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REPORT FROM BROOKLYN We were pleased that Annjane Tanner answered our inquiry this summer about the work at Ascension Parish, Greenpoint, Brooklyn, New York. She wrote:

"It would be, I think, impossible to tell you all about this parish and its people in one letter, but I will at least begin. Much of the love that exists there comes from the Rector, the Rev. William A. Davidson. He believes in people, and you don't have to be an Episcopalian and come to church to be loved by him. It is a contagious spirit. I met him about 4 or 5 years ago, and we became friends. Then I went to Ascension, and fell in love. Everyone, almost, is involved in spreading God's word, especially as many cultures live together. Living at the house, the rectory, with Fr. Davidson are two Friars, Brother Blair Martin and Brother Dunstan. The Brothers assist with the parish work and help in the community. Blair is also involved in seeing the people in the city prisons, and he goes every week. During the year there are seminarians from General who help, and learn about parish work. One of them, Ted Chase, is taking a year off from seminary to devote full time to Ascension and its community.

There is open house in the rectory where people come, eat, and talk about a problem, a success, or just to sit and have fun. Father and the Brothers, and anyone in the house, is always ready to tutor or listen or talk. In addition, there are several boys living in the rectory, teenagers and younger, who come for a time to live in this loving environment. We all learn from them. There are two youth groups: one on Friday nights for 15 and up teenagers, any teenagers, and one Saturday for 12 to 15 year olds. Every summer we have a two-week Day Camp for about 100 to 125 neighborhood children. In August, Bros. Jude, Dunstan and Blair, two parish people, a boy from Arkansas, and myself were leaders, with teenage assistants.

Basically, Ascension is a parish that isn't afraid to say, 'We are Christian, and we love.' Oh there are problems, it isn't always a smooth ride, but usually the Christian attitude dominates. Ascension is now celebrating its 125th anniversary with a year of festivities. If you are in the neighborhood, come and visit."

RETREATS Br. Robert reported in August that he has spoken to the Reverend Mother of the Poor Clares, and she says the pre-Advent retreat for women is November 12 - 14, and any of our women tertiaries would be most welcome. They should write direct to Maryhill to book space (The Poor Clares, Maryhill, Mt. Sinai, New York 11766). For men or for married couples: would you be interested in a retreat at Little Portion in Lent? If you are, please write to Mrs. Edward Webb, 4008 Buckingham Road, Baltimore, Md. 21207; and it would help if you would indicate the days of the week you might be able to attend.

FAMILY NEWS We congratulate Mark Sisk and his wife on the safe arrival of a baby daughter; Judy Barrett on her marriage to Mitchell A. Haynes; and the Rev. Robert Dillon on his ordination as a Perpetual Deacon. The Rev. John Senette was professed in May, and ordained Deacon in June, and is on the staff of the Church of the Holy Comforter, New Orleans. Judith Robinson (see article) was professed in April, and Margaret Patterson in August. We extend sympathy to Alice Bush whose husband, Burr, died in April. We mentioned Barbara Abrams'

FAMILY NEWS wedding in the last Newsletter; her new name is Mrs. Nathan U. continued Kindt. The Washington D.C. Fellowship will sorely miss Mrs. Marie Webner, who moved in August to Tucson, Arizona and will teach in the Tuller School.

WHO'S WHO Judith Robinson, Tertiary

"In this city of Saint Francis lives an inspired and inspiring Franciscan. Her name is Judith. She is married and at present the mother of four children. Her husband, Jerry, teaches at San Francisco's Mission High School, a public school just around the corner from the original Franciscan Mission Dolores and within a stone's throw of San Damiano House. Their first two children are: Mark, 12 years old, preparing for independence at a Free School, and Rachel, 9, who is a beauty and already has convent fever. Two adopted children are Marya, age 3, half black and half Irish, and a one and a half year old Mayan Indian, Rebecca. Very soon, they hope, their family will be increased to five with the completed adoption of an 8 year old Korean boy.

One of Judith's major contributions is the two nights each week that she gives to counseling our draft-troubled youth, of whom we have many, here in San Francisco. It is comforting to know that these young men have someone like Judith to whom they can look for help, counsel and guidance. When the San Francisco Fellowship was formally organized, it consisted of five Tertiaries: two postulants, a novice and two professed. Judith was the novice, but was unanimously elected 'Directress-in-waiting' since, according to the Manual, she could not yet be the director. This preceded her Profession by about one month. Her Profession was celebrated by all sorts and conditions of men -- black, white, red and yellow; poor and rich; priests, laymen and friars; Catholics in obedience to both Canterbury and Rome, protestants and agnostics; and her St. Bernard, named Gertrude.

I think of Judith as a franciscan Franciscan, for she is one who truly turns the noun into the adjective."  
Don Carlson 7/30/71

#### LETTERS AND MESSAGES

... from Kathy Klein: "I used to think we Americans were so wonderful to other countries, and that wars were justified, etc., but after living in Jerusalem for two years, at least six months of which was in the midst of the war between the Arabs and Jews which is still going on, I found out that much of what we are taught is distorted. I noticed that Americans and British seem to feel infinitely superior to all other nations in every way. When we help others, we don't help them to help themselves, we insist that they do everything our way. People certainly have to pay a dear price for our help. As for war, I found that it seems to either brutalize people or it has the opposite effect: it breaks the spirit. I feel our country is the best one in the world; we don't appreciate all the privileges we have. However, we are fallible, and I speak against our mistakes, out of love and concern. We aren't as badly off as we think, but we could do much better."

BOOK CORNER

The Church and Revolution, by the Rev. Peter J. Riga  
The Bruce Publishing Co., Milwaukee, 1967.

"Father Riga, a Roman Catholic Professor of Theology at St. Mary's College in California, and author of a number of books and frequent contributor to the New York Times and National Catholic Reporter (all of this by the age of 33) has some very thoughtful things to say about the role of the Church and of Christians within the Church relating to today's world.

He discusses the change in attitude toward the Church and the world beginning with Pope John XXIII and continuing with Pope Paul. His comments on the role of the working man in his relationship to the investor or owner of business within the framework of Christian ground rules are very thought provoking. Father Riga says that Pope John led the Church out of the Constantinian era and into a new age, not by writing new dogmas but by providing some keen and fresh insights and by seeking for renewal within the Church. In the chapter on Revolution within the Church, Father Riga quotes from Pope Paul's talk when he appeared at the U.N. when he called for man's conversion at a time when his God-given privilege of decision making permits him to use 'ever more powerful instruments which could be equally employed for destruction or for the loftiest conquests'. Also of interest is the chapter, 'Christianity and atheism, a dialogue?' This book should prove very worthwhile and helpful in examining the role of the Church and the Christian individual in the world."

from Kenneth W. Cox

Way to go, baby, by Gene Langevin  
Abingdon Press, Nashville and N.Y., 1970, paperback

Written by a Baptist minister, this short book is a detailed description of "The Way", a Christian mission in North Quincy, Massachusetts, with a congregation made up of inner city adolescents, whom he calls streetcorner youth.

LETTERS AND MESSAGES

continued

... from the Rev. Robert Bollman: "Where in a town of this size can a youth go who is strange, low, or out of money and unknown? As of June 1, 1971 there will be a place: the Brotherhood House. By creative confrontation, we will help youth deal with hostility. This means that we reach the youth before he gets into serious trouble. The house is being built on the philosophy that one is not acting as one ought to or could."

We commend this work to your prayers. For further information, write Brotherhood House, P.O. Box 9282, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46809.

## MORE LETTERS & MESSAGES

... from our Chaplain, Br. Robert, SSF: "I am glad of the opportunity to add my welcome to the first issue of our Third Order Provincial Newsletter, and to express my thanks to Helen Webb for being willing to shoulder the work of editing. This newsletter will in future issues be what you make it.

Chapter was a very positive experience of fellowship and common purpose for all who took part, and the keen awareness of ourselves as indeed an Order who need to affirm a lively sense of community came through loud and clear. As a result we spent quite a lot of time searching for ways to improve all levels of communication, and this newsletter is one such effort.

It was also a very healthy sign that, having necessarily spent a good deal of Chapter time discussing how to improve our functioning as an Order, there was towards the end a measure of protest that we were only just getting round to the really important issues as time ran out on us. For this reason it seemed that three years would be altogether too long to wait for another Chapter. We are therefore planning the next Chapter for early May 1973 in California, and it is devoutly to be hoped that by then the improved methods of working we are introducing now will need so little revision that the lion's share of time can be given to a sharing on subjects such as: what the Tertiary vocation means; what is contemporary Franciscan spirituality; to what particular witness are we called.

Will the Pastoral Officers please submit expenses with their Michaelmas reports so they may be paid before the Standing Committee meets on October 19."

... from the New Umbrian News (Third Order, San Francisco): "We are told that the Tertiaries in the greater Tucson area hope to form a Fellowship. Keep this in your prayers.

Peter Funk wrote in the New Umbrian News: "As all of us in the Third Order are well aware, the 'Jesus Movement' has a great deal in common with our Franciscan principals. Yet, there is one major difference -- for the most part it is taking place outside the Church. We know how Francis elected to work within the Church and he accomplished miracles. To gain some historical perspective about other revivals, I read Ronald A. Knox's monumental study, Enthusiasm. In it he traces various European movements. He became aware that all had similarities and all were transient, and he pointed out various warnings that similar movements should be aware of .... Perhaps we, in following Francis, can encourage the Jesus People to work within the Church and to change it -- to change it where Christ is central and not bricks and mortar -- where Christ is central and not ritual and routing only -- where love and brotherhood for all people truly exists."

THE NEXT ISSUE of the Newsletter covers January - March 1972. The deadline is December first. Send comments and material to Mrs. Edward Webb, 4008 Buckingham Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21207.