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**IN THIS EXCITING ISSUE:**

- Summary of Chapter 1989
- An invitation to the pilgrimage of your dreams to Assisi
- Community update
- Earthquake news

Included in this Information Sheet is a summary of the 1989 Chapter Meetings. A complete set of the Minutes for Chapter and the Corporation Meeting including the individual reports may be obtained from the Provincial Secretary. Please send a donation to the Bursar to cover the printing and mailing costs.

There have been several changes to the Officers of the Third Order and you should make the following changes to your Directory:

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|-------------------------|--|
| Corporation Officers:   | No Change  |
| Bishop Protector        | The Rt. Rev. George Hunt   |
| Visitor                 | Br. Donald Sullivan, SSF   |
|                         | Sr. Cecilia, CSF   |
| Minister Provincial     | Denalta(Dee) Dobson  |
| Provincial Secretary    | Jacqui Belcher   |
| Bursar                  | Carole Watson  |
| Franciscan Times Editor | Joanne Maynard   |
| Librarian               | Pat Mahon  |
| Minister General        | The Rev. R. Pope   |
| Minister of the Society | Brother Michael, SSF   |
| Chaplain                | Deacon Marie Webner  |
| Assistant Chaplain      | pending appointment  |
| Formation Directors     | Ann Harris, The Rev. Alden Whitney, M.D.,<br>Jacqueline Richards, The Rev. Jose Valenzuela |

Assistant Formation Directors: Add David Catron and Heber Peacock

Elected Chapter Members: Dorothy Adams, Mary Ann Jackman, Dorothy Nakatsuji, David Nard, Terry Rogers, The Rev. Masud Syedullah

There is one vacancy on Chapter as Bill Graham could not serve at this time.

Earthquake News: I have received several calls and letters inquiring about the safety of our brothers and sisters in the Bay area. Here in Davis we rocked back and forth with a definite feeling of seasickness but nothing fell off the shelves or walls. I heard from Mary Ann Jackman, Linda Bell, Vic Slen and Brother Robert who are all safe and sound, and so is everyone they have been able to contact. Quite an experience but mercifully the casualties were not as heavy as first predicted.

A Personal Note: I have enjoyed my term serving the community as Provincial Secretary and I will miss the notes and letters from my brothers and sisters. Many wonderful people have helped me out over the last three years, Mary Ann Jackman, Rosie McFerran, Helen Webb and my Sacramento fellowship members, my heartfelt thanks to everyone. My best wishes go to Jacqui as she takes over this challenging role - may she persevere with joy!. Please note her address and send all your news to her.

**PLEASE SEND ALL CORRECTIONS AND REQUESTS TO THE NEW PROVINCIAL SECRETARY:**

Jacqui Belcher  
2220 E. Victory Drive, #24  
Savannah, GA 31404

Let her know when you move, are noviced or professed - or when a friend has a significant change. Write to her, send her cards and keep in touch.

Community Update

Professed

Elsie Amos 09/30/89

Ken Norian 10/14/89

Davis Horner 09/30/89

Lindsay D. Warren 09/29/89

Alice Wright 09/30/89

Noviced

Daniel Simon 10/04/89

Lapsed, withdrawn

Marjorie Bailie, Patricia Hopkins, Betty Jones, Richard Lehmann, Kathy Sedinger

Lost (mail returned no forwarding address)

Sharon Edwards, Micahel Orley

Chaplain's Ordination: On October 24th Marie Webner was ordained Deacon. It was a joyful service and Marie wore the Franciscan stole made for her by Mary Ann Jackman.

### Summary of Minutes of Chapter Meeting 1989

The Chapter of the Third Order, American Province, Society of St. Francis met in several sessions, Wednesday through Friday, October 11-13th, 1989 at Saint Joseph's House, Little Portion Friary, Mt. Sinai, New York. Present, ex officio members: Denalta Dobson, Provincial Minister, The Rev. Alden Whitney, Acting Chaplain, Formation Director, Mary Ann Jackman, Formation Director, Jacqueline Richards, Formation Director, Ann Harris, Provincial Secretary, Brother Donald Sullivan, SSF, First Order Visitor. Present, elected members: David Nard, Dorothy Nakatsuji, Teresa Rogers, The Rev. Masud Syedullah, The Rev. Jose Valenzuela, Marie Webner, Assistant Chaplain. Also present: The Rev. Peter Patrick, Tobago, Joanne Maynard, Franciscan Times Editor, Sister Catherine Joy, CSF, Carole Watson, Bursar. Excused absence: Anita Catron, Fellowship Co-ordinator, could not be present due to a scheduling conflict.

By unanimous vote Chapter minutes for the 1988 Chapter meetings were approved as mailed.

Reports: The following reports were distributed: Minister Provincial, Chaplain and Assistant Chaplain, Formation Directors: Mary Ann Jackman, Jacqueline Richards, Alden Whitney, Bursar, Provincial Secretary, Sister Cecilia, First Order Visitor, Fellowship Co-ordinator, Franciscan Times Editor, Pax et Bonum, St. Louis Press Gift Shop.

Song Book The Song Book has been a long time in preparation and is still not ready for the printer. Chapter discussed including Spanish, Latin American and Caribbean songs in the Song Book.

Librarian The Minister Provincial contacted the Librarian by phone. Pat is working on computerizing the book list and hopes to have it ready for publication in the Franciscan Times soon.

Community of St. Francis Sister Catherine Joy reported to Chapter on the current status of the Community. The sisters are attempting to send someone to each convocation if at all possible.

First Order Brother Donald Sullivan was able to meet with Chapter. He said that it was a privilege being with the tertiaries at the S.E. Convocation in Atlanta. He stated that he was looking forward to his role as visitor.

Ratification of Visitors By unanimous vote Br. Donald Sullivan and Sr. Cecilia were ratified as First Order Visitors.

Bishop Protector The Rt. Rev. Paul Moore has retired as Bishop of New York. By unanimous vote Chapter ratified The Rt. Rev. George Hunt as Bishop Protector. Members of Chapter suggested that the Bishop Protector be invited to the 1990 Chapter Meetings.

Election of Chaplain The Rev. Alden Whitney received thanks for all his work during the past year as Acting Chaplain. Marie Webner was proposed to Chapter as a candidate for Chaplain and elected by unanimous vote.

Election of Formation Directors The Rev. Alden Whitney, Jacqueline Richards, Ann Harris and The Rev. Jose Valenzuela were proposed for election as Formation Directors and elected by unanimous vote.

Election of Provincial Secretary Jaqui Belcher was unanimously elected as Provincial Secretary from the candidates submitted to Chapter. The Minister Provincial and the Provincial Secretary were directed by Chapter to appoint assistant secretaries as necessary. It was agreed that the Directory would be published in the Fall rather than the Spring in future, as most people move over the summer.

Election of Standing Committee Member-at-large David Nard was proposed and unanimously elected to the Standing Committee.

Election of Two Chapter Members The election of Marie Webner to Chaplain and Jose Valenzuela to Formation Director left two vacancies on Chapter. Dorothy Adams, Kentucky, and Bill Graham, Nebraska, were proposed and unanimously elected. Chapter also unanimously voted to co-opt Ruth Duncan, Canada and Heber Peacock, North Carolina, to attend the 1990 Chapter with voice and vote. Chapter also unanimously voted not to amend the Provincial Statutes to permit the election of a Chapter member from the Caribbean but to continue the current practice of the fellowships in the Caribbean electing a representative for Chapter's consideration to co-opt with voice and vote. This would be recorded in the minutes only.

Withdrawals The Chaplain reported that Clyde Brewer, Carole Turner and James and June Costigan have left the Episcopal Church. By unanimous vote Chapter approved a release from vows for Dick Lillard, Louise Stagg and Frances Coulter.

Professions Chapter approved unanimously Ken Norian, Elizabeth Greiner, Sybil Yearwood, Anne Hocker, Elsie Ireland, Barbara Taylor, Christina Oosthuizen, Elaine Scofield, Mary Bethancourt, Marilyn Brown and Ivan Villasmil for profession.

Report of the Interprovincial Ministers Meeting in Stroud, Australia  
The Interprovincial meeting of the Ministers from Europe, America, Australia, New Zealand and a representative from Africa was held at Stroud, Australia, August 10-15, 1989. The election of the Minister General will take place in 1990. By unanimous vote Chapter ratified the proposal for appointing the Minister General as worded in the Interprovincial minutes. A schedule of future Interprovincial meetings was distributed. The next meeting will be in the American Province in 1991.

Chapter unanimously ratified changes to the Constitution proposed by the Interprovincial Meeting.

The Provincial Ministers discussed the 'Manual' (in the American province this is called 'the Basics'). It was agreed that the Principle and Rule should be common to all provinces and be written in modern, basic, inclusive language. A commission will be established to do this. The Minister Provincial appointed a committee to provide input for the commission. The Interprovincial Chapter discussed proposed changes to the vows and renewal of vows included in the Order of Admissions. Chapter discussed the changes. Chapter recommended some amendments for

consideration by the Interprovincial Chapter and directed the Secretary to distribute to all the members the revised trial edition. Renewal in absentia The committee reported that they had thought about all the possible circumstances and thought that in most cases a professed tertiary or a priest could be there for a renewal. The committee recommended that renewal in absentia should not be in the Order of Admissions or the Provincial Statutes but that on rare, rare occasions when renewal could not be made with a professed tertiary or a priest then the Chaplain could give permission for renewal in absentia. This recommendation was unanimously adopted by the whole Chapter. The Chapter unanimously voted to direct the secretary to notify the Interprovincial Chapter of the action taken regarding the Order of Admissions forms noting the amendments and particularly declining the use of renewal in absentia being part of the Order of Admissions.

The new profession crosses are being distributed and more are on order. The Minister Provincial passed around the lapel crosses that have been approved by the Interprovincial Chapter for world-wide use and are available in sterling silver or gold. The crosses are made from an exclusive mold by Avery. Chapter voted unanimously that the Minister provincial would purchase a supply of lapel pins and that the sterling silver pins would be sold for \$20.00 including postage and handling.

The international newsletter, Il Poverello, will not continue.

A letter was received from the Central Fund thanking the American Province for their support and noting that the American Province was also supporting other provinces through their contributions.

Outreach Chapter received notes of thanks from Summer House, The parish of St. Stephens for the Fifth Company Church and school, and Franciscan Aid for last year's donations. This year Chapter received two requests for aid from Trinidad: St. Mary's Childrens Home and Orphanage has 300 children from infants to seventeen years old. The primary school attached to St. Mary's is in urgent need of rebuilding which is expected to cost \$50,000. By unanimous vote Chapter approved \$1000 for St. Mary's Childrens Home and Orphanage. The Religious Instruction teaching program in the Anglican Schools in Trinidad needs visual aids and equipment to enrich the program. By unanimous vote Chapter approved \$850 for the Religious Instruction program in Trinidad.

There was general discussion regarding the need to be more aware of issues and needs for Non-Franciscan aid through out the year. It was suggested that more information and solicitations be included in the Information Sheet and possibly be expanded into an article for the Franciscan Times.

A letter was read from Bishop Abdullah reporting that there will no longer be a Franciscan First Order presence in Trinidad. Bishop Abdullah encourages Third Order priests to consider a commitment of a year's service in Trinidad. Similar requests have been received from Africa and South America.

Needs of the Professed Chapter discussed reporting and the implications of reporting. There is a need to disseminate information on the

statutory requirements on reporting by professed either by mail, phone or face to face. It was suggested that a short article be included in the Information Sheet with a list of Area Chaplains. The requirement for renewal of vows should also be included in the article.

Tertiaries who do not report attend fellowship meetings or convocations are not doing anything that identifies them as tertiaries. As these persons are identified by Area Chaplains who have tried to contact them in writing or by phone they should be sent a pastoral letter by the Chaplain and asked to reply. If they do not respond another letter should be sent from the Chaplain stating that they are now considered lapsed but not released from their vows.

Chapter also stated that renewal of vows should be in community if possible and at a Eucharist. Isolated tertiaries should renew with a priest or spiritual director authorized by the Area Chaplain on behalf of the community. An instruction sheet will be developed for priests or spiritual directors which will include an explanation of renewal and the format in the Order of Admissions.

The question of voluntary ministry in the Third Order was raised and the possibility of reaching tertiaries through the Franciscan Times who can write in Spanish to correspond with South American tertiaries and also correspondents for isolated English speaking tertiaries throughout the province.

Fellowships need to focus on the fundamentals and the application of Franciscan values in a modern world. It was recommended that when the Formation letters are complete that be printed as a booklet and distributed to all and recommended for fellowship discussion.

We each have a unique understanding on living out our vocation as a Third Order member and we need to share our stories with each other.

Chapter received a request for a listing of lesser Franciscan Saints to complement the Devotional Companion. Br. Justus, SSF has written one and the possibility of reprinting and distributing this will be pursued.

A question arose from a member of the American Church on the use of inclusive language offices in the Third Order. There was some discussion of the differences in the format of the Offices between the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean. General Convention is working on inclusive language Offices and the Third Order will await and abide by General Conventions decisions. The inclusive language version of the Eucharistic Rites for Advent will be available this year. Inclusive language versions of the Book of Common Prayer Offices such as those used by the Community of Saint Francis may be used by Third Order members.

Provincial Statutes Chapter reviewed the Provincial Statutes to comply with the recent changes made by the Interprovincial Chapter. By unanimous vote of Chapter the Secretary was instructed to reprint and redistribute the Provincial Statutes with the following changes:

I A 8 Following '5 eligible brothers and sisters' change the period to a semicolon and add 'but no elected member of Chapter may

serve more than three full consecutive terms.'

II A Change to the following: The Bishop Protector serves the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis in the American Province. After consulting with the members of Chapter the Minister Provincial shall nominate one or more candidates for election by Chapter. The Bishop Protector shall serve for a three year term.

II B Change to the following: The Minister General is responsible for ensuring that the constitution and statutes of the Third Order are carried out.

II E 3 Add at the end of the third paragraph the sentence: By August 1st the Secretary shall publish the list to the membership. Change Minister General in the fourth paragraph to Bishop Protector.

II G 4 Change the first two paragraphs to the following: At the third meeting following the election of a Chapter, the Minister Provincial, after consultation with the members of Chapter, nominates a candidate for Chaplain who has served on Chapter to the Chapter for ratification. After consultation the Minister Provincial shall notify the members of Chapter of the nominee by July 15th. The Chaplain shall have a term of 3 years effective from the date of election. No person shall serve more than 3 full consecutive terms as Chaplain. The last paragraph remains unchanged.

II H 4 Add the word 'consecutive after 'full'.

The Budget No pledge letter was sent with the pledge cards again this year. Pledges are holding steady and no letter is planned for 1990. There is an amendment to the 1989 budget, the \$592.00 expense should be for First Order Visitors and not Regional Scholarships. There was discussion on redesigning the budget layout for 1991. By unanimous vote the budget was recommended to the Corporation for adoption. By unanimous vote Chapter recommended that if there is a surplus at the end of 1989 it should be used to replenish the savings account. The Minister Provincial reported that money from the savings account had been used as authorized by Chapter for Interprovincial use including support of other provinces.

Site for Future Chapter Meetings There was a proposal that Chapter study during the coming year the possibility of holding Chapter meetings in 1991 in the Caribbean. It was felt that the Third Order has a need to widen its vision of the world and of the Church in the world. There is a need to study the tangible and intangible benefits of such a location and to strengthen our perception that we are the Province of America and not just the USA. It was also suggested that the Directory include maps showing the location of Chapter members.

Necrology Jackie Richards reported that a very vibrant and dedicated aspirant who had prepared her rule was brutally murdered shortly before she was to be admitted as a postulant. By unanimous vote Chapter added the name of Isaline Mitchell to the necrology. Anna Bartel, Don Carlson, Isaline Mitchell and Emily Gardner Neal were remember at the Eucharist.

## Third Order Budget for 1990

Chaplain	4000.00
Assistant Chaplain	750.00
Area Chaplains	500.00
Fellowship Co-ordinator	750.00
1st Order Visitors	4000.00
Regional/Scholarship needs	500.00
Third Order Central Fund	<u>2000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL COMMUNITY</b>	<b>12,500.00</b>
Directors & AFDs	5000.00
Counselors	500.00
Training	<u>500.00</u>
<b>TOTAL FORMATION</b>	<b>6,000.00</b>
Franciscan Aid Fund	750.00
Other Aid	1850.00
1st Orders	<u>4000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL OUTREACH</b>	<b>6,600.00</b>
Information Sheet	1900.00
Franciscan Times	1850.00
Brochures & Booklets	2000.00
Copier	<u>300.00</u>
<b>TOTAL SEC'Y/COMMUNICATION</b>	<b>6,050.00</b>
Minister Provincial	6000.00
Minister's Discretionary	1000.00
Inquirer Correspondent	125.00
Bursar	<u>1500.00</u>
<b>TOTAL SERVANTS</b>	<b>8,625.00</b>
Annual Meeting Travel	6000.00
Accomodations	4000.00
Standing Committee	<u>150.00</u>
<b>TOTAL CHAPTER</b>	<b><u>10,150.00</u></b>
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b><u><u>\$49,925.00</u></u></b>



New Address

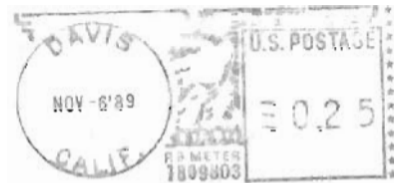
Jacqui Belcher

Third Order, Society of St. Francis

American Province

611 E. Bay Street

Savannah, GA 31401



Address Correction Requested