

NEWSLETTER
January 1972

Third Order

Society of St. Francis

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FROM THE SUNNY SOUTH

"First let me introduce myself. I'm Marlee Coddington, single, and live in Winter Park, Florida. I have my own apartment and a dog named Samantha (Sam). I have been a Tertiary for 3 or 4 years, and thank God each day for this wonderful association. I work 10-12 hours per day for a doctor, an allergist, and stay busy, to put it mildly. Anyway, I've been elected to the position of "Secretary" for our group in this area. Thus I'm writing to you. The enclosed is for the Newsletter.

To tell you all about our Tertiary fellowship on the weekend of November 12-14 would not be possible in less than three pages. There is one word, however, which seems to express it: GLORIOUS! We were very fortunate, thanks be to God, to have with us Brother Robert. We came from Orlando, St. Petersburg, Miami, Sarasota, Lake Worth, and Tarpon Springs. We were delighted also to have Kathy Klein from Evanston, Illinois, join us. A Companion, Bill Smith, was accepted by Brother Robert as a Postulant. We welcome him joyfully into the family.

Silence was held Saturday evening from 7 to 9:30 during which time we had three meditations by Brother Robert. They were wonderful. The rest of

the weekend was less structured, so that we might get to know one another. Most of us, although we live relatively close, have never met, and when we left, we found we had all made many new friends. Joy and peace were abundant and such a wonderful feeling of family.

We are planning to have A RETREAT ON THE WEEKEND OF MAY 5, 6 and 7, 1972 at Camp Wingmann. We invite and welcome anyone who would care to attend.

Also, in February, three of our novices will be professed. At that time, one of the Friars will be here. The exact time has not been set.

God bless,

Marlee"

REMINDER - - -

"Dear Sister,

In regard to the finances for the Third Order, make the check payable to "Third Order, Society of St. Francis," but mail it to the First Order SSF, Little Portion Friary, Mt. Sinai, New York 11766.

Sister Anna, ObSF "

RETREAT AT COLLEGE OF PREACHERS
BY BROTHER STEPHEN, SSF

"Dear Mrs. Webb,

I am happy to give you the information you requested about The Diocesan Retreat Association's Lenten retreat. The conductor will be Br. Stephen, S.S.F. The retreat will commence at 6:00 p.m. Friday, March 17, 1972 and conclude at lunch. Sunday, March 19, 1972.

The retreat is open to both men and women. The location is the College of Preachers on the grounds of the Washington Cathedral. The fee is \$30.00 per person, which is the amount charged by the College of Preachers for food and lodgings. Reservations must be made by March 10, 1972, by sending a deposit of \$5.00 to:

Diocesan Retreat Association
Episcopal Church House
Mount St. Alban
Washington, D.C. 20016

Make checks payable to Treasurer, Church's Program.

Yours in Christ,

Donald Mileur"

It has been suggested that the following question be asked:

IN WHAT WAYS DO TERTIARIES FEEL THE
MANUAL SHOULD BE AMENDED, IF AT
ALL?

PERMANENT COMMITMENT

"Much psychological study has been done on man's capacity to commit himself in a permanent or life-time sense. And many who have studied these findings question this ability. Man's awareness of himself in relation to his world is grounded in the present and is, therefore, limited. As we grow our world enlarges and we make decisions in accordance with our new perceptions. For this reason some would argue that decisions made at a given moment in time need to be constantly re-evaluated in the light of the present. "Permanent" commitments of the past, some feel, can shackle a man and prevent him from giving a creative response to new realities. Such arguments can be very threatening to some accepted Christian approaches to marriage and religious vows. Yet there is much of positive value to be drawn from such studies.

There is, however, another dimension to be considered. When a couple steps forward to vow their lives to each other, they step out in faith. When seminarians and young religious permanently commit their lives to the service of God and His people, they, like Peter, walk on the waters of faith. God is the other party present in such moments of commitment and He pledges a strength that is His alone to give. While it is true that we must constantly re-examine past decisions in the light of the present - lest we become complacent and stale - we undergo this study with trust in God's fidelity. Mystery is wedded to knowledge.

Moments of permanent commitment - a wedding ceremony, an ordination, a final vow ceremony - should be celebrated as faith events. At times such as these, we go beyond the limits of human knowledge and witness to the presence, fidelity and strength of God."

Sister Patricia Connolly, of the
School Sisters of Notre Dame
(writing in "Impetus," from the Cathedral of Mary
Our Queen, Baltimore, Maryland)

FAMILY NOTES

You will have noticed changes in the 1971 Intercession and Address List, and notes in Brother Robert's October letter. We welcome the new postulants, are pleased at those who have become novices, and congratulate those professed:

Postulants: The Rev. William A. Davidson,
James E. Evans, Mrs. Charles France,
The Rev. James J. McElrath, Mrs. Kenneth
Mober.

Novices: Robert Dillon, Margaret Hoffman,
Susan Boies Jefferson,
The Rev. Deaconess Janet MacKintosh.

Professed: Keith Ackerman

(continued)

NOTES, continued

Those you may not have heard about:

Novices: Richard Boyle,
Robert and Ruth Manson

In October, Brother Robert wrote: "Fr. Warner Washington is no longer a Forces Chaplain, but has a Texas parish. Emma Kuhne is now a licensed Diocesan Lay Reader, only the second woman in the Diocese of Louisiana to hold this office. Fr. Patrick George is doing full-time studies."

→ ATTENTION, PLEASE ←

"Let Joe do it? !!!"

Do you really want a Third Order Newsletter? Where is the news to come from? As you have noticed, we do not have a professional, or even an eager newspaper staff diligently scouring the countryside. The only way we can publish items is to have you send them in. We sincerely thank those who have written. But I really don't see how we can go on this way. Unless there is more material available, it is quite possible that this may be the last issue. Please let me know how you feel about it - by March 5th.

Mrs. Edward Webb, Third Order Newsletter,
4008 Buckingham Road, Baltimore, Md. 21207