
FRANCISCANS CANADA

Volume 3, Issue 1

Easter 2002

PEOPLE WITH FRANCIS!

Who We Are in Canada

A column for membership updates, events and activities of interest

❖ NEW ASSOCIATE!

We celebrate together the acceptance of **Gladys Sainsbury** as an Associate of the Society of Saint Francis. She will be officially admitted on a Sunday in the season of Easter.

This column is for information about changes in membership and to share who we are with those who may be inquiring about joining any part of the Order of Ecumenical Franciscans or Society of Saint Francis. Also, let me know of any conferences or workshops you may be planning or to which you may be going so we will all know what is available.

How to Join the TSSF?

If someone inquires about the TSSF then his or her first step is to contact Bob Teudesman TSSF at Little Portion Priory, Box 399, Mount Sinai, NY, USA 11766 or visit the TSSF Website at www.tssf.org. The Inquirer will receive all the information she or he needs to begin the process.

The Inquirer becomes an Aspirant when he or she writes and submits a first Rule of Life, an autobiography, and the necessary reference letters. The Aspirant becomes a Postulant when her or his Rule of Life is approved and she or he is assigned a Third Order Counselor by the Formation Director. The period of postulancy lasts at least six months during which time the Postulant submits Monthly Reports and Formation Letter Reports. At the end of the postulancy the Postulant submits letters of recommendation from his or her Spiritual Director and Fellowship Convenor. The Formation Director then decides whether or not to admit the Postulant as a Novice.

The period of novitiate lasts at least two years during which time Monthly Reports and Formation Letter Reports continue to be submitted. Letters of reference from his or her Spiritual Director and Fellowship Convenor are submitted at the end of the first year, and at the end of the novitiate to recommend the Novice be elected to Profession by the Chapter of the American Province of the TSSF. If the Novice is elected, then a Mandate and a Professional Cross

PEOPLE WHO WORK!

Celebrating the News!

I sometimes wish I knew one or two other Franciscans who were, like me, daily newspaper journalists. We might cry on one another's shoulders and we might form our own small, breakaway community. We might also figure out how to better reconcile our secular occupations with our Franciscan vocations. Actually, we would probably find we had a lot to celebrate together. Daily newspaper journalism does provide many of us with an opportunity to explore language and our communities, to meet many remarkable people and to ponder, in print, the eternal mysteries of what makes our cities, towns and villages and all of life tick so wonderfully, despite all the evil and corrupt goings-on in them.

To me, this part of my life would be infinitely more difficult and far less engaging if I did not begin each day with intentional prayer and a period of yoga meditation. It might even be impossible, for if I cannot quiet my mind, body and spirit and focus my energies so that I can help convey a sense of the sacred to our readers -- something that helps hallow the day -- I have simply wasted precious newsprint and shortchanged our subscribers.

Do not get me wrong. Newspapers are very good at confusing the sacred and the profane and publishing much that is unhelpful and even worthless. Because we're always stretching to find something that's new and different and exciting, we're not very good at revering tradition or recognizing most of the real saints among us -- people who, without fanfare, quietly and routinely sow peace, harmony and goodwill in their families, churches, neighbourhoods and larger communities.

But enter any newspaper newsroom in the country and you will find a number of people who are earnestly searching for God. They may not always admit it (at least not in the language of religion) nor will they commonly express their love for God in conventional, church-sanctioned ways. But it's there and it shows in the many agonizing attempts to get the story right despite deadline pressures, to discover the hidden truth behind events and to be fair and respectful to all, especially those who make no secret of their contempt for us.

Isn't this what being a Franciscan means? It occurs to me as I finish this that I may have constructed this defence of my newspapering profession and career in order to furnish a phoney business with an air of pompous respectability that no outsider would, or could, ever grant it. It's certainly possible that this is what I've inadvertently done, but if it is so I pray that the spirit of St. Francis will let the hot air out of this fat balloon -- preferably slowly and very, very gently.

-- Rolf Pedersen, TSSF



PEOPLE OF THE SPIRIT!

A few members of the Dogwood Fellowship met for a Quiet Morning at Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver on Saturday 16th February 2002. The Cathedral hosted Brother Robert Hugh SSF for their parish. After lunch the members of the Fellowship met as a TSSF group with Brother Robert and several parishioners stayed to learn more about the SSF. Dianne Varty and Muriel Adey were the two professed members there along with a few new Aspirants.

This was the first time that anyone, except for Muriel, had met an Anglican Friar! They went around the group introducing themselves and saying that what attracted them was what they knew

ORDER OF ECUMENICAL FRANCISCANS (OEF)

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

OEF Website: www.franciscans.com

SOCIETY OF SAINT FRANCIS (SSF) (ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA)

Associates of the SSF

First Inquiries: Sr. Jean CSF, 3743 Cesar Chavez
San Francisco, CA, USA 94110

Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis

(TSSF) First Inquiries: Bob Teudesman TSSF, Little
Portion Priory, Box 399, Mount Sinai, NY, USA 11766

Fellowship Convenors:

Dogwood Fellowship (Greater Vancouver Area, BC)

Dianne Varty TSSF, 105-110 7th St., New Westminster,
BC V3M 5W5 Email: dianneuv@telus.net

Little Sparrow Fellowship (Southern Ontario)

Diana Finch TSSF

Box 384, Caledon East, ON L0N 1E0

Phone: 905-584-2163 Email: finch@interlog.com

OR

The Reverend Lyndon Hutchison-Hounsell TSSF

202 Glasgow Street North, Guelph, Ontario N1H 4X2

Phone: 519-826-0388 Email: clhh@golden.net

TSSF Website: www.tssf.org

SSF Website: www.societystffrancis.org

PEOPLE FOR JUSTICE

FRANCISCAN CANADIANS MAKE PEACE

ISSUE: Living in Gentle Balance with all Creation

ACTION: Voluntary Simplicity

In his speech at his inauguration as the President of South Africa Nelson Mandela said, "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure." Saint Francis of Assisi realized this when he discerned that God was calling him away from the rich decadent life of his merchant family into a life rich with the Divine Love. Francis saw the Divine in all of creation from the smallest worm to the highest mountain. He saw the Divine Value in all people from the leper to the pope. In these new insights Francis experienced the intimate connections he had with the entire universe. And so Francis embraced Holy Poverty exclaiming that everything was his because nothing was his.

Francis had a sense that all was Holy because the Divine was incarnate in all things therefore intimately connecting everything in a delicate, peaceful balance. The word 'Religious,' which we have used for centuries to describe ourselves, comes from the Latin word 'Religio' which means to connect or reconnect as the ligaments of our body connect our bones and keep us living and moving. It is a heightened awareness of our intimate connections with the whole universe through the Divine that can move us to live carefully and thoughtfully
alongside our Sisters and Brothers on this precious Earth

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

Please send submissions for the next Feast of Clare issue, and/or comments, by 16 JUL 2002 to:

The Reverend Lyndon Hutchison-Hounsell, TSSF
202 Glasgow Street North, Guelph, Ontario N1H 4X2