

The Third Order

Society of
St. Francis

American Province

NEWSLETTER

January, 1979
Number 25

Chapter reorganizes chaplain's duties

Chapter has divided and reorganized the Chaplain's work. This most important action of the November meeting should ease the burden on Br. Mark Francis, who is now called The Provincial's Visitor to the Third Order, and make reporting easier for professed Tertiaries. The Rev. Robert "Gooch" Goode, to whom Br. Mark Francis has been delegating increasing responsibility, is now Chaplain. Under Gooch will be 22 Area Chaplains, to whom professed tertiaries will report.

These chaplains are not necessarily priests and nearly half of them are women. As Gooch has noted in a letter to all tertiaries--with which you should have received a list of Area Chaplains--women have long served as spiritual counsellors and many friars have sought counsel from the Poor Clares.

Under this new system, postulants and novices will still report to their counselors, who will report to the novice directors, Kenneth Cox or Muriel Adey. Professed will report to their Area Chaplains. Gooch, instead of Br. Mark Francis, will grant mandates for profession, following novices' approval by Chapter.

Questions about this new policy should be addressed to Gooch. If you have not received a list of area chaplains, write to Helen Webb.

Finances were a necessarily important part of Chapter. The 1978 budget "looks as though it will work out fairly well," Secretary Helen Webb writes. Chapter set aside \$500 for "non-Franciscan ministry" as a memorial for the Rev. Robert Samuelson's work in Texas, to be given to CONCEPT HOUSE, a drug rehabilitation program in Florida, which is run by the Rev. James Jones, a tertiary.

A new item of \$500 for novice counselors' training was added to the 1979 budget. Other large amounts are: \$2,000 for the Visitor, \$3,500 for Chapter expense, \$1,000 for the

Convocation in Miami, \$1,000 for printing, \$400 for the Newsletter; total spending is \$13,150. Because of a \$500 gift, the amount needed from tertiaries is \$12,650. This year's expected income is \$11,325. So we will need contributions from more tertiaries and increases wherever possible.

Chapter welcomed its new member, Keith Ackerman. Also, because Gooch became an ex officio member, Lee Malloy is now serving on Chapter. Dee Dobson was reappointed as Chapter's representative on the Standing Committee. Because we need our historical documents stored and catalogued, Librarian Pat Mahon volunteered to be our Archivist.

We will meet in Miami Wednesday through Sunday, April 18-22, for Convocation. Three tertiaries will lead workshops, and Margaret Delaney, a Roman Catholic Franciscan, will speak on "The Milan Document," a modern expression of Franciscan principles, which includes a training program.

David Catron, of Mexico wrote to Chapter his enthusiasm about possibilities for tertiaries and associates there. Fr. Jose Valenzuela sent greetings from the four tertiaries in Bogata. After Chapter was adjourned, it received a letter from Br. Dunstan with love and affection from the seven tertiaries in Trinidad, two in Guyana, and one in Barbados.

John Scott reported that he enjoyed his stay at a Third Order family summer camp session in England. He wonders if we might like to have one. He also read a paper on poverty.

Br. Mark Francis spoke of God's call to "rebuild my church," especially as a spiritual community. Muriel Adey, Novice Director, listed the present 59 postulants, novices, and their counselors under her care. She pointed out the need for willingness to

Chapter cont'd

be used as God's workers wherever we are. Ken Cos, Novice Director, is responsible for 81 people, and needs help from more counselors.

Marie Webner mentioned success at having fellowships adopt isolated tertiaries, who were interested. However, she resigned as Fellowship Coordinator, and Br. Mark Francis is to try to find someone to fill that job.

Chapter discussed Third Order material. The American Province has been asked to work on an issue of The Franciscan, which will focus on us. We also will produce an updated edition of our Provincial Statutes, as well as a Third Order brochure for inquirers. We also plan to work on material for spiritual directors, a counselor's kit, etc.

The following tertiaries were elected to profession: Clinton Best, David Catron, Herbert Conley, James Dubois, William Mahon, and Paul Muse.

Write to Helen Webb if you would like a copy of the complete minutes of Chapter.

Convocation set, April 18-21

The Third Order will convene the week after Easter in Miami for a variety of worship and workshops, and a chance to learn more about each other.

The schedule is not yet fixed, but will begin Wednesday night, April 18, ending around Noon on Saturday, April 21. On Thursday, The Rev. Jim Jones will lead a discussion and tour of his ministry to drug addicts at CONCEPT HOUSE.

Friday morning, Sister Rose Margaret Delaney, S.F.P., and Bruce Rogers, both of the Community Service Center, Brooklyn, NY, will discuss "The Madrid Document," the Roman Catholic revision of the Third Order Rule, focusing on its similarities to and differences from ours.

Other workshops will include Group Processes and Management in the Church by The Rev. Brian Hall; Urban Coalition and Successful Education by Hendick Koning; Poverty, Chasity and Obedience; and Franciscan Spirituality.

Most tertiaries are from the States, but Third World tertiaries from Trinidad, Columbia and Mexico are expected as well, promising an interesting convocation.

WHEN YOU COME TO CONVOCATION, bring your lute, flute, guitar, dulcimer, harmonica, drum, or whatever instrument you play, so we can make a joyful noise with accompaniment.

Muriel Adey writes of Chapter:

During the Pastoral Officers' meeting and Chapter, I was interested to observe how, without anyone suggesting that it would be a good thing, most people naturally took time to talk to each person present in turn so by the end of the available time almost everyone had benefitted from quiet conversation with everyone else. How healthy this spontaneous movement is! May it happen just as spontaneously whenever our brothers and sisters in the Third Order get to meet each other. The friendships and understandings that grew were by no means the least of the beneficial side effects of the time at the Ranch. May the Lord be praised and thanked for calling us to be part of the Franciscan family.

CONVOCATION IS COMING

If you plan to attend the Convocation in Miami, April 18-21, please send your \$20.00 registration fee, check made out to Dee Dobson, and this form to Dee as soon as possible. Be sure to note how you plan to travel, and your flight number and time of arrival if you need transportation from the airport. Mail it to:

Mrs. William Dobson
4001 S.W. 5 Terrace
Miami, FL 33134

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Arriving _____

IF YOU WANT to go to Convocation, but neither you nor your fellowship can manage the funds, write to The Rev. John Scott, Protector, explaining your situation, and he may be able to find funds to supplement what you have to pay your way.

Seasons of time and spirit

It is winter. Our first snow is falling lightly outside in a way that is always special. The house is warm and cozy and the new kitten is purring as she begins yet another nap. I am grateful for the peace of these few moments.

In the midst of many things, I am aware of a cycle, as consistent as seasons yet amazingly varied in its expression. The year has been filled with pain and joy, the one impossible without the other.

Seasons continue to ebb and flow, and the pace of life with them. Spring is filled with the promise of new life and new growth. All the deepest parts of me are renewed in longing to know God in newer and more wonderful ways. Spring brings new opportunities and new potential, yet Spring also brings the Cross. I learn again and again that bearing my cross means accepting my limitations, my weaknesses--not difficulties imposed from outside--and then walking freely with Christ in the light of the Resurrection.

Summer comes, and with it heat and humidity. The cross I joyfully took up in the Spring becomes heavier and I fall again and again under its weight. As the temperature rises, I see each thing that hinders me in a new way. Christ is strong in each weakness, and he begins to teach me to offer each failure to him as I ask his help in bearing it. The burden gets lighter.

Fall is a time of stripping. As in my walk with Christ I have offered all that I am in the heat of summer, so he now shows me what is not essential. Offering becomes more painful, yet more joyful as I learn to allow Christ to entirely work in me, grow in me, live in me, so I may become the person I was created to be. The weakness I recognize and offer Christ enables me to know him in ways I had not dreamed of, totally unexpected ways that surpass all I could have imagined. Not only am I able to accept the pain of offering, but I learn to embrace it gladly for the joy before me, for in it Christ draws me nearer to himself. With falling leaf, I learn and relearn the meaning of poverty.

Seasons mark our years and therefore our lives. Seasons of the spiritual life also may come and go in a year, but they may come in months or in days. Night may bring a storm of confusion and dawn, may bring the promise of something newly created within. An Autumn day may be filled with stripping of self or an unexpected harvest of wonder.

For now, however, it is winter. The tractors in the fields have ceased their drone, and the long hours in the garden are past. Trees are bare and I miss the birds, although the sparrows stay. (I am glad that the sparrows stay!) Snow has fallen and everything is fresh. Winter marks the end of the calendar year and the beginning of the Church year, and it is time to offer the past and to look to the future. All my longings, my failures, my abilities; all the cycles in my life of cross and offering and gift are brought into focus as the clarity of winter sharpens the outline of nature. Winter, too, is a time of rest.

Most of all, winter holds a promise, of life more beautiful than we have ever known before, because when days are shortest and nights are darkest winter holds within it the promise of a Child. And I, weary but deeply happy, know that above all things I must learn to be a child, to rest in the arms of my Father, to rest from a year of journey, to rest as nature rests, content to be still within the hope of Springs to come. I must be a child, gathering all those crosses-become-gifts, gathering all that I am and hope to be, offering it all as one gift, my gift, to the Baby Jesus.

Come and worship. Come and adore him who dwells with us. Come as a child, come face to face with the Babe in a manger.

Upstate New York does not yet have a fellowship, but Caroline Moran, Mark Sisk, and John Metcalfe renewed their vows on December 3 at St. Andrew's Church, with Br. Dominic officiating. Caroline writes:

We took our families and had a potluck supper which would have fed two dozen Third World families for a week. We heard something of the tremendous work the friars are doing with CLUSTER in Yonkers, and our five kids had a ball together. Mark's wife, Karen, recently lost her mother, and her experience of bereavement and her reflections on it were really enriching to me personally as well as in my ministry. Mark's daughters received their first communions, and seven-year-old Bronwyn's awe and joy made me yearn for that marvelous childlike simplicity Francis achieved. John Metcalfe, who is away, had sent me a beautifully-worded proxy renewal, which I read at the Eucharist. It was a good time for all of us.

An entirely Spanish-speaking tertiary fellowship, made up of David L. Catron and six members of the Order of the Holy Cross in a suburb of Mexico City began in December.

David is not sure how he attracted his OHC colleagues rather than the other way around, but is happy with the possibilities.

A problem is finding Franciscan materials in Spanish.

The meeting on December 2 began with Evening prayer, followed by a discussion, the Eucharist, and a buffet dinner. David writes:

I began the discussion...with a brief history of the Society of St. Grances and the Third Order. I spent some time describing the Rule of Life as a unique feature of the Franciscan Third Order which permits an aspirant to compose a Rule which, while complying with broad precepts, fits his own particular circumstance of life. Discussion followed on these points and others of mutual interest....

We decided that the group would be called Fraternidad de San Grancisco, but that it would be open to all Christians and specifically to members of OHC who, although their Rule calls for regular meetings, have been unable to fit one into their schedule. In this way we will contribute to a sense of community among Anglicans in Mexico. We are really too few in number to afford the luxury of separate, if not competing groups.

There is a fairly large and very important English-speaking congregation at Christ Church here, but at the moment I am not sure how much interest we will attract there.

News of fellowships

The Davis, CA, fellowship has adopted Dovey Mae Jones, who has no fellowship near Des Moines, IA. For their November meeting, they sent her an invitation including a map for finding Rosemond McFarran's house, even though they knew she could not come. Rosie writes:

Dovey wired us flowers to be with us instead of her being here in person. They were so beautiful! We started our meeting with the Eucharist...and put Dovey's flowers in the middle of the makeshift altar, with candles on either side of it, and Fr. Kennedy offered the service for Dovey, and she was right there in the midst of us. It was so neat! We all felt very close to her.

After the meeting, they took the flowers to a nursing home patient, with a story of the meeting and the source.

The Lexington (KY) Fellowship has adopted The Rev. Donald Bailey of Moose Factory, Ontario, via letter and tape recording. We think he may be getting the short end of the deal. His last tape to use had angelic choirs in the background (which he assured us were only the choir of the cathedral where he was visiting at practice) while we send him the discussion of a portion of the manual that we are studying at our monthly meeting.

We are an ecumenical group, including a member of another Episcopal order who has no fellowship nearby, a Roman Catholic tertiary, and a member of the Church of Christ who is the RC's neighbor. At our December meeting, we Episcopalians were happily surprised by a party prepared by our ecumenical members, consisting of gingerbread shaped like fat friars (which is how we felt after eating them), bourbon balls, and other local holiday fare.

Several of us lunched with Protector John Scott January 18, so we have an event to report to the rest at our usual meeting the fourth Tuesday night.

More fellowships & people notes —

Two European Province tertiaries, Richard and Hilda Davidson, visited the Philadelphia Fellowship for dinner in September. About ten people enjoyed lively conversation and good fellowship with them at the Scotts' home. The Davidsons live in Cambridge. Hilda is a scholar and lecturer at the University in Norse literature and Richard is a consulting industrial chemist. Both were in the States for lectures and business appointments.

The Philadelphia fellowship expects a visit from Br. Mark Francis January 25-29, during which they will have a quiet day January 27, and a Eucharist followed by supper and a discussion of the future of the fellowship at Fr. John Scott's home on January 28.

Novice Bob Newhouse, 40, of this fellowship, died January 2, "of undetermined causes, but most likely of one or another of the ailments for which he had been hospitalized five times during 1978," John reports. "May he rest in peace! Alleluia!"

The New England Fellowship celebrated Paul Muse's profession at St. Mary's Church, Rockport, on December 16. Arnold and Carol Klukas, who arrived from England this Fall, are now a part of this fellowship.

Novice Olga Larson, who was seriously ill when the Fall newsletter went to press, died on September 22. Fr. John Scott writes:

Her funeral...was attended by more than two hundred persons including many priests of this diocese and three bishops. Olga's sense of Franciscan vocation came late in life, but the funeral attendance is testimony to the quality of her Christian witness, good sense, and guidance she provided many other people on the pilgrim's path. Since her husband's death about fifteen years ago, she has been an administrative assistant to the Diocesan, but actually performing innumerable tasks, many of them pastoral....

On December 17, The Rev. Kale Francis King celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, and was honored with a reception and a surprise scrapbook by his parish, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Glasgow, MT.

The Very Rev. Herbert N. Conley was professed on November 17 in Hawaii. He is critically ill and we ask your prayers for him.

Fr. H. Baxter Liebler thinks he may be the oldest living tertiary. But although the person he wrote this to thinks he may be in his 80s, he didn't say exactly how old he is, in case someone else has a better claim. He may well be the oldest tertiary to have been married in 1978, however, to Joan Eskell, a widow who also worked at his mission. Our congratulations to him and best wishes to both.

Mary Ann Marchesi married Richard Melville Jackman September 30 and sent us a beautifully hand-designed and lettered invitation. Again, congratulations and best wishes.

The Roman Catholic Third Order has invited any of us who can attend to a congress to be held in St. Louis June 7-10, 1979.

The associate provincial for the R.C. Third Order, the Rev. Lambert Leykam, OFM, is a friend of Novice Tom Summers so Tom is particularly interested in this meeting. For more information, write to Tom or to: The Rev. Benet A. Fonck, OFM
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Roving reporter finds Pam Moffat in Morocco

This newsletter marks the beginning of a "roving reporter" column. We hope these sketches of individual tertiaries will help us to know each other better. For this to continue, we need for you to suggest tertiaries you know who might be interesting subjects, or simply write an article yourself.

Since Pam Moffat's husband joined the Foreign Service in 1956, she and her family have lived in Washington, D.C., Japan, France, Switzerland, Trinidad and Italy. With two older children now living in the States, Pam, her husband, and Nathaniel, 11, have begun their second two-year tour of duty in Rabat, Morocco. There, Pam works with the Embassy Wives, the International Women's Club, and the American School, where she serves as a member of the board of directors, in addition to her church work. Pam writes:

"I could write on and on for book-fills on how beautiful Morocco is. It is the special light that strikes one most often; on the river valley as we look across to the 'twin city' of Sale or throughout the city as the changing light falls on the ancient walls. There are contrasts between old and new--Biblical scenes or very Parisian ones--contrasts too between rich and poor, but great acceptance. We have not seen as much of the country as we'd like, but it is totally different from one city to the next and every ten kilometres in between."

When Pam first arrived in Rabat, she learned that the nearest Anglican church was in Casablanca fifty miles away. That, added to the loss of her fellowship group, combined to make her feel "cast adrift." But as it turned out this time in Morocco has given her the chance to be "more a

part of the Franciscan world here than anywhere else we have lived."

There is an ancient Franciscan tradition in Morocco: "St. Francis was stopped in Spain by sickness and forced to turn back from his planned visit to North Africa. Soon after, four Franciscans were martyred in Morocco and there have been many links over the centuries. Today, there are Franciscan convents in nearly every major city, with orphanages, schools, clinics, and also workshops to instruct young girls in handwork, especially the traditional Moroccan embroidery.... The Franciscans in Morocco...do not set out to proselytize, but rather to live among the Moroccans as a witness. The two religions, Islam and Christianity, seem very compatible...."

On their arrival, the family was warmly welcomed into the Roman Catholic community of Rabat. Pam was introduced to a small group of Franciscan sisters who run a retreat house and school. Twice a month, she joins a study group held at the convent (they are currently reading the *First Life of St. Francis* by Thomas de Celano). A weekly charismatic prayer meeting and Mass is also held there. Pam also meets each week with a Protestant/Southern Baptist Bible study class. In addition, Pam delved into a number of books this past summer, including several about Charles de Foucauld, because of his links with North Africa and Morocco.

Pam was professed October 3, at the Franciscan convent: "By a French Franciscan priest from Marrakech, who was visiting Rabat then. It was a Mass in the small convent chapel, part in French, part in English, and the sermon in English for my son Nathaniel, all about St. Bartholomew!"

Pam's life seems rich and varied, and as we remember her--now more familiarly--in our prayers, we thank her for sharing it with us.

Chapter has honored me by including in my job the position of archivist. If you have any documents which should be kept in the Third Order, send them along. These files will be passed on to other archivists any time I can no longer care for them. Any ideas you may have, as to what should be included and how it should be used will be greatly appreciated. Perhaps photocopies can be loaned out.

We have in the library three books on faith healing, with diverging points of view. The "Devil's Advocate" is *Faith Healing: God or Fraud?*. It tries to debunk the subject, but on reading the book it sometimes discloses the fraud in its own negative point of view.

Miracle Cures for the Millions gives many examples of cures from all over the world, Christian and others.

The gem of the three is *The Healing Power of Christ*, by Tertiary Emily Gardiner Neal. The best I can say is read it! Then put it aside for a week and read it again. Perhaps a good project would be to get all three and read them in the order given here. It is like going from the depths of scepticism to the heights of faith.

-- by Pat Mahon



The Bookshelf

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE FRANCISCAN LITERATURE OF THE MIDDLE AGES by John V. Flemming, reviewed by Peter Funk.

From the title you might surmise this book would be narrow in scope. It isn't! As it turns out, the author gives us a superlative survey of the Franciscan way....

Dr. Flemming is with the Department of English at Princeton University. Because he is a specialist in medieval literature, he gives us a keen insight into the enormous influence that Franciscan literature had on the prevailing culture and on a spirituality which extends into our own times. He does this by considering the poetry, fiction, and songs of the Middle Ages and their relationship to the ethos of that age. His book is a rare combination of scholarship and excellent writing....

Comments on last newsletter's "HELPS"

A tertiary has written that, while she enjoyed Diane Dresskell's article in the Fall newsletter, one point disturbed her: the use of singular pronouns rather than plural during the Office, when it is read alone. She writes:

To me, this is both contradictory and self-defeating. It is contradictory because, by definition, the Office is the prayer of the Church. It isn't my prayer; it's our prayer.... This is true for everyone in the Church but for us, as a community, making the Office a private affair is downright self-defeating. Many tertiaries have little or no contact with

their brothers and sisters, and most of us have contact with only a small group. But the Office is something we can do as a community, regardless of the circumstances or isolation. This, to me, is one of our basic expressions of our life together in community, and a way of building up that community.

She emphasized that she is not angry, but expressing a different opinion.

Please, when you have an opinion, about the newsletter or anything remotely associated with being a Franciscan, whether for or against it, please let us know. That way, we get to know each other better.

Tertiaries serve on hunger task force

St. Francis and Mother Teresa of Calcutta figure prominently in a new curriculum on world hunger prepared by the National Hunger Office and the Boston Industrial Mission. Designed to facilitate the Presiding Bishop's request that Lent 1979 be set aside for the special study of hunger, the program guide, called "Let it Begin with Me," leads groups to explore the maze of social, economic, political and ideological causes of hunger and prompts them to think deeply about the Old and New Testament understandings of such common experiences as eating, feeding and suffering, as well as Jesus' mandate to "feed my sheep."

A network of provincial, diocesan and parish task forces has been initiated by Charles Cesaretti, National Hunger Officer; workshops are being presented to help parish reps adapt the program to their own parish schedules, goals and resources; and plans are progressing in parishes across the country. Hunger Notes and other aids are continually sent out to assist local planners.

Tertiaries Caroline Moran and Mark Sisk are serving on the Diocese of New York Hunger Task Force and have found enthusiastic response and the emergence of new parish leadership. Truly, "These are Franciscan

times": what more literal way to follow the Christ and Francis than in this ministry to the poor and sick and in the organization and support of a fellowship of people committed education, advocacy and the simplification of our own lifestyles?

Caroline is editing a newsletter in which ideas, experiences and resources are passed on to N.Y. parish reps. She'd love to hear from any of you who have something to share with them. If you want to get involved locally, talk to your rector or write to:

The Rev. Charles Cesaretti
Episcopal Church Center
815 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Caroline has promised to share with us something of the "nourishment this ministry has supplied for her own "malnutrition" in the next newsletter.

SERVE ONE ANOTHER TO THE GLORY OF GOD is the theme of Graymoor's 1979 Week of Prayer January 18-25. For information, posters, and press kits, write
WEEK OF PRAYER
Graymoor
Garrison, NY 10524

SKINNIMONK AND FISH FRIAR

