

REPORT TO CHAPTER, The Rev. John Scott, Guardian November 1977

I begin by offering thanksgiving for the excellent responsibility and care shown for the Third Order and its members by the three officers who have given many hours to their tasks, namely: Helen as Secretary, Ken and Muriel as Novice Directors. In picking up upon a much needed task, that of Fellowship development, Marie is to be heartily commended. Not least, Gooch is also to be commended for drawing together the seemingly endless string of details about pastoral care in this time of severe testing and trial in the Church. There is no question in my mind that we have greatly profited by these two past days of meetings (novice counselors) and the preparation that went into them.

For all this I give thanks; but there are also some weak spots, not the least of which may be the office of Guardian. In the first place, my own calendar has been very full - in two senses. First: personally, Fran and I have had the increasing responsibility of care for three octogenarians: two mothers and my aunt - and Fran's mother is now living with us - and if that were not enough, our own period of "transition" (to pick up on the popular designation for critical times in the life cycle)! During the time of my sabbatical and subsequently, both of us have been struggling for some new growth in our relationship. Obviously, too, the sabbatical has meant considerable change in many ways in the ministry of St. Mary's Church.

Perhaps though, more than the personal aspects of my life, the expression (to me) of Franciscan values in the ministry I have supported to minorities and oppressed peoples within the Church and in our society has made me appear to be one-sided in the explosive issues of woman priests and the affirmation of homosexuals. When I hear of rumors and misconceptions about my ministry which may make difficulty for the rest of you in explaining or defending me, to say nothing of Bishop Moore, I grieve about the time and energy so expended. Yet the issue of whether God is calling women to priesthood and the recognition that He has created homosexuals as well as heterosexuals, are something neither Bishop Moore nor I invented! Now just happens to be the time these matters must be faced.

It is important for me to say that I believe the Franciscan loyalty to the whole Church grows out of our praise and thanks for the God who also is incarnate in all humankind, and means for all of it to be redeemed. Jesus' own first sermon was to quote Isaiah's words of deliverance. There are so many areas in which freedom and deliverance are needed that there is room for our ministries as Franciscans to be expressed in hundreds of ways, all of which are the result of one faith and hope, and some of which can claim precedence over others - although in the real world, choices have to be made. I live in a large urban center and minister chiefly in a large university community. Therefore it is no surprise that women there may be among the first to hear the Call, nor is it a surprise that members of the homosexual minority already there claim a recognition. If I were living elsewhere, prisoners, indigent hospital inmates, unemployed blue collar workers, migrant farm labor, alcoholic suburbanites, racially oppressed minorities, might be the more obvious claims. What I firmly believe is that as Franciscans we stand strongly at the crossroads where we are being called, responding to and ministering to the needs that are there, always seeking understanding, reconciliation and fellowship.

On one hand, I affirm the ministry of Integrity, which recognizes that homosexuals differ from heterosexuals only in orientation; and if homosexuals are to grow up, mature and be responsible members of the Church, they need affirmation, not condemnation, support not rejection. Centuries of persecution, scapegoating and stereotyping will not end suddenly, nor the accompanying hypocrisy which the Church has practiced by keeping the closet door closed.

On the other hand, I have not officiated at any homosexual marriages, so called,

or gay unions; in fact I have never even been asked to do so. The Vestry of Saint Mary's, with the Bishop of Pennsylvania present, discussed the matter but reached no conclusions other than that the whole matter of human sexuality and marriage itself is being studied and thought about as never before. I don't want to labor this any further. I have only said this much so that you are well informed in the face of criticism. If I had entertained thoughts of resignation, it was not because of my ministry but only because of some of the personal pressures which have filled recent months. I hope they will be reasonably resolved by the first of the year.

Now, there are issues and problems on our agenda. One is our relationship to members of the Anglican Church of North America, a matter made very real to us by David Burt's time with us. Another is that the only non-Chapter member here for the Novice Directors-Counselors' meeting was Lee Malloy. Br. John Charles' broad but also profound Address on training in Christian spirituality was missed by the very people who needed to hear it most! What shall we do? I believe the Fayetteville Convocation indicated that we need more face to face meetings, more often, and for longer periods of time. How shall we accomplish that?

It is also my observation that much of the present deep desire for spirituality is often siphoned off into shallow and not enduring "feeling good" expressions, rather than Br. John Charles' first point: true self acceptance. The Christian tradition, of which the Franciscan Way is one expression, has some long lasting direction and discipline to give to the pilgrimage that lasts and fills one's whole lifetime. How do we make this known in the face of easy-answer fundamentalism?

I also believe that our presence in the National Franciscan Communications Conference is very important to both the Roman Catholics and us. Who will be available?

I believe our Spanish language ministry is imperative. How shall it be done?

I believe that the Chapter members must assume increasing leadership in time and effort. The Chapter is more than my presiding at an annual gathering at which we take up an agenda.

Brothers and Sisters - we have been richly blessed, praise God, and we have much to learn in order to pass on and share that treasure. May the Holy Spirit move and help us!

John Scott

THIRD ORDER CHAPTER - Summary of Meeting, Nov. 11-12, 1977

All Chapter members were present except Fr. Samuelson, who was unavoidably absent. There were several reports; excerpts were read from Br. Geoffrey's latest newsletter. Br. Luke, Provincial Minister, reported on the First and Second Orders. John Scott presented his report as Guardian. Chaplain Br. Mark Francis spoke of his travels for the Third Order, among other things. He feels we are called to give instruction, prayer and spiritual direction not only within the Third Order, but to the Church at large. Fr. Robert Goode reported as Assistant Chaplain and Coordinator of Area Chaplains - he has had a large telephone ministry to tertiaries. Brother Dunstan sent a report from Trinidad with a brief introduction of each of the tertiaries there, and word about their Franciscan Festival in October.

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REPORT ON NOVEMBER CHAPTER MEETING, continued

Anglican Church of North America It is the feeling of Chapter that the people who have withdrawn from the Episcopal Church and become part of the Anglican Church of North America are now in a denomination other than the Episcopal Church. Chapter recommends they continue their Franciscan way of life there, instead of being part of the Society of St. Francis. The same would be true of those who leave to become Roman Catholic, Orthodox, etc.

Bursar's report This covered the period from January through September 1977. Receipts were \$5,329.80 and expenses \$5,569.76. We are spending more than we are taking in, and by the end of the year we will be in the red unless something happens. The balance as of the end of September was \$1,295.73. A few copies of the complete report are available from Helen Webb. There are some details in the full Chapter Minutes.

Convocation The Miami area was chosen as the preferred location to meet in 1979, hoping for a schedule of Wednesday to Sunday, with the first and last days for arrivals and departures, and the middle three days for program. Registration is to be open to all interested people, not just tertiaries.

Documents & Printing The "Book of Roots" is to be reprinted for temporary use until the First Order comes out with a more permanent edition. Brother John Charles' Address to counselors is to be made available. Peter Funk is to revise his "Novice Letter Series". The "Principles" excerpt from the old manual, which is sent to aspirants, is to be reprinted. After the first of the year, work is to resume on translating into Spanish further Third Order material. The Third Order Brochure is to be revised. The Way of Saint Francis is to be reprinted. (Note: it is contained in the European Province edition of Manual Part I.)

Elections Secretary Helen Webb, Novice Directors Maribel Adey and Ken Cox, and Chapter Representative to Standing Committee Dee Dobson, were elected to 3-year terms.

Fellowship Coordinator In her report, Marie Webner listed the locations of Fellowships during the past year, and a brief summary of activity. Marie has sent out program material, but asks for help if more is wanted. Chapter recommended wider use of co-convenors to share the work load in fellowships.

Goals During the next three years the Third Order, American Province: - affirms loyalty to the Church, - seeks reconciliation with persons of differing views in the issues of the day; - pledges to make the tradition, experience and discipline of Christian spirituality in the Franciscan way available to as many seekers as possible. Fellowships are urged: - to plan with other fellowships annual retreat-conferences; - to make known to the Church at large the breadth of God's love for all of his creation; - to publish, distribute and share the treasures of the Christian spiritual tradition.

Isolated Tertiaries. We need to keep trying to include them by whatever means possible.

Memorial Chapter wishes to say to our brothers and sisters who are upset with many of the things which divide the Church, that we too differ among ourselves. The House of Bishops has found a way to acknowledge these differences, while imploring our adherence to the things which unite us. We wish to make the same acknowledgement, reminding each other of our uniting purpose: to make our Lord known and loved everywhere.

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Metcalf property Permanent arrangements for the Third Order's use of this property in Minnesota is no longer possible; but a temporary option for use was requested.

Next Chapter Meeting At Bishop's Ranch, California, November 10-11, 1978; to be preceded by a meeting of pastoral officers and counselors.

NFCC Our representative to the National Franciscan Communications Conference will be Peter Funk.

Novice Directors Muriel presented individual reports on each postulant and novice; Ken gave an overall report of the people under his direction.

Other Denominations It was felt we should offer support and training for any who seek it, with the understanding that people of other denominations or communions be encouraged to establish the Franciscan way or the Christian spiritual life within their own communions. That means they would not be professed in our Third Order.

Profession Cross It was repeated that there is only one official, international Third Order profession cross. However, tertiaries may use other crosses or pins for identification if they wish.

Professions Chapter recommends the following novices for profession:
Adrienne Dillon Henry Morrison Fr. Thomas Rogers

Regional meetings, retreat-conferences It is urged that Fellowships get together to plan regional retreat-conferences, annually if possible, with advance publicity, open to all who wish to attend. Some mentioned already are the San Francisco Bay area, San Bernardino & Arizona, Philadelphia with Long Island/New York, Northern California, the Chicago area.

Renewals Tertiaries should renew their vows annually, and possibly on other special occasions. If necessary any priest, or a layman, may receive the renewal vows.

STATUTE CHANGES

- III. Membership. A. Postulants 1. ..preparing a Rule of Life based on the Third Order Rule of Life, and submitting it to the designated authority.
I. Government. B. The Standing Committee. 3. ...the Secretary, the Fellowship Coordinator, and one elected member of the Chapter...

An addition to the Constitution of the Society of St. Francis:

5. The Central Fund ..held in trust by the Protector General for the Chapter of the Society of Saint Francis, and its income...

Seminaries. Third Order presence in seminaries has been informal: by tertiaries who are studying, or friars who include seminaries in their travel. No special plans were suggested.

Spiritual Directors. A listing of spiritual directors was suggested, and any possible names are to be sent to Dee Dobson.

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Stewardship and Budget The committee is to send out a letter and pledge cards. A budget of \$9,700 was suggested for 1978. One category is to be "Designated Alms", to be 10% of receipts, not less than \$500. Large items are: Secretary (postage & supplies) \$1,000; Printing \$1,500; Chaplain (travel) \$1,300; Chapter (travel) \$2,500; Convocation and other meetings \$500 this year - an amount to be added next year to help meet expense.

Withdrawals of professed tertiaries approved during the past year or at the Chapter meeting: Hanshew, Castleman, Nevels, Vinik, David Kennedy, Boyer, French, Robert Dillon, Riding, Hansen, William Johnson, Von Nessen, Burt, Mote, Gray.

The full edition of the Minutes, and Reports from Chaplain, Guardian, Provincial, and Trinidad, are available from Helen Webb.

FROM HAWAII ...AND AT HOME EVERYWHERE

Dorothy Nakatsuji writes - as you know Father Noah Cho, tertiary, served the Korean Mission here. St. Luke's Church (Mission) is the visible result of his ministry. In fact, what Father Cho started, Father Lee, one of our postulants, is now carrying on by leading the congregation in their request for parish status. St. Luke's is a beautiful church with a distinctly oriental look. The atmosphere is one of brotherhood, being predominantly Korean with a handful of Caucasians, as Father Lee says, "To add some color", an intern priest from Korea and led by a Chinese-American priest and his Caucasian wife. Our Fellowship has been celebrating Holy Eucharist and meeting at St. Luke's since July. Bob Walden, our novice, lived and helped there last summer while still in seminary. The Franciscan spirit pops up in unexpected ways.

Tertiaries are continually on the move, some farther than others geographically. David Catron went from Philadelphia to Mexico, to assume the position of College Editor for the Nueva Editorial Interamericana, S.A. (for South and Central America). Joan Knipple and husband have gone to Germany for three years. John Walker's address is: Cdr. John Walker, CHC USN; NAS Box 31, FPO San Francisco, CA 96654, being stationed at the Naval Air Station, Cubi Point in the Philippines, and expects to be there at least until September 1979. Joan Powers, of Philadelphia, moved to Woodland, California, where her husband, "Father Fred" became Director of St. Paul's Center For Urban Work and Study in the city of Sacramento. This is a Diocesan social agency with a staff of 8 employees and over 150 volunteers. It also includes a worshipping congregation. Jane Ellen Traugott, of Washington, D.C. did not move, but has been studying, and has written several papers, which she would be willing to share if anyone would like to see them. Topics are: The Body of Christ (on the Incarnation), the Church and the Eucharist, the Four-fold Action of the Mass, The Word of God (also on the Incarnation), and The Covenant - on the Jewish understanding of covenant.

Canon H. B. Liebler and Brother Juniper are still mailing their Messages from Hat Rock Valley Retreat Center. It was a grand occasion when Fr. Liebler received his D.D. from Nashotah last spring, and is still being remembered fondly.

About some books - Kale King highly recommends three works by Roland Allen, an English priest-missionary of the 1890's and early 1900's: "Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?", "The Ministry of the Spirit", and "The Spontaneous Expansion of the Church". Publisher Wm. B. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, MI, reasonably priced under \$3.00. They challenge some of the ways in which we go about being the Lord's Church even in our sophisticated America. Louise Mangini found "Closer than a Brother," by David Winter, a modern reinterpretation of "Practicing the Presence of God" by Br. Lawrence, Harold Shaw Publishers, Box 567, Wheaton, IL 60187, paperback 1971. (Louise sent it to me, and I found it alive & interesting. Helen W.)

Sursum Chorda: Lift Up Your Hearts, a 16 page newsletter came from the New York/Long Island Fellowship. The front page notes, "After more than a year and a half in limbo, the N.Y./L.I. Fellowship has been recalled to active life. Brother Mark Francis has appointed the Rev's Annjane Tanner, Patricia DiStasio and Robert Brandt as co-convenors of the Fellowship community. Plans now call for the first meeting in January 1978.

The Franciscan Flyer is now up to Volume II, Number 2 in January 1978, being sent from the San Francisco area, with news and articles about the Franciscan community as a whole. If you would like a subscription, write to Mrs. James Hacks (Joyce), 330-C Ravenswood Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025. This issue includes letters from Jackie Richards of Trinidad and Fr. John Dorman of Guyana, South America.

OVERSEAS

(As I write that heading, I realize that "overseas" is a point of view, small world!) Minutes of the Third Order Chapter, European Province, of October 1977, were received. Certificates for Profession have been printed and are in use. The New Zealand Crucifixes (profession cross) were received as a gift and are in use. From the American Province, the idea has been adopted of circularising letters to postulants and novices. A long list of people were elected to profession, conditional upon their completing their full novitiate to the mutual satisfaction of the novice and the Order. The list was broken down by dates, each month from November 1977 through November 1978. John Betton, Guardian, reported on his visit to the Swedish tertiaries. They wish to continue their link with the Third Order SSF, and in the future will be known as F.T.O. An Intercession Group and list was mentioned. There was a major change in regional structure. Earlier, our Br. Robert, SSF had written of his enthusiasm about the Third Order families' retreat in England, which has become a tradition. The preferred situation is for about five families to meet, with to other tertiaries to care for the children while parents are in silence. There is some silence and some time for outings.

Newsletters have been received from Rhodesia, Zambia, and South Africa, but Br. Geoffrey's Newsletter as Minister General seems to summarize tertiary life there. Excerpts follow; the complete Newsletter may be borrowed from John Scott. June 1977: KUCHING has one professed tertiary, one postulant and a small group of other interested people. SINGAPORE has 4 professed, 1 novice, 2 postulants. The charismatic movement is popular there. CALCULLA - one tertiary novice. Had a meeting to introduce T.O. to others. In the First Order, Br. Andrew is in charge of the Missionary Brothers, and arrangements were made for Br. Don of the American Province to have 6 months with them helping in some of Mother Teresa's homes. RHODESIA. Much national tension, scattered tertiaries. Lorraine Scholz is taking a lot of trouble to circulate a news sheet and to link up with groups not only in Africa but also around the world. ZAMBIA 7 professed and 4 novices. Country in much violence and at war with Rhodesia. TANZANIA. In First Order, Tanzanian leadership and responsibility has come at Mtoni Shamba. At Dar es Salaam, Br. Aidan is chaplain of the Missions to Seamen. SOUTH AFRICA. Still heavy repression of blacks by white minority, encouraged by belief in natural black inferiority and enforced by Security Police. However, the first Third Order Chapter was held in Johannesburg, and the Third Order in South Africa is growing fast.

Do you know about "The Navigators Open Bible" from The Navigators, Box 20, Colorado Springs, CO 80901. It is a combination King James version with several study guides, a concordance, etc., an outstanding study Bible, cost \$24.95.

From: Society of St. Francis, Little Portion Friary
P.O. Box 399, Mt. Sinai, New York 11766

The Little Chronicle (monthly) \$1.00 annual subscription
The Franciscan (international quarterly) \$4.00
Brochures on the SSF, and on the Associates, on the Third Order

From: The Poor Clares, Maryhill, Mt. Sinai, New York 11766
St. Clare's Monstrance (quarterly) \$1.00
Christmas cards, note paper, holy cards, medals, rosaries, etc.

From: Third Order Secretary - Mrs. Edward Webb
4008 Buckingham Rd., Baltimore, MD 21207

Purple book, "The Way of St. Francis" (also printed in Manual Part I)
Manual, Part I (Way of St. Francis, SSF Constitution, Third Order Constitution,
TSF Rule of Life)

Manual, Part II (Third Order, American Province. Admissions, Constitution TSF,
Provincial Statutes)

Directory: Third Order Intercession and Address List (annual)

Book of Roots, Source documents (supply limited)

Forms of Prayer for Franciscans (Diocese of Melanesia Press) pamphlet

Calendar and Devotional Material (37-page booklet)

Report Forms

For counselors: Peter Funk Novice Letters (postulants & novices -
ask your counselor)

Note: There is no stated price for these printed materials,
but donations are welcome. Checks, made out to Third Order,
Society of St. Francis, should be sent to Bursar, St. Mary's
Church, Hamilton Village, 3601 Locust Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

From: Third Order Guardian, The Rev. John Scott, St. Mary's Church (Phila.)
Brochure on the Third Order, in English or Spanish
(for counselors and officers) Letterhead and envelopes

From: National Franciscan Communications Conference
1229 South Santee Street, Los Angeles, CA 90015
National Franciscan Directory (Roman Catholic and Episcopal) Was \$2.00 in 1976

From: Franciscan Herald Press, 1134 W. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60609
Various publications, books, cards and note paper
Tau Cross with crossed hands, in various styles and sizes, pins, etc.