

Franciscan Times

EASTER-TIDE, 1983

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

So far, so good! It seems, from notes and calls I've received, that most people liked 1983's first issue of Franciscan Times. When I worked at a radio station, we were told that every comment we received could count for 100 people who had that same opinion. I don't know how scientific that is, but if I apply that to the comments you sent me, most people were pleased with it.

I hope you'll continue to write and to send me the news of what you are doing as a Franciscan, whether you are part of a fellowship or not. Also, I think that people would like some writing of an instructional or meditational kind. Short poetry is nice too. If these are gifts you have, please share. Someone suggested cartoons. Any cartoonists out there?

Send things to: Joanne Maynard, 2020 Hauser Blvd., Helena, Montana 59601

We'll try to get another newsletter out near the end of June. So let's make the first part of June the deadline for material.

LEXINGTON FELLOWSHIP

News of the Lexington Fellowship was sent by A.C. Hougham, who was Professed on December 10 of last year. They meet on the first Saturday of each month at St. Michael the Archangel Church. They read Evening Prayer, then a meditation and silence, then a discussion and then fellowship.

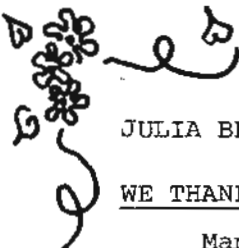
One of their notable activities is their participation in the Convocation of Anglican Religious, a quarterly fellowship of the Religious and Associates of the Diocese for the purpose of nurturing their mutual life in Christ, education, sharing, and community. They get together around the Ember Days. They had a retreat in December. A.C. is coordinator for this group. He considers this a ministry to the servants of the servants of God.

When A.C. was Professed, both Episcopal and Roman Franciscans took part in the service. His favorite hymn "Earthen Vessels" was sung, accompanied by guitars. Kay Ashby of Hopkinsville was Professed after Easter.

ARIZONA

THE ARIZONA FELLOWSHIP MET on April 9 in Coolidge. Jim and Patricia renewed their novice vows. Anne gave a meditation. They had a potluck at Deanna's in February. In March, they planned to visit Luann at the hospital. (Because their newsletter is written just for themselves, we outsiders are a little in the dark as to last names and other details. Anyway, they are busy and active.)

MONTANA -- Joanne Maynard was Professed on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. Fr. Harry Way, D.R.E. for Montana, and St. Francis fan, celebrated the Eucharist. On this winter evening, for a few minutes, both Brother Sun & Sister Moon were in the sky. Something special for a special day!



JULIA BERGSTROM sent this News from the Minnesota Third Order Fellowship:

WE THANK YOU, FATHER, for raising up your faithful servant, George Metcalf!


Many of us here were privileged to attend the 50th anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of Father George Metcalf. Father Metcalf is listed in the Third Order Directory as "Area Chaplain". He is that and much more: parish priest, army chaplain, director of the Oratory of St. Mary (a retreat center), convenor, chapter member, spiritual director, confessor, lover of God and His creation; I'm sure many of you could add to this list.

Last March fifth we had an opportunity to express some of our love and appreciation. In the company of his dear wife, Mary, friends, family, Roman and Anglican Franciscans, and Bishops Anderson and McNairy, Father George reaffirmed his vows to the priesthood and to the Third Order.

Assisting at the Solemn High Eucharist were Deacon Pat Drake TSF, Rev. Ed Wittenburg, Brother David Burgdorf, Rev. Webster Barnett, hosts at St. Paul's Church on the Hill, Rev. Lottsfeldt and Rev. Fraatz; and receiving Fr. Metcalf's vows was Br. Geoffrey, Minister General of the Society of St. Francis.

The congratulations and exchanging of the Peace continued at a reception in honor of Father George. Much love and warmth were expressed and felt by all! We thank God for the continuing ministry of Father George Metcalf, disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THEN LOIS KEEN sent the newsletter of the Minnesota Fellowship, in which Fr. Metcalf expressed his thanks:



"My very dear Franciscan Family! God has taken your 50th Ordination Anniversary gift of celebration and multiplied it many times...All of our Fellowship participated in come fashion and many with heroic extras that resulted in abundant refreshments beautifully arranged and a marvellous 'no sugar' anniversary cake....


...Distant Fellowships sent cards, telegrams, letters, and from the Hawaiian Fellowship came a beautiful lei!...

Your caring, dear friends, made me reflect on the past fifty years more deeply that I had ever done. These refelctions...are summarized in the words, 'Love is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen'. Your love in Christ and Francis has made me realize after fifty years that God has given me the substance of that for which as a young priest I had hope. Mary and I share in the joy of this celebration and in affectionate appreciation of our Franciscan family.

For you all I bless the Lord and am ever yours with all my heart!"

+ WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SEND FR. METCALF CONGRATULATIONS AND OUR PRAYERS AND BEST WISHES. +

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Barbara Kelly who lives, appropriately in Santa Barbara, California sent a note that began: "Your Epiphany issue of Franciscan Times was a smasheroo. Really excellent." She then gave me much helpful advice and some good ideas. One was for a continuing column on Reconciliation. Does someone have some wise and helpful words on this important subject?

--jm



st. Francis community House

347 Powell Street Vancouver, B.C. V6A 1G5

A LETTER from Robert White under this letterhead informs us that the Companions of St. Francis sponsored a performance of "Francis, Troubadour of God's Peace", performed by Leonardo Defilippis on April 23 at St. James Anglican Church.

Defilippis is an Oregon actor who has toured through the western part of our country and Canada, performing one man shows featuring sections of the Gospel of Luke. Now the 30 year old actor has turned his great talents to the story of St. Francis. When he performed in Portland, Oregon, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese received over 5,000 requests for tickets.

"Francis is a fundamentalist in the true sense of the word," says Defilippis. His portrayal of the saint dancing through the fields, welcoming brother sun, sister moon, and lady poverty alongside meeting with Pope Innocent III appeals to Christians of every description. Francis's generosity to the poor outstrips even the most generous liberal agenda, and his insistence on literally obeying the Scriptures would please most contemporary conservatives.

Defilippis has been described as a remarkable young man. He sent all his earnings from his first year of performing to Mother Theresa. If people can't afford to pay him, he performs free. He quotes Mother Theresa, "Only give Jesus Christ, never yourself."

Remember his name, and if you get a chance to see his performance, do.

 A Love Letter —



This is a love letter to the Poor Clares, especially to our former bursar, Jane Ellen Traugott, who is trying her vocation in that community. More than that, it is a love letter to Our Lord as He is revealed in the Blessed Sacrament.

About a year ago, after sending several friends who were in desperate need to the Blessed Sacrament for consolation and healing, I realized I had no business giving such advice if I didn't visit Our Lord in similar fashion. Thus, coming in the back door, I began daily thirty minute visits to the Blessed Sacrament at the Roman Catholic church across the street from where I work.

Very shortly I realized that no matter how good or bad I felt about myself, He was there loving me. Next, in great curiosity and considerable awe, I started to explore the boundless limits of that love. And so began a journey that leads to self-forgetfulness as the all-encompassing nature of God's love becomes a concrete reality.

I had been interceding at the Blessed Sacrament on behalf of the Poor Clares for about six months when I sent in the money pledged to their support as part of my regular giving to the Franciscan Orders. Several weeks later I received a gracious thank you note, St. Clare's Monstrance, and several uplifting tracts of a spiritual nature.

The next day, at the Blessed Sacrament, I gave special thanks for the Poor Clares. As I was doing so, I realized our relationship had changed. It was as if there was a "spiritual" back side to the Blessed Sacrament. I could look through it and "see" a Sister praying as she too was caught up in the depth of God's love as she adored the Blessed Sacrament. What a priceless gift for those few dollars!

There are several conclusions that can be drawn from this experience. I pray

(More)

that the rest of my money can be spent in a way that touches its sacramental nature. For my Sister Jane Ellen, I stretch out my arms to her in love, adding my love to my Master's. When the going gets tough, as it undoubtedly will, I'm committed to be there for her at the Blessed Sacrament. Finally, and inescapably, I believe all Franciscans who visit the Blessed Sacrament to intercede for the sins of the world share in that special ministry that belongs to the Poor Clares.

Your Brother Andrew,
TSK

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA—

FATHER ROBERT WOODFIELD WRITES from Long Beach:

I am convenor of the Saint Bernardine fellowship. We meet

9 to 10 times a year in the Los Angeles area. We have about 20 on our rolls, tho some have never attended a meeting. We are a very vital group. We usually meet on Sunday afternoons, with Mass, study and dialogue, supper and prayers. We are constantly getting new persons who try their vocations. Some stay. Some do not. We are fortunate in the talented people we have. Ken Cox, novice counselor for men, is in our fellowship. (A PS written as of Feb. 9 notes that Ken is doing well in his struggle with cancer.) He and I were the only active members 16 years ago.

Dr. Sylvia Broadbent is head of the Anthropology Dept. at University of California. She is very knowledgable about the Order, both in the US and England.

Each year we bring a friar from San Francisco here for a weekend. This year Brother Derek visited. Our fellowship always has a booth at the convention of the Diocese of Los Angeles. We have offered to help the SSF at the Anaheim General Convention in 1985.

This area was founded by Roman Catholic Franciscan missionaries, and the 21 famous California missions are all Franciscan, so the Franciscan heritage is ancient, deep and well-known here. But many Episcopalians do not know that there are religious orders in our Church, and even more do not know about SSF. We have lots of evangelizing to do. Our fellowship has contacts with many isolated Tertiaries.

(Fr. Woodfield's letter has more interesting information, which will be included in the next newsletter. jm)

IN THE WOMB OF THE CAVE by André Cirino, Editor

In the Womb of the Cave, is a unique book that can serve as a reader or a journal.

André Cirino, O.F.M., distributed thirty seven original writings of Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) over 366 pages, one passage from these writings for each day of the year in a calendar format.

These passages were written or dictated by Francis from the time of his conversion, through his founding of the Franciscan Order, to his death. Also, the editor suggests a method of reading Francis' writings.

This book, free of academic distractions, serves well as a journal for personal meditation.

Price: \$12.95, cloth
6.95, paper
Order from: Charisma Press
P.O. Box 263
Andover, MA 01810





Community in-

REGIONAL CONVOCATIONS OF THE THIRD ORDER
(sometimes called conferences)

The regional gatherings of the Third Order of St. Francis hardly need a sales pitch for those who have attended one. We are all of us, even those who have active fellowships in our area, somewhat lonely and isolated in our journeys in the way of St. Francis. We need our retreats as times of strengthening the bonds of love and obedience with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; we need our regional convocations as times of strengthening the bonds of love with our fellow pilgrims.

There is one member of the Fellowship Coordination Committee who feels that attendance at regional meetings should be obligatory! Probably not. With such great differences in responsibilities, health, and financial resources among our members, I don't think we can ever make attendance a matter of obedience. But I ask you to read the descriptions of last year's meetings below. Then ask yourself if you can afford to miss the enrichment of a regional convocation in 1983.

Fellowship convenors: our regional convocations are times when you can meet other convenors to your mutual strengthening. I shall be meeting with all convenors present at convocation of the Southwest, the West, and the Midwest. Easterners, I love you too and hope to meet you in 1984!

--Marie L. Webner
Fellowship Coordinator



SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE, 1982

As I look back, three things stand out in my mind about the Southwest Conference last June: (1) the individual diversity of the persons who make up the Third Order fellowship; (2) how valuable all the Franciscan orders are to one another; and (3) the question that seemed to be on so many people's mind -- that is, what it means to be a Franciscan and how we can be more Franciscan.

That so many people so different in personality, interest and occupation could come together and create the rich atmosphere of spiritual intensity and fellowship is miraculous in itself. One of the most valuable experiences for me was the day we took time after lunch, while still sitting around the table, to share with one another the ways we feel we are living our Franciscan vocations. First of all, it was something I personally hadn't tried to verbalize to anyone and the exercise was clarifying for me. And it helped to shed light on the question I mentioned above on just how many expressions of Franciscan spirit there can be. Perhaps this was especially helpful for me as a novice, for I have found that to ask tertiaries of long standing why they became Franciscans often leaves them scratching their heads and struggling for answers because it has been so long and is so much a part of them that they don't remember, or attest to not knowing exactly in retrospect. But to hear them tell the difference it makes in their lives -- that's something else. Like Marie Webner who has always seemed to me like the greatest contemplative I've known personally (!) who told of the days in Washington, D.C. when she was active in sit-downs during the ear when racial integration was a volatile question.

Then there was the morning when Paul Saunders of Albuquerque brought up the question of material simplicity as Franciscans and caused us all to wonder, from his confession that it bothered him to have so many material things around him, if we couldn't all do without a little more often than we take the trouble to. An issue easy to overlook.

(more)

SOUTHWEST (Continued)

Again, to have communion with the First Order in the persons of Brother Robert and Brother John George who, while always models for us, found it comfortable to sit with us in the grass, habits and all, and discuss whatever seemed to us to need discussion.

And so the question of what it means to be Franciscan gets answered by example and by the sharing that goes on at these conferences; and it seems to me that the answer is slightly different each time and always will be. And that's what makes this journey a perpetual adventure, as we all are united by one thing only -- the desire to follow our Lord in the way of St. Francis.

-- Pat Shelton

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MIDWEST CONFERENCE, 1982

The Transfiguration Conference of the Chi Rho Fellowship was an exciting time, wherein the brothers and sisters of the Third Order in the Midwest had a chance to get to know one another and to share their lives for several days in August. The schedule was relaxed and there was an air of expectation, which allowed all to enjoy and rest in the Lord. Our conference was preceded by a novice counselors' meeting, which was most beneficial for those of use who were attending. Many things were discussed which enabled me to come to understand my role as a novice counselor even better. The conference itself was a time of sharing and growing, in the love of one another and in eager expectation of the goodness the Lord has for us. I know that from my experience I will not allow myself to become in quite so many things at once, and then will probably enjoy myself more also.

All in all, the time spent was profitable for us all. Each of us grew in grace. One of the highlights of the conference was the healing service on Saturday, where we were anointed and hands were laid on us. It was a service of great strength and consolation, which had been requested by one of our sisters in the Third Order before her arrival. It was special to each of us.

-- Bill Smith

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WESTERN CONFERENCE, 1982

The Western Area Conference, which convened in August at the Bishop's Ranch, was all too brief, a weekend that went by as a day. It was a family reunion, some old friends, some newly met, some come to inquire what this Third Order was all about. Now, no longer just names on an intercession list, we were an instant community, all related in Christ in the Third Order in that special way that makes us all close though we are relative strangers.

As we shared what had brought us to that place, one man deeply moved us all, a man who had spent his life working in the military-industrial complex and had a special vision of where it led, who called us all to action to stop the madness of the arms race.

We were all moved again, to laughter and joy and singing by Louise Mangini's lively musical, Francesco, put on "in the rough" by an equally lively cast on Saturday night. The "star", Lance Woodruff, not only found applause for his portrayal of the young Francis, but a wife (He married Bonnie Lindberg, a fellow conferee, a couple of months later.) and a vocation; Lance is now an active member of the S.F. Fellowship.


(more)

And again, by the delightful Sister Pierre, a Roman Catholic nun who had come to see what we were about, a lovely and loving woman. And again, by the "boys from Bend", three committed and joyful Tertiaries from Oregon. And again and again...

There were times of quiet, times of prayer, times of discussion and sharing, times of laughter and celebration, all within the rhythmic cycle of the Offices and Eucharist, but not enough time! We overwhelmingly voted on Sunday to extend the 1983 conference by adding the Family Camp week at the start. And we can hardly wait until July!

-- Mary Ann Jackman

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NORTHEAST CONFERENCE, 1982

The atmosphere was Franciscan homey. Outside, on the lawns and in the woods, the great trees were for half the days shrouded in mists and fogs, but for the other half of the days bronzed in humid sunshine. Inside, we prayed and sang, heard talks, homilies, and meditations and discussed; did, in short, virtually everything except eat and sleep in the large conference room of the Mt. Alverno in W. Haverstraw, N.Y. All that was lacking was a great hearth, but we really didn't need it. For everyone, and perhaps in particular for those who had a first experience of this large a Third Order Franciscan fellowship and for those who do not have a regular Third Order fellowship at all in their lives, but nonetheless for everyone, the warmth of that fellowship at Mt. Alverno was the hearth. That warmth and our Christian/Franciscan sharing generated quantities of energy that we used there and were able to carry away with us.

The Northeast Conference draws Tertiaries from the whole of the Northeast, Maine to Virginia. New York is the meeting ground because it is the most central area. What we did at the central meeting ground once we had arrived (and some people had really strenuous driving experiences to get there on the Friday the Conference opened) was to be together by talking, sharing, walking, praying, and being silent together. One talk was given by someone each day, to which we responded in discussion groups. Each group was different for each talk.

The first of these conferences, in 1981, had a single theme: "Simplicity". This second one was far broader: what it means to be Franciscan, why we are Franciscan, what we are about, what we should be doing, where we're going. Yes, it wanders, but the discussions didn't. And more importantly, the discussion allowed for an opening up of each of us to each other because who we are as Franciscans and what we are doing and where we want to go or are headed were, in fact, the important issues. Most of us realized near the close of the Conference, and some sooner than that, how much one or two people at that Conference were the reason for our being there. Many of us were saying to each other as we parted, or at one or the other Peace, "You are an important gift to me this weekend."

We were revitalized. The listening, talking, reading, silence, praying, Eucharist, Office, fellowship at a Saturday-night party, walking some beautiful grounds and seeing and hearing nature -- all these things coupled with the information we heard about how the rest of the Order is behaving, another part of us, allowed us a sense of the brothers and sisters we belong to, the Founder we honor, and the God we serve that is not to be taken for granted and that comes only through special events of which this surely was one.

-- Arthur Wolsoncroft



SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, 1982

See the Epiphany-tide 1983 issue of the Franciscan Times.



FROM THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MINNESOTA FELLOWSHIP:

Br. Chad has been elected by the First Order Chapter to life profession and has invited us to share that day with him by attending his service of profession of Monday evening, April 25, 7:00 at St. Mark's Cathedral. Bishop Anderson has been appointed to receive Br. Chad's vows and Br. Robert SSF will be in attendance.

The Fellowship also planned a retreat April 17-19 at Mt. Olivet Retreat Center, conducted by Fr. Robert Goode, Third Order Chaplain.



The Society of St Francis

Brother Geoffrey, SSF, Minister General has kindly sent this up to date report on the Franciscan Aid Fund:

From the Minister General

LESOTHO: Two thousand pounds to be used by the Social Services Committee of the Diocese to help with the relief of poverty in Maseru. This has been mostly used to help --

Peter, a man who has lost the use of his legs, to get some training so he can support himself. Also it has been used to renovate his house.

Masimong, an elderly man, and his family who were living in draughty and leaking shacks. Money has been used to give them more substantial accomodation. Catechists and village leaders are also being given some training in social work.

TANZANIA: Two thousand pounds to build a hut, employ a man to teach carpentry and buy some tools so that we can have two or three young unemployed and give them a year's course in order that they may then start their own business. We have also given grants to several young men to improve their education so that they may have a better chance of work.

INDIA: An annual grant of two hundred and fifty pounds for a Mercy Home in South India run by a R.C. Community for physically handicapped and mentally retarded children and adults. This helps with the provision of rice.

GUYANA: A grant of books for theological students at Codrington College who are unable to get any money for this purpose.

Assistance for a Zulu family in South Africa and a Dayak family in Malaysia, and also help for a student in Malaysia.

A grant has also been made to the new Diocese of Manicaland in Zimbabwe for help with the poor in that area which suffered a great deal during the war.

Treasurer of the Fund is:

Mr. George McCormack
33, Glyndebourne Park,
Orpington,
Kent, BR6 8EX, U.K.

He will be please to accept any contributions. We are also hoping that the Third Order in American will make arrangements for money to be collected in the States and transferred in a lump sum to the Fund in England.



FROM THE LIBRARY:

Pat Mahon writes -- I would like to express all of our thanks and acknowledge those who have contributed books to the Third Order Library.

Helen Webb has donated St. Francis and the Song of Brotherhood, by Eric Doyle, an excellent and scholarly study of the life of St. Francis.

Joanne Maynard has donated The Gospel Without Compromise by Catherine de Hueck Doherty, the well-known author of Poustinia. In 1931 she decided to follow the words of Christ, "Sell all that you have and give to the poor, and come, follow me." This book draws on what she has learned from this. By the way, Poustinia, Christian Spirituality of the East for Western Man is also in our library.

James Hansen has donated An Augustine Reader, edited, with an introduction by John J. O'Meara; a 556 page paperback with selection from nine of Augustine's works.

Joan Mann has donated Brother Francis, edited by Lawrence Cunningham. The cover says "A medieval saint speaks to the 20th century -- Ecology, Nature, Love, Happiness, Christian living in a hostile world". Excerpts are from many Franciscan sources. Also she has given The Little Flowers of St. Francis and Other Franciscan Writings, newly translated by Serge Hughes.

A current bestseller now in the library is When Bad Things Happen to Good People by Harold S. Kushner, a Jewish Rabbi, who draws on his own experience with his son, born with a fatal birth defect, to comfort those who have had bad things happen in their lives.

One last book I think I should mention in the library is The Franciscan Book of Saints by Marion A. Habig, O.F.M. This is a very expensive book and some may prefer to borrow it. It has 1059 pages, hardbound, and tells of a different Franciscan saint for each day of the year.

These books may be borrowed by writing to Pat Mahon at 1990 S.E. Mulberry Ave., Portland, Oregon 97214. Her phone number is (502) 231-9289.

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YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED for Barbara Henry, who will be ordained to the diaconate on June 11, 1983 at the Washington Cathedral.

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BY NOW you have probably received your copy of the Devotional Companion put together by Marie Webner. Pat Shelton n/TSF labored over the typing of it and said that typing the prayers was like praying them. The attractive drawings were done by Sue Pierson n/TSF. You have probably already looked through your copy, and have noticed how very well put together and easy to use it is. A Table of Contents in the front and Index in the back will help us to turn quickly to whatever we are looking for. Collects for Saints Days are included in the Calendar which supplements the Prayer Book Calendar. Fellowship convenors are urged to encourage use of this book by setting an example of its use at meetings. There is an interesting section on Meditation. There are prayers attributed to St. Francis, Prayers for the Society, Traditional prayers and Occasional prayers. If it is used faithfully, this little book will truly become one's Devotional Companion.



NOTES FROM DAVID NARD OF THE SAVANNAH FELLOWSHIP:

"Paddy Kennington (see article elsewhere in the Times) is one of our Novices, and is founder and operator of the Coastal Community Food Bank. The Episcopal Diocese of Georgia granted her \$5,000 from our Venture in Mission funds. Her newsletter reports that

the Food Bank returns \$18 worth of food to the community for every \$1 they spend. They are planning to move into a warehouse and expand their farm program and emergency food programs."

Jacqui Belcher is one of their Postulants. She is Diocesan Coordinator for World Ministry and Hunger Programs. She speaks at meetings and in parishes. She has also been active in refugee resettlement. Province IV held the annual meeting of its Hunger Task Force last fall and Jacqui represented the Diocese of Georgia. She reported that there are 3 food banks in operation, and 4 soup kitchens, along with one emergency food boxing service. The food bank in Savannah is a community run project.

Most of the members of the Savannah Fellowship are individually working in programs that feed the hungry or that help the poor.

David also sends word of a cookbook (those Savannah people do know about good food!) "A delightful cookbook with fun illustrations."

It's St. Francis in the Kitchen, available from St. Francis Episcopal Church, 3506 Lawndale Dr., Greensboro, NC 27408. (\$6.50 + \$1.00 postage)

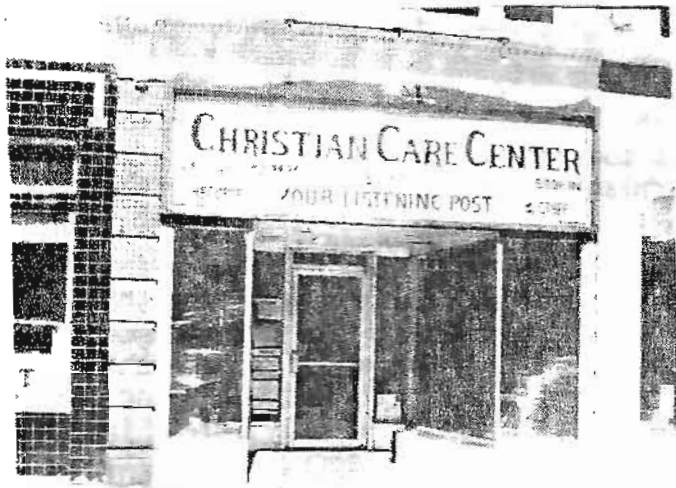
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As was noted in the Epiphany-tide issue of the Franciscan Times, the Rev. Harold Baxter Liebler, senior Tertiary who devoted much of this life to helping the Navajo Indians, died last fall. A message sent out in December by Joan E. Liebler, Helen H. Sturges, and Brother Juniper, O.S.F. included this memoir:

Brother Juniper's memoir: "We are just beginning to realize that Father is gone, that the Lord has called him to be with Him forever. Over the years we had gotten used to his temporary absences as he visited the various parts of the Utah strip of the Navajo Reservation. He held services at St Mary of the Moonlight at Oljeto and at St John the Baptizer, Montezuma Creek, and at the Aneth Boarding School, as well as at St Christopher's in Bluff. Much of the time he was away from Bluff was spent in visiting the people and celebrating Mass in their hogans. Now we are missing his stories and his puns (some of which were pretty terrible!). We miss his kindly counselling and his readiness to help in time of need. He was always ready either to drive himself or delegate some staff member to take a sick or injured Navajo to the nearest medical facility that would take Indians, and in the early days that often meant a round-trip of some 400 miles. At times he would be gone on cross-country trips to give talks to raise funds so that the work could continue. He was never too busy writing letters or books to visit with both Navajo and Anglos who stopped in, either with problems or just to visit. Many of these wanted to take pictures, and these took time. In these he was always smiling, even though he might have a deadline with the mail. Now the friendly smile, the eagerness to help, the stories and puns are gone. We are like a Navajo family who, after the death of their grandmother, told one of our workers, "Won't you come and help us, be our grandmother, for we have no one to help us and tell us what to do." May he rest in peace in the glory of the Lord."

Christian Care



"ONCE, long ago Jesus went around talking about love. He set an example by loving a great deal, himself. But he not only spoke of love, he showed it; He gave his life on a cross for the sake of love."

...a story about love in action, by
Barbara J. Wilbur, n/TSF

Sometimes it seems as if people don't love each other much any more. But there are still some places left where love does exist. One of those places is an insignificant-looking little book store located at 89 Public Square in Watertown, New York. Behind those doors however, the appearance of insignificance ceases. C.S. Lewis once wrote a story in which one of his characters remarked that there was once a stable

"It's bigger on the inside..."

that was bigger on the inside than on the outside. That is how I have come to view the Christian Care Center. It is definitely "bigger on the inside than on the outside."

I came to know the Center at first as a place where I could buy Christian books and records of the type I was interested in. Later, when I was moved to seek a volunteer position there, I discovered what the real aim of the Center is. This is best expressed by a hymn from The Hymnal 1940: "In haunts of wretchedness and need/ On shadowed thresholds dark with fears/ From paths where hide the lures of greed/ We catch the vision of thy tears."

(Editor's note: I wish I could include all of the interesting material Barbara wrote about the Center, but because of space limitations, I can only tell of her connection with it.)

A fairly complete list of the ways in which the Center carries out its ministry includes; to offer an easily accessible, quiet place to listen and pray; to offer the assistance of a prayer team, "certain types" of counseling, referral service, religious programs, staff training programs, and half-way help to people re-entering open society; to have some personnel who go out to people, and to sell religious books, recordings, etc. Hopes for the future include offering food and lodging.

During Lent 1981, my husband Dave and I underwent conversion experiences. Because of this I came to know Jesus in a very deep and personal way. In coming to know and love Him I also came to know and love my fellow men.

I had been buying most of my Christian needs at the Center and found out about the need for workers. I thought it would offer me a chance to exercise my gifts, and fulfillment of my love for my brothers and sisters. When I gave my life to the Lord one of his gifts to me seemed to be a knack for compassion and healing. I saw the Center as the perfect place to develop this ministry.

So with Dave's blessing I applied and was accepted. That was the beginning of another
(More)



Liturgy of the Hours. Br. Joseph Tesar of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Center director, left.

Christian Care (Continued)

stage of my life in which deep changes would be wrought.

I took a 12-week course in counseling in the summer of 1981, which did a lot for my ability to listen. The other course I was to take was "Encounter with Self". In its place I was offered a chance to make a Marriage Encounter with Dave, which we did in May of '81.

I then felt I really belonged to the staff. I felt qualified for almost anything and was eager to begin. Then came the disappointment. Most of the evenings that I was on duty were slow and boring. After a while I came to realize that when the Center is doing the most good is when no one needs it. The love shared on those evenings was a ministry all its own. I found that in addition to ministering, I was being ministered to. It was at the Center that I received the fullness of the Holy Spirit in my life; the release that allows one to truly serve the Lord without thought of self.

In December 1981 I applied for admission as a tertiary to the SSF. After reading the General Rule and recommended programs for self-development, I again felt moved to praise God's infinite wisdom and providence. Because, thanks to the Center, I had a job which, in addition to all the other ways it fulfilled my life in the Lord, gave me an opportunity to fulfill one of my commitments as a Franciscan. I feel the hand of the Lord at work bringing these two things together.

One effort of the Center is to participate in the "ecumenical movement". The fact that the staff is almost entirely Roman Catholic is not the fault of the staff or management, but is due to lack of response from other denominations. When I applied to the Center, they made it clear that I was especially welcome on the staff because of the fact that I'm an Anglican. I was pleased that they were honest about this, and have had no problem working under such a premise.

And while I'm not (I hope) so egotistical as to think that any effort of mine is going to realize all the hopes and dreams of those involved in the ecumenical movement, I can see a reason to hope that seeds are being planted -- seeds which I know in my heart God will tend and water. Praise God!

--Barbara Wilbur, n/TSF

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ONE SUNDAY

One Sunday before Communion, I was trying to pray. I had a problem on my mind, and I said to God, "I can't think about anything but this problem. It's all I have to offer you today."

I thought I heard God say to me, "I like your problems best."

I know that my praising God and thanking him are pleasing to him. I know that I am close to him at those times. But can it be that when I am confused and troubled by problems and realize that I have no power to help myself, I am nearer and dearer to him?

Then I thank God for my problems too.

--Joanne Maynard

(From "The Burning Mushroom and other epiphanies,
Forward Movement Pub. Co.)



Private counselling and prayer

Savannah...



Jacqui Belcher of the Savannah Fellowship has sent minutes of their three monthly meetings so far this year. The first item on each is what was served at their supper. It sounds like my kind of group! In January, baked potatoes with several toppings, in February, chicken in orange. And on St. David's Day, not Welsh cakes or leeks, but curried lentils with rice.

In January, the group discussed the subject of "Joy" (The Principles and Rule) and the presence and absence of joy in the Gospels. In February, the topic was their individual spiritual journeys (through prayer).

At the end of January, they had a opportunity to attend a seminar sponsored by the R.C. Diocese of Savannah on spirituality. They recorded their February meeting to send to their "adopted" member, Dorothy Adams.

On St. David's Day, David Nard led a discussion on Study (a Way of Service) by reading the appropriate section from the Rules & Principles. Jacqui mentioned that she is studying Philip Marquard's "Formation of Lay Franciscans" with David's help. David will be moving to the Diocese of Western North Carolina to pursue Holy Orders. This will be around June.

PADDY KENNINGTON of the Savannah Fellowship was honored by the Sertoma Club, when she received their "Service to Mankind" award recently. A newspaper clipping notes:

When Mrs. Kennington moved to Savannah from Atlanta two years ago she came with a vision and a dream.

While working in the soup kitchen at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Atlanta she became sensitive to the needs of the poor and hungry. In 1980 she moved to Savannah with her family because, through research, she discovered that this area possessed a population of poor and hungry people in dire need of assistance.

Over the last two years, Mrs. Kennington has managed to establish the first Coastal Community Food Bank in Savannah. In 1982 the food bank distributed more than 500,000 pounds of food...to more than 50 agencies.

It was this sort of community contribution, along with her unwillingness to quit when the odds were against her, that prompted the Club to present her with its most coveted award.

Paddy is a member of the Franciscan Order of the Episcopal Church (the newspaper reported), in which she is an active participant. She has a degree in teaching and medical technology.

She is now working to establish a night shelter for the homeless in Savannah and to organize more food banks in surrounding areas.

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CENTRAL OREGON -

Harold Gillespie, Jr. reports that a Fellowship has been formed in Central Oregon. They read Evening Prayer each Friday Evening during Lent at Trinity Church in Bend. They hope to travel to the Bishop's Ranch for the Western Conference this year. Four of the group are also members of the Cascade Ultreya of the Cursillo Community of Eastern Oregon. They plan to schedule their activities around the seasons of the Church year. They invite any Tertiaries who are traveling in their part of the world to get in touch. Members besides Hal are Rex Chambers, Jenni Hall, William Lee, and P.K. Winburn of Bend. Also Henry Morrison of Warm Springs and Charlanne VanBeveren of Prineville.

I have not yet had an opportunity to read the newest (8th) book by the Rev. Emily Gardiner Neal, TSF, and so I am reprinting this review from The Living Church. Both Bishop Robert Appleyard of the Diocese of Pittsburgh and Bishop Donald Hultstrand of the Diocese of Springfield also wrote rave reviews and consider this the best of her books.

THE HEALING MINISTRY: A Personal Journal. By Emily Gardiner Neal. Crossroad. Pp. xiii and 171. \$10.95.

This splendid book has been written out of the experience of many years of healing and counseling, which are still in progress. Although it is a profound work with a deep biblical foundation, and is theologically sound, it reads like an adventure story. The author says it is "the continuation of the most exciting adventure any of us can undertake... the journey of a Christian pilgrim."

Emily Gardiner Neal lives on the grounds of an Episcopal convent and takes part in their daily offices. The Church Year gives her journal an ordered background. At the weekly healing service in her parish church, all is done in the context of the Eucharist. Because the approach is both catholic and evangelical, the author works among many denominations. She was ordained to the diaconate of the Episcopal Church in 1978 and has no intention of being ordained to the priesthood.

Prayer is inextricably bound up with healing, and it is stressed that God heals by prayer alone. We are also reminded that "salvation and healing are the same word in Greek: the entire Gospel is a healing Gospel, and the healing ministry is the Gospel in action." Because of this, it is natural to find much teaching on the life of worship and prayer, given so well that I believe the book will become a prayer manual for many.

Spiritual direction is given through the saints and scholars of the past, and through reference to modern saints. The relationship of modern medical understanding and psychology to prayer is also shown, but no flip or sentimental answers are given. It is a mature work in which the experienced healer and the beginner will find help.

This is a joyful book, not because complete physical healing is always the result, but because the movement of the Spirit in changed lives and relationships, although sometimes very slow, is a great reality. A beautiful balance is given by the quotation on page 48: "He cannot heal who has not suffered much, for only sorrow, sorrow understands."

DOBA P. CHAPLIN
Prof., Christian Education (ret.)
General Theological Seminary
New York City

*I asked our parish librarian to get this for our library,
& she happily agreed!*
j.m.

A THANK YOU NOTE

Carole J. Watson
The Third Order, American Province,
The Society of St. Francis

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

On behalf of St. Michael's Mission, I wish to thank you for your very generous donation of \$300.00 towards the works and ministry of St. Michael's Mission. This money will be used for individuals and families who are in need.

As we have many calls for food and clothing, and our cupboards become quite bare in no time, this donation is most timely and will be greatly appreciated by those who are in need.

With my own personal thanks,

Yours in our Blessed Lord,
Harold Parsons, Bishop's
lay-pastor

(This Outreach contribution was voted by Chapter in November 1982.)

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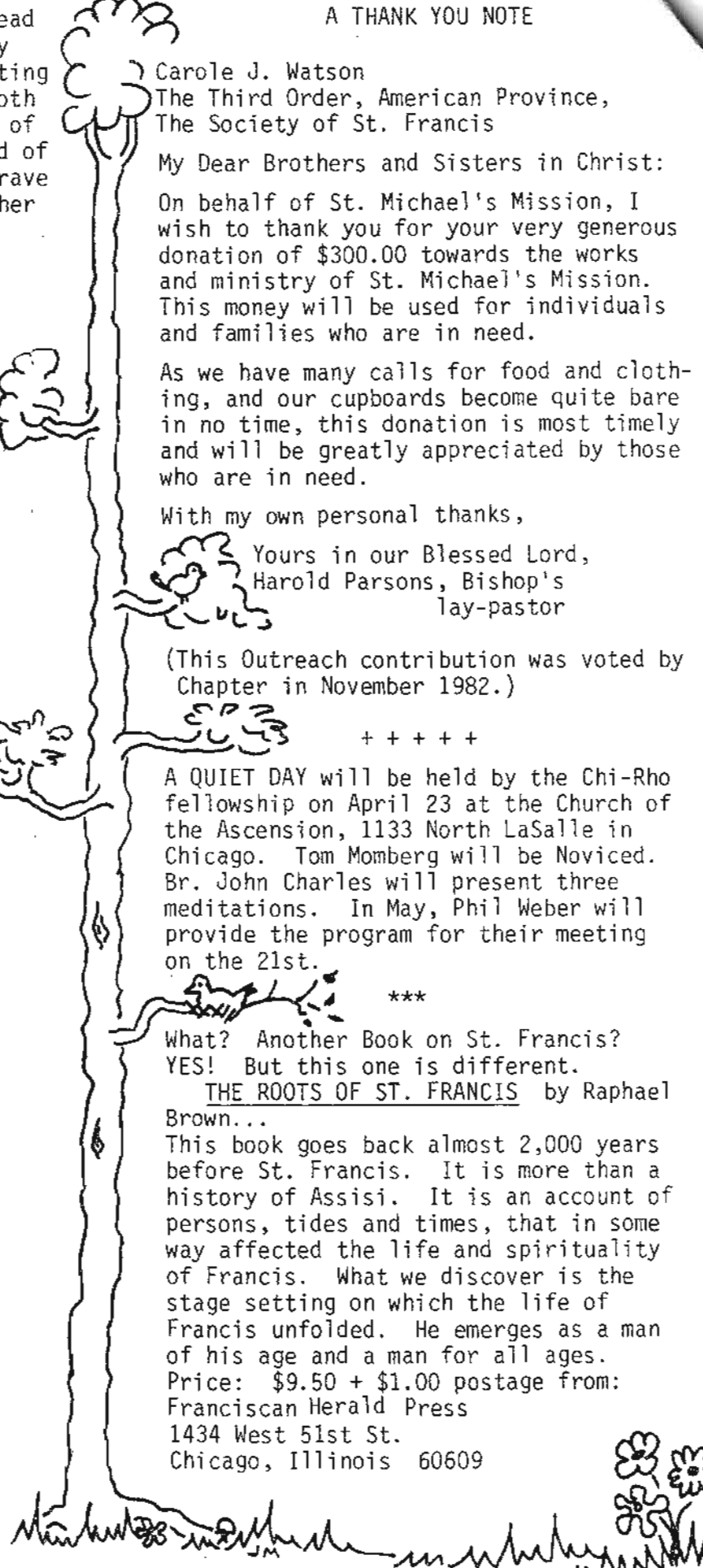
A QUIET DAY will be held by the Chi-Rho fellowship on April 23 at the Church of the Ascension, 1133 North LaSalle in Chicago. Tom Momberg will be Noviced. Br. John Charles will present three meditations. In May, Phil Weber will provide the program for their meeting on the 21st.

What? Another Book on St. Francis?
YES! But this one is different.

THE ROOTS OF ST. FRANCIS by Raphael Brown...

This book goes back almost 2,000 years before St. Francis. It is more than a history of Assisi. It is an account of persons, tides and times, that in some way affected the life and spirituality of Francis. What we discover is the stage setting on which the life of Francis unfolded. He emerges as a man of his age and a man for all ages.

Price: \$9.50 + \$1.00 postage from:
Franciscan Herald Press
1434 West 51st St.
Chicago, Illinois 60609



Handwritten signatures and scribbles at the bottom of the page.

MORE ABOUT the Devotional Companion: If anyone wants more copies, for use at meetings, or perhaps so that one can have an "extra" copy at the office, etc. -- they can be purchased from Marie Webner for \$1.00 a copy. Marie, Pat, and Sue have earned a big THANK YOU from all members of the Third Order for their dedicated work in producing this attractive and useful book.

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BOB TEUDESMAN sent the Newsletter of the Long Island Fellowship. In it he wrote about a Quiet Day which they had spent at Little Portion recently. A Garden setting was provided; a beautiful space for quiet meditation. Fr. Edward Van Buren was celebrant at the Eucharist and Gladys Coerr renewed her novice vows. On April 6, they met at Gladys's home to talk about "Resurrection"; Do we live in the joy of the resurrection?



A LETTER was received from Tom Sommers, who last year had agreed to take care of the printing of Franciscan Times. He had the ideal set-up because he had all the equipment at his disposal. Then last May, the company he worked for laid off about 800 people -- and Tom was one of them. He has since moved to a different part of the state and no longer has access to the camera, etc. he had before. He asked that his apologies be expressed to all the brothers and sisters, but I don't think he has anything to apologise about. He had truly intended to do the work, and was prevented from it by no fault of his own. We thank him for all he was able to do, and we wish him well. May God bless you, Tom.

-JEM



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THE REV. WILBUR DEXTER sent a fun letter: "We once had a couple of Boston bulls name of Michael and Patricia. Of course, all animals are Catholics and should have Christian names....did you ever hear of a Protestant dog? Or a Jewish cat? If I am not mistaken, the word 'cat' appears nowhere in Holy Scripture. Funny, because the antique Egyptians had cats. Neither does 'tiger', presumably because they were to be found only in India...."



BOOK NOTE

A Short Dictionary of the New Testament
by Albert Rouet. (pp 117. Paulist Press
\$6.95)

This is a splendid short work designed, as the introduction makes clear, to be read. In this it differs from most dictionaries. Under selected headings, most topics of major concern in the New Testament are gathered into short articles. The incisive, brief commentaries will illuminate understanding and facilitate study. This is an excellent tool for the busy lay person.

+John-Charles SSF

FELLOWSHIPS

Marie Webner is Fellowship Coordinator. If you are interested in being in a Fellowship, contact her. If you are isolated, you can still have contact with a Fellowship by mail. Write to her about that too. You don't have to be alone.

Marie Webner
2119 South Campbell
Tucson, Arizona 85713
phone (602) 622-8569

REGIONAL MEETINGS OF 1983

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU KNOW that anyone is welcome to attend any of these regional meetings. You don't need to live within the region. Just contact the Chairman of the one you're interested in.

Southwest Convocation: June 17 - 20
Albuquerque, NM (Dominican Retreat House)
Theme: PARABLES FOR LIVING, FRANCISCAN STYLE
Guest: Sister Cecilia, CSF
Chairman: Marie Webner, 2119 South Campbell, Tucson, AZ 85713

Third Order Family Camp: July 17 - 22
Healdsburg, CA (Bishop's Ranch)
Possible guest: Brother William Lash, SSF
Chairpersons: Brother John George, SSF & Sister Cecilia, CSF
c/o Bishop's Ranch, 5297 Westside Road
Healdsburg, CA 95448

Western Convocation: July 22 - 24
Healdsburg, CA (Bishop's Ranch)
No Further Information

Midwest Convocation: August 5 - 7
Chicago environs
Chairman: Sharon Veenker, 711 Warwick Ave., Barrington, IL 60010

Northeast Convocation: September 9 - 11
Ossining, NY (Mariondale Center)
Chairman: Rich Hills, 273 E. Third St., Apt. 3W, New York, NY 10009

Southeast Convocation: September 30 - October 2
Augusta, GA (Convent of St. Helena)
Chairman, David Nard, 724 East 46th St., Savannah, GA 31405

FROM THE FELLOWSHIP COORDINATOR: Because my job is seen as one of encouraging and stimulating all community aspects of our Third Order life, I am charged by Chapter with overall "coordination" of convocations. Mostly that means I would appreciate being kept informed in case any conflicts of time or interest develop. Please go on submitting material directly to Joanne for publication in the Franciscan Times, but keep me informed too!

-- MLW

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FELLOWSHIP LIFE STYLES: Columbia River Basin

The Columbia River Basin Fellowship consists of a dozen tertiaries spread out in Idaho, Oregon, and southern Washington state. Donna Groth, convener, describes their meetings:

Our pattern so far has been to meet in Milton-Freewater (Oregon) at Michael Davis's church, as it is about as central as we can get...We've usually met Friday evening for Evening Prayer and then lots of fellowship. Some of us crash in the parish hall where it's free, while others prefer motels or their RV rigs. Saturday morning someone who has volunteered fixes breakfast for the whole outfit, including Michael's family. Then it's off to church for Morning Prayer and conducted meditation. Then some time for silence...After lunch we share. Last time it was helping the Piersons to adapt their Rule to life with a new baby...Lots of good ideas and support to hang in there. Then it's time to load up and head back to our own parishes for Sunday.

Have you noticed the sentence near the beginning of The Principles which reads:

'Lifted up from the earth in sacrifice, He draws unto Himself all those multitudes of whom the earnest and prophecy were those Greeks whose coming kindled his vision'?

I wrote Brother Robert Hugh, SSF, asking, "What is this 'earnest' and what 'Greeks'?" He replied,

"'Earnest' in the sense used here is an old (middle English) term for a down-payment; something concrete on account that guarantees that the larger thing promised is indeed 'in earnest'. Here, the Greeks who came and said 'We would see Jesus' (John 12:20 foll.) are a sign of the kingdom that is now and for all."

You may like to share this with others through The Franciscan Times. Others may have puzzled over it too.

--Helen Webb

My dear Sister in Christ and St. Francis:

Please accept my best congratulations on your Epiphany TIMES. It is a delight to behold all the way through....

These many years, I have tried to send a quarterly alms to the Friars and the Poor Clares, but not to the Third Order...Yet, your work has so impressed me, and because at the moment I do have a few coppers in my pocket, please accept the enclosed to buy a few stamps or anything you like,

With every good wish I am,

Faithfully yours,

The Rev. W.B.Dexter

alias Fr. Leo TSF

I think the Franciscan Times is great! My daughter Clare (n/TSF) commented that the Third Order seemed so alive and on the move-- as reflected in the Times. It's a lovely offering.

--Marie Webner

Chi-Rho Fellowship



(This is the heading from their newsletter)

Claire Mahan writes in their March news letter:

"I have just been reading the latest "Franciscan Times" and realizing how blessed we are to have so many Tertiaries in such a relatively small area...So I sat down this morning with a map of Northern Illinois, a ruler, and our mailing list and have some statistics to share with you."

She reports that their Fellowship boasts a membership of 11 professed, 7 novices, 6 postulants, 1 associate, and 8 aspirants/inquirers. When they meet at the Church of the Ascension in Chicago, no member has to drive farther than 60 miles.

Activities coming up include a Quiet Day with Brother John-Charles on April 23 from 10 to 5, at the Church of the Ascension. Mention is also made of the Second Annual Mid-West Convocation to be held August 5, 6, and 7.

ANOTHER LETTER to the Editor says: "This is just a very quick note to tell you how much I enjoyed your first issue of the "Franciscan Times". You did a really great job -- keep it up. Everything in it this time was interesting."

--Rosie McFerran
Davis, California

Remember!

Deadline for the next issue is June 10!

THE NEW YORK FELLOWSHIP:

Terry Rogers has sent their newsletter. In February they met for Eucharist at General Theological Seminary. The program was given by Lee Andrews, a student at GTS and a Roman Catholic Secular Franciscan (which is the same as our Third Order). In March, they met for Evening Prayer and Eucharist at Holy Apostle Church. The topic for discussion was the place of the fellowship in our rule as well as future direction for the fellowship.

In April they will meet for Evening Prayer and Eucharist at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin. Program: Alden Whitney - Spirituality and the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. In May they will hold a retreat at Little Portion Friary.

CALENDAR

- June 17 - 20 Southwest Regional Convocation, Albuquerque
- July 17 - 22 3rd Order Family Camp, The Bishop's Ranch
- July 22 - 24 Western Convocation, The Bishop's Ranch
- Sept. 9 - 11 Northeast Conference
- Sept. 30 - Southeast Conference
- Oct. 2

NOTICE

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO RUTH GROVES who mailed out all of the many copies of Franciscan Times in February.



IN TRUTH, the immense popular charm of Saint Francis, as of the Virgin, was precisely his heresies. Both were illogical and heretical by essence; in strict discipline, in the days of the Holy Office, a hundred years later, both would have been burned by the Church, as Jeanne d'Arc was, with infinitely less reason, in 1431. The charm of the twelfth century Church was that it knew how to be illogical -- no great moral authority ever knew it better -- when God Himself became illogical."

--from "Mont-Saint-Michel and Chartres" by Henry Adams.

MARIE WEBNER REMINDS ME TO REMIND YOU THAT ALL THE MAILINGS YOU RECEIVE COST MONEY. THAT'S JUST ONE REASON WE SHOULD ALL REMEMBER TO KEEP UP OUR PLEDGE PAYMENTS. THEY'RE TO BE SENT TO: CAROLE WATSON -- 962 W. ACADIA DR, -- TUCSON, ARIZONA 85706.

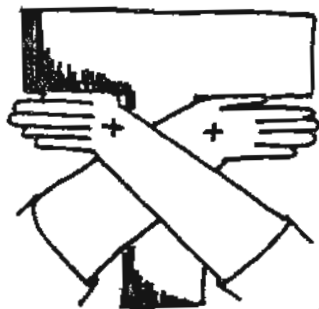
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A quotation from the newsletter of the New York Fellowship: Repentance

Let us find the humility discovered in awe of the Lord, not understanding; in mystery, not always revelation; in faithfulness and hope, not always in virtue and perfection; that at Easter we may offer him a newer recreation, transformed by his working in us, because we have been re-taught.

Rich Hills

What do you have to share with the Third Order? Send it to: Joanne Maynard - 2020 Hauser Blvd. Helena MT. 59601



TERTIARY COMMUNITIES

(Part One of a Series)

-- by Robert "Gooch" Goode
Provincial Chaplain

I can remember when there were probably not more than fifty really active members of the Third Order in the whole American Province. We are fond of saying we have "matured" or "come into our own". That is a prodigious understatement. We have exploded. Soon there may be more than a hundred professions a year. As the growth spurt has developed, the leadership of the Province has been watching for attempts at communal expressions of the Third Order vocation.

America has always been fertile soil for altruistic communities. Amana, Oneida, The Shakers, New Harmony -- these are names from the history books. For that matter, Plymouth Colony and the early days of the Massachusetts Bay were little else than attempts at establishing a new Zion in North America. In my own veins flows the blood of the half dozen or so renegade Anglican priests who sponsored such a notion: Hull, Lothrop, Howes, etc. I know some of you had ancestors who were Quakers, and our own Peter Funk is a descendant of the author of a famous Mennonite heresy and schism. Canada has its Hutterite communities. (And so has Montana! jm) No doubt about it, American Zionism is our favorite heresy and one we seem to imbibe with our mothers' milk. In a Province where new sects, cults and religions are founded every week, we need to keep this temptation in mind when we try to form a communal vision.

For Anglicans the greatest weakness seems to be related to this Congregationalist tendency. It has other been said that among us everyone wants to be a father founder, but no one wants to be a "member". Ministering to the victims of Founder's Disease is an ineffable experience. Ask any of us who had to live with Fr. Joseph for a length of time!

Twice we have been offered attractive properties for the Third Order's use. Both times there were no current experiments to take advantage of the offers. The Chapter understandably avoids real estate entanglements. Property is the least of the difficulties.

How does one avoid setting up an imitation monastery? How can there be a common life, let alone Offices and worship if members have various occupations? What kind of committment should be asked of prospective members? What about mixing singles and married? These are only a few of the questions that need to be asked.

To this date, all our attempts at community life have been on the part of two persons who get along well together. In some cases it has been frankly an attempt to institutionalize a friendship. The experiments have all failed because a third person has not been able to come into the relationship. While there can be a common life between two persons, what we seem to have in mind requires three. Community among other things means the vulnerability of being out-voted.

(Next issue -- Steppingstone in the Yukon)

A JOKE



First cannibal: That Franciscan missionary I had for dinner sure was tough!

2nd cannibal: How did you cook him?

First cannibal: Roasted...

2nd cannibal: Oh no! You can't roast Franciscans! They're friars!

LOVE

How comforted I am
by your Presence, Lord
In earthly wine and
commonplace bread;
Dwelling in the silence
of your House.

Surely no one but you
could have had a higher use
For a Stable
or the hearts of sinful people
Like me.

Your love, Jesus, is
almost beyond my knowing
And why you chose
to care for me
By dying on a Cross.

What can I do except
Love You in return
For what You have done?

--A.C. Hougham, TSF



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