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## SEPARATE MAILING

Forms of Prayer for Franciscans leaflet - Associates leaflet - Tertiary list - Associates list - Constitution and Manual Revision

## COINCIDENCE???

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"I have never seen a group so united into one as were we. The Spirit of God was with us throughout." Mary Mobert

"I wonder how we'll be able to foster the kind of community that we talked about at Chapter? I'm afraid too many people still think of the Third Order as a personal rule, and don't realize the obligation and the joy of regular fellowship." Marie Webner

"We all worked hard, said Office with the Friars, helped in the dining hall, sang .. in fact, we behaved rather like Franciscans." Don Carlson

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We are one!" Br. Luke, SSF

## MESSAGE FROM BROTHER ROBERT

By the end of the first week in June, I was feeling I had had enough of Chapter meetings, First and Third Order, Provincial and International, to last me a lifetime! Not that they weren't very worthwhile, and most encouraging; other comments in this newsletter will make that clear. But I felt more than ready for my vacation, which I spent in the far North-West of Scotland, amidst an incessant downpour of rain!

Looking back now over the two and a half years since I became Chaplain, I feel so grateful to have been able during that time to get to know so many of you personally. Looking ahead, I feel confident that over the next three years, I shall be more free to be of service to you than before, for we now have a Third Order which is geared to administer its own life, thus allowing me to function as a Chaplain, a Pastoral Officer. With the work of Novice direction so excellently led by Peter Funk and Marie Hayes; the finances of the Order handled by the Trustees of the Corporation; and the secretarial side meticulously handled by Helen Webb; the recent election of John Scott as Guardian (and thus, administrative leader of the Third Order) virtually completes the handing-over to the Third Order of all those functions not specific to the role of a Chaplain.

But even so, as our numbers steadily expand, it has become clear that if I am to continue to make the first priority my firsthand availability to tertiaries around the Province, then one further change is also called for - and hence, the decision at our Chapter to embark upon new methods of reporting for professed tertiaries.

The plan would be that, as soon as possible in 1974, professed tertiaries would send their embertide reports to one of their own brothers or sisters in the Third Order rather than to the Chaplain. With this in view, I shall be asking a number of tertiaries to assist me in acting as Receivers of Reports; and they in turn will provide me with summaries, showing what reports have been received. We want to allow of some flexibility of method, and where several professed tertiaries can meet together, this offers helpful reinforcement of the tertiary life and rule by a mutual report-sharing, especially since reporting should be a creative and positive activity, not too dominantly focused on failure in keeping the rule. Where such verbal reporting is adopted, there should still be an annual report in written form.

I therefore invite any local fellowships who feel they would like to explore the possibilities of reporting verbally, either to one of their number or as a group, to discuss this together and then to write to me about it.

Meantime, I shall be asking certain tertiaries to help me in this work of receiving reports. The English Province has embarked upon a similar scheme, and I hope to obtain from them some guidelines prepared to inform such tertiaries of the nature and scope of this work.

The basic idea of tertiaries reporting to tertiaries should not seem strange. After all, this already happens during the whole of a tertiary's first two and a half years in the Order, as Postulant or Novice. What would seem a pity would be that as Chaplain, I should no longer be in touch with all professed tertiaries. I can find

no perfect solution to this problem, but offer these considerations: (a) Any tertiary is free to write to me on any specific matter about their life and rule at any time, apart from their regular reporting; (b) I would ask that whenever some modification in a tertiary's present rule seems called for, it should be arranged through direct correspondence with me; (c) I shall ask all newly professed tertiaries to report to me at the ember seasons for the first two years after profession, so that I may come to know them better, before determining who should receive their reports; (d) Where there seem special reasons for a tertiary continuing to report to me, I should want to give such a request every consideration.

I believe that once this plan is carried out, it will prove its worth: to me - as I shall hope to do something more like justice to the letters I do receive; to tertiaries - who can explore what I believe are the rich possibilities of mutually sustaining and encouraging each other, through verbal sharing and reporting; and to isolated tertiaries whose written reports will no longer have to await my return from some long tour.

The experience will be a new one for us, and we shall need to feel our way and evaluate it as we go. But given goodwill all round, I am very optimistic about it. Until then, for the remainder of 1973, please send your reports to me as before, and bear with delays over correspondence.

\* \* \* \*

All of us share in a ministry of prayer, it is basic to our rule. But some may feel they have both the call to, and the availability for, a more particular ministry of intercession. In increasing numbers of parishes there are prayer groups; our own Poor Clares have their Fellowship of Prayer, of which a number of tertiaries are members.

A correspondence between our tertiaries: Willard French and Virgie Hughes last Christmas, led to a suggestion which received the approval of Chapter in May. This was that there might be a small number of tertiaries, not already committed to a prayer group or fellowship, who felt drawn to offer the necessary time for a ministry as intercessors. No elaborate structure is contemplated. Virgie Hughes has said she would be willing to act as corresponding secretary for them, and would send out on a regular basis a list of requests for prayer received from any tertiaries.

Thus, whenever you know of some person for whom you desire a special concentration of prayer, you may send the name to Virgie, who would include it on the next list - the list itself will only go to those tertiaries (maybe five or ten; after all, most of us will already be fully budgeting our ministry of available time), who write to her to offer to share in that regular ministry. May I ask any minded to offer themselves, to write to Mrs. W. L. Hughes, 6031 Garfield Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, as soon as possible. Then I would hope that we might plan to send in our requests for prayer beginning with St. Francistide.

\* \* \* \*

I have just spent several days, with a car I was kindly loaned, visiting tertiaries in New England and Upstate New York.

(continued)

I set off on my next long tour in September . . . via Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Louisville . . . and then Michigan/Illinois/Wisconsin . . . thence to Minneapolis, out west to Idaho, and to British Columbia by the beginning of November . . . . Then Seattle, West Oregon, San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Arizona; and back to San Francisco for Christmas and New Year before returning east, across the middle of the country. I shall look forward to meeting many of you. Please keep me in your prayers, as I keep you in mine.

With every blessing,

Robert, SSF: Chaplain.

### THIRD ORDER MEETING AT HILFIELD

(Report to the members of the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis, American Province, on the Interprovincial Third Order Meeting at the Friary, Hilfield, Dorset, England, May 25-27, 1973; by John M. Scott, Representative of the American Province.)

The single most important note of the meeting was the remarkable degree of common mind and direction that the Third Order representatives from around the world had about our way of life and our organizational needs to enhance that life, in order to prepare ourselves for whatever missions God has in mind for us in the future.

Two documents were produced which are being sent to you in this mailing: first, a constitution for the Third Order world-wide; and second, a revision of the data on the Rule of Life in the Manual. Both are brief and contain what is essential to our common life, leaving the matter of details to the statutes of each Province.

Brief comments: In section 3 of the constitution, "The Provinces", it reads that "In the first instance" composition of the Provincial Chapter will be determined by existing officers. Only the English and American Provinces have provincial structure already; for Africa and the Pacific, organization will now begin. Incidentally, in both cases there will need to be regional organization within the Province, due to political and geographical problems, e.g. there are tertiaries both in Zambia and Rhodesia, but they cannot cross the border and meet with each other. The Pacific likewise covers several countries, cultures and great distances. It was agreed that Brother Geoffrey, as Minister General, would have the primary care of the African Province and of the growing number of tertiaries in Southeast Asia.

In the draft of the manual, the 17 points speak for themselves, but I want to call your attention particularly to the 9 headings under which our personal rules are to be drawn up. There were only eight in the old manual, and many of us felt strongly about the specific inclusion of "Penitence". Also "Communal and Liturgical Prayer" (from the 17 points) clearly makes the place of the daily office secure, as we in the American Province have always considered it to be. The new Report Form reflects these 9 headings.

Participants in the Interprovincial meeting, in addition to Brother Geoffrey and the respective provincial chaplains and myself, included two tertiaries each from the

other three Provinces: for England, Mary McCulloch Johnson (author of several books including This Vast Activity) and Richard Scott, chemist with W. R. Grace and active in the Little Gidding Community (families and individuals striving to develop a contemporary model as inspired by the Ferrar family in the 17th century); for the Pacific, Katarina Ruru, New Zealand organizer, visitor and mother, and Brian McDonald-Milne, priest from Honoria, Solomon Islands, chaplain of the Associates of the Melanesian Brotherhood; for Africa, Winifred Wood, wife of the bishop of Matebeleland, Rhodesia, and David Norton, priest serving in Zambia.

Brother Geoffrey's recent visits with many tertiaries in the Franciscan family around the world, and his circulation of two draft documents of a new set of 'Principles' clearly had been significant to us all in shaping and articulating our thinking. His travels accepting many invitations in the Pacific, Asia, Africa, and the West Indies, convince him that it is no longer western missionaries -- not even Friars -- who will be the leading edge of Christian community; but rather the Third Order with indigenous Third World members. We have already sensed this in the American Province, with the 1974 venture that is planned in Trinidad involving the Robinsons and several Friars together.

That is one compelling reason for the effort to write a single document to describe the Franciscan life common to all three Orders. However, it must be said that, while the English Province Third Order has clearly moved in response to that vision, the First Order in England has not quite caught up -- there is a lingering habit, perhaps mostly unconscious of the old imperialism!

This was reflected in some opposition to replacing the C.S.S. version of the Principles with Brother Geoffrey's contemporary version. Just as some of us had done, the English First Order regards Geoffrey's effort as a commentary. He will prepare a third draft for use on that basis. Further effort toward a common document will again be on the agenda for the next two years. Our Third Order meeting did recommend a book of roots (the primitive rules of the three Orders, the Testament of St. Francis) plus the Christa Seva Sangha rule as our 20th century 'original' rule, and a new restatement of principles in contemporary language.

We also urged the First Order Chapter to take steps to establish an inter-provincial chapter representing all three Orders, and to provide a role for our participation in the choice of Minister General. The sisters of the Community of St. Francis will also be included, and they are now recognized as appropriately part of the First Order.

Two other matters were a recommendation that one issue each year of The Chronicle, published by the Third Order, English Province, be devoted to articles about our common life, from and relevant to all the Provinces. A contributing editor in each Province is to be appointed. Copies will be mailed directly from England to individual tertiaries. (Is your address up to date?) Finally, we agreed that "such insignia that a Province may authorize in its Statutes to be worn by the tertiaries of a Province, shall be a cross or crucifix."

John Scott, Guardian

## A MESSAGE TO THE THIRD ORDER

It was my privilege to attend the Third Order Chapter at Redwood City on May 4-6. It was so good to be able to meet so many of our Third Order and to listen to their thinking. One thought came to mind over and over again. We are one! We are one!

As Minister, I have appointed Brother Robert to continue as your Chaplain for another three years. This was done with the consent of the Third Order Chapter. I'm very happy to announce that John Scott is now the Guardian of the Third Order. This is a new post, and Father Scott will take on most of the executive work, and take the "chair" at Chapter meetings. This is how it should be, the Third Order running its own affairs, but helped and supported by the Friars and Nuns -- one mature family together serving God and His world in the spirit of our Father Francis.

Your brother,

Luke, SSF

## COMMENTS ON THE CHAPTER

"The theme of the whole three days was fellowship, love, and joy. I have never seen a group so united into one as were we. I felt as if I had known all present since childhood and beyond, and was just renewing acquaintances and catching up on all the news that had passed since last I had seen them. ... The Spirit of God was with us throughout; all felt it and all were comforted by and rejoiced in it."

Mary Mobert, 8 May 1973

"It was a wonderful time, full of song and love. The one thing that was lacking was your being there with us. This was no 'Convention', it was a Family Reunion, and I am sure that Sunday morning's Eucharist will long be remembered."

Don Carlson 5-8-73

"Last weekend at Redwood City was a tremendous experience for me. ... From the moment of arrival, the atmosphere (spiritual, that is) was beautiful. There was such an outpouring of love. ... One of the things that impressed me was learning from conversations with many of the others of the difficult times that they had been through in their lives to this point, and yet they were joyful, and meeting their situations with the Franciscan qualities of humility, love and joy."

Ken Cox - May 13, 1973

We rejoice with:-

- The Rt. Rev. Charles T. Gaskell, elected Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Milwaukee, and consecrated on June 30th.
- The Rev. Warren Tanghe, ordained Deacon on June 16th.
- Rodney Cook, married July 7th.
- John and Gaile Senette on the birth of daughter Mary Clare on July 17th.
- Ruth Groves, honored at a recognition banquet, by the St. Francis Boys' Homes, of Salina, Kansas, on May 6th. She was awarded the St. Francis Gold Medal for Service to Youth, and the citation read, "For dedicated effort to support and strengthen the work of the private, licensed child-caring agencies of Kansas in her position with the Division of Maternal and Child Care of the Kansas State Board of Health."
- John Shumaker, who wrote on June 4th, "Since Christmas I've been gradually but steadily recovering from an accident I had. Hopefully, with permission of my Bishop, I will be back at seminary the end of August."
- George Gray, Mary Ann Marchesi, and Annjane Tanner, professed in May and June.

Travel:-

- Fr. William Lahey wrote Br. Robert that he was spending the summer doing a course at Canterbury, England; and Dorothy Burlingham, of England, wrote that Rebecca Parkin is in Oxford for a year. Fr. Russell Northway is off to work in Barbados; from Sep. 17, his address will be: St. Christopher's Church, Christchurch, Barbados, West Indies.

"Our stay in England was a Godsend, and a fluke. When I arrived, there were already several letters and notes from English tertiaries welcoming me to England, and in a short time I discovered that there were many Franciscans in my area. I had hoped to attend the Chapter in Dorset, but it was not meant to be... Later when we were in Athens, I bought a ticket and went on a VW bus with some English tourists out to Delphi. In the party were a Canon of Canterbury and his wife. He said he knew the Friars well, and he himself had been a seminary roommate of the Bishop of Ripon, Moorman, who had written the great history of the Order. He remarked that the Franciscans are the fastest growing group within the Anglican Communion and said that Archbishop Ramsay is very proud of the Franciscans - that they have brought new life to the Church in England. . . Back in Arkansas now, our little Fellowship is still struggling in its isolation. How I wish they could enjoy the sense of truly belonging to the larger family, which it was my privilege to enjoy for the last three months."

(Excerpts from a letter from Carolyn Banks)

We ask your prayers for:

- Kale King as he returns to the U.S. from his work in Liberia, and looks for guidance for the future.
- Fergus Fulford and Bill Johnson, who are both recuperating from heart attacks.
- Marie Hayes, who was not well, and had to curtail her planned summer visits to tertiaries.

## FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

The Philadelphia Fellowship met in May and August, in Bethlehem, Pa. John Scott brought word from the Third Order Chapter in California, and the Inter-provincial Third Order meeting in England.

Ken Cox wrote May 26th: "Saturday evening, the San Bernardino Fellowship met at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Alhambra, a suburb of Los Angeles. One of my pleasures in going was being brother driver and picking up the others en route. We had our usual program of Holy Communion, following which Margaret renewed her profession and Jim Evans renewed as novice. We had an enjoyable meeting afterward with discussion about Chapter meeting and some light hearted talk."

From San Francisco came: "June 26, 1973. Dear Helen, Do you think that we have all expired out here in the New Umbrian Fellowship? Not quite so! Truth is that we have been most active - in fact, I believe that the past two weeks have been full to running over for almost all of us. On the weekend of June 15-16-17 we went up to be with the Friars at El Rancho del Obispo near Healdsburg. It was primarily a WORK weekend, to do some much needed outside painting on the cottages. After reams of sand paper, gallons upon gallons of paint and a number of aching muscles, we had completed the long over-trellis and two of the cottages, plus having sanded one other cottage in preparation for its primer and finishing coats. We plan to return in the fall, after the busy summer schedule for the Ranch, and finish the other three cottages. . . . We all worked hard, said Office with the Friars, helped in the dining hall, sang, drank beer - in fact, we behaved rather like Franciscans. Somewhere along the line, we managed a short business meeting; and Judith anticipating, and preparing for, their (the Robinsons) departure for our coming work in Trinidad, resigned as Guardian of our Fellowship. I was named the new convenor pro-tem. We returned to our homes Sunday; and Monday, Katarina arrived in town en route from London and the Third Order Chapter in England to her home in Ellington, New Zealand. The more we meet other tertiaries from around this country and from around the world, the more we come to realise that we are all cut from the same cloth and from the same pattern. Katarina was not a visitor; she was a member of the family. We all wish her God Speed on her trip home, sending her with much of our love and warmed by the love that she gave us. From here, we send our Most to you.

Your Brother in Christ and St. Francis,

Don (Carlson) "



Don Carlson also sent a short article by Mary Ann, on Fellowship, which was mimeographed and distributed to their group. She included a comment from Marie Webner: "I wonder how we'll be able to foster the kind of community that we talked about at Chapter? I'm afraid too many people still think of the Third Order as a personal rule, and don't realize the obligation and the joy of regular fellowship with other tertiaries. Those of us who were at Chapter will certainly never forget how meaningful fellowship can be."

Br. Paul, SSF, at the Bishop's Ranch, wrote on July 2nd: "I'm just now catching my breath. . . . As you know, we took over the Ranch just as the busy season began. All summer there are conferences lasting a week (the present one, a choral group, is here for two weeks). They arrive generally on Saturday in time for dinner and leave the next Saturday after lunch. So you can see how pushed we are. . . . The Fellowship from San Francisco has come up frequently. Once they spent a whole weekend painting . . . and to do that work in such a short time was something of a record. . . . Some others have been up here at other times to help with the cleaning and the kitchen work. Just beginning this kind of work, it was a great help to all concerned. . . . From September through May, most of the groups will be here only weekends. Then we hope to have retreats as well as conferences. Of course in the midst of all this activity, the prayer life goes on regularly and sustains us in all we do."

#### STANDING COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Third Order Standing Committee was held July 17th. After reviewing postulants' names and other material in preparation for the 1973 intercession-address book, there was a report on the Inter-Provincial Third Order Meeting of May, in England. As a result of that meeting, a draft of the world-wide Third Order Constitution was produced, and a draft of the world-wide Third Order Manual revision.

After a lively discussion in England, Br. Geoffrey's Draft of the Principles was seen to be a valuable commentary. However, Br. Michael produced a Statement of Intent, which was recommended at the First Order Chapter for further study and consideration.

A suggestion in the Inter-Provincial Chapter was made that more material for the Third Order Chronicle be sent from other Provinces in addition to England. The Standing Committee will try to find someone in the American Province to handle details for us.

The Third Order treasury is going down steadily, and the Standing Committee suggested that tertiaries be reminded to send checks payable to the Third Order of St. Francis.

The wording of the report form was checked before a new printing is to be made in August, and several suggestions were made.

It is hoped that a meeting of the Trustees of the Corporation will be held soon.

## BOOKS

Don Carlson, of 261 Dalewood Way, San Francisco, CA 94127, asks if anyone has a copy of a book he could borrow? It is Martin Thornton's "Pastoral Theology: A Re-Orientation". He wonders if tertiaries might send in a list of books they'd be willing to loan. We could include the information in the Newsletter.

Br. Robert has two books he'd like to commend. The Go-Between God, by John V. Taylor, is a profoundly exciting and original exposition of the theology of the Holy Spirit. (Incidentally, his earlier book, The Primal Vision, available in paperback, is also a superb statement about Christian Mission, written from his experience in Africa). Both are published by SCM Press, London. St. Francis: The Journey and the Dream, by Murray Bodo, published by St. Anthony Messenger Press, Cincinnati; paperback \$1.50. A first class book that marvellously captures the spirit of St. Francis; very readable and attractively laid out; good for our own meditations and also to put into the hands of someone wanting to read about Francis for the first time. Excellent value.

I have just read Considerations, by Hubert Van Zeller, Templegate Publishers, Springfield, Illinois, 1973; and liked it very much. It is composed of short statements for meditation, grouped under general chapter headings. (H. Webb)

If you have also read something you particularly liked, why not share it with all of us?

## NOTES

There are additional copies available from Helen Webb of the report forms, and the material being sent to you third class at the same time as the Newsletter. If your listing in the 1973 booklet is not correct, please let us know. The Associate list, coming third class, will make it possible for Tertiaries and Associates to get together as part of the Franciscan family. Please note the revised report form enclosed. We remind you again - when writing checks, please make them payable to the Third Order of St. Francis. If the Third Order is not indicated, the money goes elsewhere. Third Order receipts are handled at Little Portion Friary, Box 8, Mt. Sinai, NY 11766.