
FRANCISCANS CANADA

Volume 1, Issue 3

Feast of Francis, October 4, 2000

People with Francis!

Who We Are in Canada

SOCIETY OF SAINT FRANCIS
(ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA)

A column for membership updates and events and activities of interest.

Update

Congratulations and blessings to **The Rev. Gordon Shields** who is now a novice of the Third Order and to **The Rev. Richard Roberts** who was an Associate of the SSF and is now a novice of the Third Order.

Associates

First Inquiries:

Associates of the Society of Saint Francis
Sr. Jean CSF, 3743 Cesar Chavez
San Francisco, CA, USA 94110

Third Order

of the Society of Saint Francis

First Inquiries:

Bob Teudesman, tssf
Little Portion Priory, Box 399
Mount Sinai, NY, USA 11766

Fellowship Convenor:

Little Sparrow Fellowship (Eastern Canada)
Diana Finch, tssf
Box 384, Caledon East, ON L0N 1E0
Email: finch@interlog.com

Area Chaplains:

Ruth Duncan, tssf (Eastern Canada)
306-1903 Bayview Ave., Toronto, ON M4G 3E4

The Rev. Harold MacDonald, tssf (Western Canada)
Box 288, Matlock, Manitoba R0C 2B0

Order of Ecumenical Franciscans

First Inquiries:

The Rev. J. Fred Ball OEF
7215 Illinois Street, Little Rock, AR, USA 72207-4813
Fball@franciscans.com

Third Order Website: <http://www.tssf.org>

Society of Saint Francis Website:
<http://www.societystfrancis.org>

Anglican Franciscan Listserve
(an email discussion group): for information, consult
John Snyder - email: jsnyder@pobox.com

People who Work!

Our Rule and Daily Prayer

- by Ruth Duncan, Eastern Chaplain, TSSF

Hello fellow Canadian Franciscans! As a Novice Counsellor for the TSSF I deal mostly with Franciscans in the United States of America. It wasn't until TSSF Chapter ordered me to become area chaplain for Eastern Canada that I got to know more of us here in Canada. There really isn't much difference. They and we have exactly the same problems drawing up and keeping our Rule of Life. I am just like the rest of you with the same problems and no better answers. However, as I struggle to help TSSF novices sort out ways to keep their rule I am forced to struggle with my own.

By far the greatest problem we all seem to face at one time or another is obedience to the Third Order's requirement to pray the Daily Office. For years I had no problem, then all of a sudden it became an empty shell, pure ritual with no meaning. I tried this and that, different canticles, different time of day, different place, different forms of office. Each one worked for a bit then failed to keep my interest. By now I have come to the conclusion that Daily Office for me is supposed to be only a symbol and nothing more. Certainly I do my best praying and meditating at other times and God does the rearranging of my attitudes at other times - often at two o'clock in the morning! Morning Prayer is the very first thing I do before I get out of bed, often before I am fully awake. In this ritual of Morning Prayer I am presenting myself to God as a servant to receive my direction for the day ahead. It no longer matters if I feel anything at all for I know those moments will come throughout the day. Daily Office is like unlocking the front door of my soul to let God in and myself out.

I invite you all to use this newsletter as a means of sharing your struggles and/or solutions regarding the issues of keeping our various Principles and Rules of Life. I know there is a lot of good advice out there among you. Don't be shy! Share it!

"The Principles of the TSSF for Daily Reading" and other basic **TSSF Publications** just write to Dee Dobson, 4001 S.W. 5 Terrace, Miami, FL 33134-2040 for a list and prices.

Third Order Library: Books/videos/tapes on loan by mail. Contact the librarian, Rosie McFerran, 1518 Tulane Drive, Davis, CA, USA 95616 Phone: 530-756-3487 or find the library list through the website: <http://www.tssf.org>

PEOPLE FOR JUSTICE

CANADIANS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

ISSUE: CARE OF CREATION, CONCERN FOR THE POOR AND PEACEMAKING

Franciscans International is the whole Franciscan movement's presence at the United Nations in New York and Geneva. It was constituted about ten years ago by the Ministers of the Major Roman Catholic Franciscan Communities. At present their primary emphasis is on Third World Debt Cancellation, Peace Education and work toward creating a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence, Plant-A-Tree Project, and Death Penalty Moratorium/Abolition

ACTION: For Info Contact

SR. SHELL BALEK OSF, **FRANCISCANS INTERNATIONAL**,
NORTH AMERICAN REGION, 3195 SOUTH SUPERIOR STREET,
MILWAUKEE, WI 53207

EMAIL: fi-noram@undp.org WEBSITE: <http://www.fi-na.org>

The **Anglican Franciscan Peace and Justice Group** was formed in May of 1998 and is made up of members of the three orders of the Society of St. Francis in the American Province (along with some others) who have signed up as members of Franciscans International. The Group has three purposes:

- to engage in shared discernment of that which the gospel teaches us about any particular issue relating to peace, justice and the environment,
- to facilitate cooperative action to work for peace, justice and the environment by members of the Group and other Anglican Franciscans often working in concert with Franciscan International as well as other peace and justice organizations, and
- to bring peace, justice and the environment more into the forefront of the life of the Society of St. Francis.

ACTION: For Info Contact

JOHN GEORGE ROBERTSON SSF, ST. ELIZABETH'S FRIARY,
1474 BUSHWICK AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY 11207, PHONE
(718) 573-3973 FAX (718) 443-3437

EMAIL: peace.and.justice@societystfrancis.org

Editorial Information

Please send submissions for the Christmas issue and/or comments to:

The Reverend Lyndon Hutchison-Hounsell
202 Glasgow Street North
Guelph, Ontario N1H 4X2
Phone: 519-826-0388 Email: clhh@sentex.net

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People of the Spirit!

Prayers for the Feast of Francis - Oct. 4

The following prayers for the Feast of Francis are written with an emphasis on restoring the great balance of all God's creation. Prayer are provided for use as the propers for a eucharistic liturgy. The "Prayer to Begin" can also be used as the Collect for a Daily Office.

Prayer to Begin

God our father and mother,
today we give thanks for our humble brother Francis
who reminded us that we are all
brothers and sisters within creation.
Like Francis, may we recognize
our precious place in creation
living with integrity and balance,
now and forever.

Prayer Over Our Offered Gifts

God of eternal life,
accept all we offer you today from your creation.
Like Francis, may we share what we have
with humility, love and joy,
now and forever.

Preface for the Eucharistic Prayer

Blessing to you, sacred Creator,
we give you thanks
for brother Francis who reminded us
that Christ our exemplar teaches us
to look for you in all the world
from the beginning of creation
to beyond the end of time
and the extents of the universe.
Like Francis, in humility, we come together to serve,
in love, we come together to share
and in joy, we come together to celebrate.
And so with all creation
we raise our voices to proclaim:

Prayer after Communion

God our giver of joy,
like Francis, we thank you
for gathering all creation together in this holy feast.
May we become one family in you,
now and forever.

*"God has taught me what is mine to do,
may God teach you what you are to do"*

- Brother Francis