. Seeing our own junior high boys begin to feel they are a part of the parish, and express concern, is indeed a joy.

The other beginnings are - a prayer group that formed in September with three of us, and has now grown to five. With the direction of God the Holy Spirit, we are seeing many new beginnings of life and enthusiasm in the parish family. The

latest endeavor is a group of ten people who call themselves PAC (Parish Action Committee). We are taking the parish survey that our new Rector compiled shortly after he came a year ago, seeking to form leadership in the areas of desires, such as study groups, etc., that are not functioning now, and to re-evaluate the already formed organizations. We are serving as enablers, not to do the job, but to support those who are interested in the different areas, to begin and form leadership, with PAC as resource to them. This is freeing the Rector to be the Spiritual Director, rather than a public relations manager. We request your prayers in our work."

Roberta Beisel, Dec. 29, 1972

FAMILY NOTES

We rejoice with: -

Dennis Kuhn on his ordination to the diaconate on March 19, 1973, in the Diocese of Central Florida; Eleanor Woodroffe, to be ordained to the diaconate in the Diocese of Southwest Florida on April 30th; Warren Tanghe to be ordained to the diaconate in June in the Diocese of Long Island. Pauline Johnson was married to Stanley C. Hudders on Dec. 4, 1972. Her address remains the same. Daughter Elissa Marie was born to Fr. Jim and Malory McElrath on Nov. 30, 1972. Fr. Robert Goode becomes the Rector of St. James, Goshen, in the Diocese of Northern Indiana, as of Lent 1973. John George Robertson, Bruce Pettit and Alan Speer are to be clothed as First Order novices on April 11th, taking the names: John George, Michael Bruce and Nathan.

Special travels: "Beaver" (L.F. Beaver) had the experience of living for a few months in a Kibbutz in Israel near Tel Aviv; and also visited Cyprus for several weeks. Judith Robinson has been visiting the Caribbean during February and March with Br. Philip - including Trinidad, Jamaica, and the Bahamas. Several tertiaries plan to visit England in the summer: Carolyn Banks, Muriel Adey, and (hopefully) Fr. Goode.

Sympathy and Prayers: We learned of the death of Gladys Lynn on October 19th through a letter from her son. Br. Robert writes, concerning Frederica Percivall, who died November 24th: "I was twice able to visit with Frederica during the past three years in Victoria, British Columbia. Both times I was struck by her courage and sturdy resolution, in the face of growing blindness and infirmity. Just before her final stroke, we were corresponding about ways she could use tape recordings of the scriptures as the lessons at her daily offices, as she could remember many of the psalms to say by heart! She was also delighted to have had a visit from our other Victoria tertiary, Muriel Adey, just before her last illness. May she rest in peace." We express sympathy to Chip Leis because of the death of his father in November 1972; and to Fergus Fulford whose mother died Easter Monday 1972 and his father on Christmas 1972. Fr. Elwood and Elsie Boggess have been suffering because of injuries caused in an automobile accident. John Shumaker suffered a skull fracture as the result of an attack on Christmas Day. He is out of the hospital now, but has not yet fully recovered. Prayers are especially requested for his assailants.