

The Franciscan Times



Lord, Make Me An Instrument Of Thy Peace

A quarterly newsletter, whose purpose is helping members of The Third Order of the Society of St. Francis share their common journey through news from fellowships and individuals, reviews of books and tapes, poetry, stories, essays, reflections, meditations, graphics, and whatever the Holy Spirit might blow our way.

Spring 1997

New Orleans 1997

New Orleans 1997 offers us all a chance to deepen our commitment to the Third Order, to build community, and to hear the voice and see the eyes of all those you've been daily holding in prayers.

Did you know that the first two novices in the Third Order celebrated their investiture in July of 1917 in Cincinnati, Ohio, or that by the end of 1917 there were 18 tertiary novices?

In the last 80 years we've grown to over 690 brothers and sisters scattered across the American Province...and perhaps we only know few fellow Franciscans in our area or in our Fellowship. It's time to celebrate our 80 years, to hear the Franciscan story from new lips, and to rekindle the bonds of Franciscan love and friendship across our Province.

Attend sessions on:

- Twelve different Franciscan topics such as simplicity, prayer, humility, renewal, peace, humor, and spiritual friendship.
- "All About Formation"
- "Creation Spirituality"
- "All About Area Chaplains"
- Brother John Bankert's minstrel performance

Participate in daily liturgies that reflect all the colors of God's rainbow:

- Opening Cathedral Eucharist with organ and choir; Brother Brian, Minister General, SSF, will preach
- Taizé Healing Eucharist
- Praise-style Eucharist
- Caribbean-style Eucharist
- Final Jazz Eucharist with Reception of Vows and Renewal; our Bishop Protector, Bishop Lamb will celebrate and preach

We are hoping that a number of our Latin and South American clergy will also be with us to lead us as celebrants.

Explore:

- Our Province's Fellowships
- The Convocation Store
- Entertainment
- all that New Orleans and Loyola University have to offer.

Meet:

- Many of your Province's new officers including Ms Anita Catron, our new Provincial Minister, as well as our new Fellowship Coordinator, The Rev. Joan Verret, who together will discuss their plans for the Province
- The Rev. Alden Whitney, our Order's Minister General and former Provincial Minister, who will give us a vision of the international aspects of our order.

Useful Information

How Can I Help When I Arrive?

We will be needing readers for our daily Morning, Noon, Evening and Compline offices—look for signup sheets. The deacons invited to be in charge of each of our daily liturgies will be looking for readers and chalice bearers; watch for their signup sheets.

How Can I Help From Home If I Don't Go?

Please keep the convocation in your daily prayers and intentions during the meetings in June.

(continued)

New Orleans 1997 (continued)

Where Are We Staying?

Buddig Hall at Loyola University holds 400 guests, and there is a bath connecting every two rooms. Towels, linens, and a pillow are provided. Check-in/out time is 12 noon.

What About Children?

Children under 15 will not be charged for a room, but do need to pay the \$25.00 per day food charge. Such children should bring their own pillows and sleeping bags.

How Do We Get to Loyola?

Airport shuttle transportation is \$10/ way, runs often, and can be reserved at 504-522-3500. Transportation from the train station by United Cab Services is approximately \$10.00.

What Should I Bring?

Bring a Bible, BCP, *TSSF Principles* and *Devotional Companion*, notebook, warm and wet weather clothes, camera, toiletries, clothes hangers, your Fellowship banner and Fellowship photos and a telephone—each room has a telephone jack.

Do They Have Anything Else to Eat Than Fried Crawfish?

Food at Loyola offers a variety of foods including low fat, high calorie, low calorie, vegetarian, and some non-fried selections.

Oh, I Almost Forgot. Can I Ride that Street Car Named "Desire"?

The New Orleans trolley car line runs close to Loyola, costs \$1.00, and whisks you to the Mississippi or near the French Quarter.

We are looking for a videographer to take videos during the convocation. Please contact Anita Catron if you can help us in this capacity.

One Good Convocation Deserves Another

As if **New Orleans 1997** weren't enough to go on this summer, as a professor at the University of Delaware I was very surprised to receive some literature from the Roman Catholic Secular Franciscan Order (SFO's) announcing that their 15th National Quinquennial will be held at my university in Newark, Delaware on July 15-20.

Their materials describe their topics as follows:

- Wednesday, July 16—Telling Our Stories, Remembering Our Traditions
- Thursday, July 17—Naming Our Present Experience
- Friday, July 18—New Models for the New Millennium
- Saturday, July 19—The Time is Now, The Kingdom of God is at Hand

Juniper's Seesaw Fellowship in Delaware has been in contact with the organizers and has offered a Compline and lemonade one evening at an Episcopal church not more than a half mile away. One may contact the SFO's directly at 3191 71st Street East, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076-2550 for applications for the entire four days at prices that range from \$370 to \$765. We have been told, however, that the most interesting days for our Order would be on Friday and Saturday and that one-day costs without meals would be \$25.00.

New Video Available—A Day in the Life of Convocations, 1995

All the convocations were asked to make video records of their meetings so that all of us could see what is the look and sound of our Province from sea to sea.

Thanks to the video expertise of Robert Durand, the tape is now available to Fellowships through our new Fellowship Coordinator, The Rev. Joan Verret. The tape is an hour long and includes prayers, praise, music, discussions, and a madcap golf cart excursion by Dee Dobson. Our fellowship viewed it during a meeting, and the resulting discussion was a lot of fun.

*THE CHAPLAIN'S JOURNAL***Homage to Br. Mark Francis, SSF**

In the months since his death, Br. Mark Francis' image has come to my mind often. He was the first TSSF Chaplain I knew and the last friar to be appointed to the position. As with many of you who knew him, I remember his North Carolina drawl, his "dirty" laugh and his beard stroking. I visualize his gentle way of saying Mass, his earthy humor and, toward the end, his gut-wrenching coughs. Once when he stayed in my un-air conditioned suburban Chicago rectory after a "gig" with the local fellowship in the middle of July, he collapsed in my old green recliner and admitted, "You know, David, God says, 'My grace is sufficient for you.' On days like this, I just have to look at God and say, 'Prove it,' " whereupon he yanked the recliner lever, jerked back, closed his eyes & turned his head away, a clear signal to all present, "I want to be alone."

One of Br. Mark's themes in those days (early '70's) was his conviction about the healing power of Franciscan community. Emphatically, he used to say, "The Third Order is not a pious confraternity; it is a reconciling community." He would ask us: is your primary relationship with your rule or is your rule a way of connecting with each other and with God? Does the rule pull you into yourself, away from others in an isolative way, or does it empower you to risk reaching out with God's love to build community?

Distance and the Convocation

Since I have been Chaplain, I have become suddenly aware of how far-flung we are. We are like the Jews in Jesus' day, in diaspora. In this Province, I have got to know and love people across seven times zones, from Hawaii to Trinidad and Guyana. That means when you're saying Morning Prayer at the western edge of our Province, someone else is saying Evening Prayer on the other side. Distance and isolation can really support the old "pious confraternity," "me and my Office," view of the Third Order versus the "reconciling community" view of people deeply involved in pursuit of a common vision of life sparked by St. Francis' humility, love and joy.

Surely Br. Mark Francis would applaud our plans for the Provincial Convocation in New Orleans. For my part I am grateful for the forethought, energy and sacrifice that have already gone into this event, because it promises renewal not just of our individual prayer and commitment but of our share and interest in each other's lives and missions. Whether you are of the Third Order old school of "pious confraternity" or new school of "reconciling community," I hope you will plan to listen, learn, share and celebrate at our New Orleans family reunion.

T S S F B A S I C S

available from Dee Dobson,
4001 S.W. 5 Terrace, Miami Fl. 33134-2040

suggested prices are:

Devotional Companion (\$4.50)

Statutes (\$1)

Way of St. Francis (\$2.50)

The Rule of the Third Order
for Daily Reading (\$2.50)

Source Book (\$2.50)

Order of Admission (\$1)

Directory (\$3)

God's Harmony

The Rev. Marie L. Webner

Harmony in human relations implies a nearly perfect balance of cooperative effort. In a choral group, harmony seems to be achieved by a subtle blending of voices and notes, with all voices participating but no voice dominant.

Have you heard "singing in the Spirit" in charismatic worship? It happens after Communion, when the Christ life is at high tide in everyone. Each person softly sings his or her individual song in the power of the Spirit, and each song blends with all songs, creating a harmony, a music of the spheres, beyond the skill of human manufacture. That's God's harmony.

Musical harmony is hard for me to find. My ear is not entirely tin, but those whose ears have greater acuity than mine tell me that my whistling or humming is almost always flat or sharp. If I have someone with perfect pitch beside me, I can with concentration conform. I have even managed to join "singing in the Spirit" without destroying God's harmony.

Despite my disability, or perhaps because of it, I thirst for harmony. I have been thirsting for harmony since I was a little child. I believe God intended all life to be a Spirit song. If each of us were perfectly surrendered to the power of the Spirit, then—and only then—would we be able to sing and dance perfectly in tune and tempo with God's harmony.

In the usual hectic bustle of everyday life, we cannot be equally sensitive to all stimuli. The Spirit song of harmony can be drowned out by a bombardment of sensations. We can't even be sure what it is that we are hearing from moment to moment.

People who have observed me writing letters of sermons have commented on the intensity of my concentration. They have been reluctant to interrupt me because I seemed to be somewhere else. Am I at those times harmonizing with the Spirit? I would love to believe that were so. But perhaps I am merely communing with my own muse and in tune with no one but myself. I could be missing cries for help or other urgent messages while indulging in radical self-absorption. I can neither deny nor affirm such a possibility.

It's a fact that I want to be part of God's harmonies, but it's a rare moment when I can be certain that my efforts at harmony are successful. The empowering Source of eternal harmonies is eternally present and available. I am the one who fails to plug in. The Spirit song is a persistent crooning in my heart. Maybe, just maybe, I will learn to surrender to it.

If I have heard the Spirit song rightly, God wants everyone to be part of the harmony. My peace is in God but cannot be complete until all women and men are part of God's minuet. Together we shall all be better able to find our place in the music of the spheres.

FLASH: The Rev. Mark MacDonald Elected Bishop of Alaska

Our brother Mark of Bemidji Minnesota has just been elected Bishop of Alaska. Please keep him in your prayers as he looks forward to this new stage of his ministry.

Rev. Gwendolyn Dillion, TSSF Receives St. Stephen's Award

In June of 1995, the North American Association for the Diaconate received nominations for those deacons who had demonstrated a special deep commitment to the minister of servanthood following the practice of St. Stephen. Our own Gwendolyn Dillion was nominated for such an award by her Bishop of Chicago, her Archdeacon, and her Deacon's Council. She did indeed receive the award, and the citation read as follows:

Gwen is a nurturing presence with an inner-city parish. Her vision and tenacity created a large soup kitchen which she now directs involving parishioners and the community. Gwen also serves as chaplain of St. Leonard's House, a halfway house for men released from prison and assisted in creating a similar facility for women. Gwen is a living symbol of Jesus' words, "I am among you as one who serves." Her quiet ministry has the respect and love of her fellow deacons.

Changing of the Guard at the Franciscan Times

It was a November silent retreat on the shores of Lake Chaplain in Burlington, Vermont. My roommate, bottom-bunk-mate, was an older guy who was pretty good at staying silent. Over the course of the retreat I saw that he was an old hand at lighting the fire, knowing where the wood was, rubbing the back of people he evidently knew from years past, and generally being the guru of lovely, silent, warm places to meditate. It was only in the last three minutes of the retreat when words were finally allowed to pass that I found out I had bunked with just about the only other Third Order Franciscan in Vermont and that his name was Robert Durand.

From that time of silent communion, Robert has been a gracious mentor to me in the Order. We both were technical writers, and we both found we were adept at using computers. He always had a kind word or encouragement for me as well as lots of red pencil marks for the articles and poems I submitted to him as Editor of the *Times*.

Well, Robert has now found that his ministries and his consultant work out in Hawaii have made it too difficult for him to continue as editor of our Province's newsletter, and so with this issue I begin attempting to follow in his footsteps as editor. He is healthy and happy and only a bit overwhelmed by all the wonderful calls for ministry right in his own tropical backyard.

I teach technical writing and desktop publishing—as well as Biblical and Classical Literature at the University of Delaware where I am a Professor of English. Don't let that fool you though, because I offer you all hours of pleasure discovering my split infinitives and misspelled words in the issues to come. My life here in old Warwick (the first permanent Catholic colony on the Eastern shore of Maryland) has taken some wonderful grace-filled turns in the last year or so:

- our first child, Van, arrived on our doorstep. He's a second grader, a newly baptized Christian this last Easter eve, and he's determined to learn how to swim this summer.

- the Bishop is working out a new concept of bivocational priesthood so I continue my ordination studies with tutors in the diocese and look forward to ordination as a deacon on June 14th.
- I help out the Order as Area Chaplain for our Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, (with even a touch of New York) area, as a novice counselor for Formation, and as a member of Chapter.

My hope for the direction of the *Franciscan Times* is to include as many of your voices with as many flesh-and-blood experiences of Franciscanism as possible, and to have the newsletter reach your door as often as possible. Please write or e-mail me with your ideas, concerns, news, and prayers.

Shalom.

John Brockmann

P.S. Why not drop Robert a line to tell him how much you appreciated his work in this newsletter.

The Franciscan Times
is a quarterly publication of
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FELLOWSHIP NEWS

**We all want to hear about your Fellowship —
a past or current gathering, or information about an upcoming meeting, retreat,
or quiet day. It should be on these pages!
Please send photos and text to: R. John Brockmann TSSF,
P.O. Box 277, Warwick, Maryland, 21912-0277.
Deadline for the Fall issue is October 1, 1997.**

LONG ISLAND FELLOWSHIP

The L.I.F. Line newsletter reports that the Spring retreat will be April 11-13 at Little Portion Friary. For more information about any activities of the Fellowship, please contact co-conveners RITA TOLOMEO at (516) 796-6740 or ELIZABETH SCALERO at (516) 887-4199.

NEW PHILADELPHIA, NEW JERSEY, & DELAWARE FELLOWSHIPS

Two new fellowships have been formed from the original Philadelphia Fellowship: the Bethel Community Fellowship in northeast Pennsylvania with KATHLEEN COLLADO as the convener (610-863-4004) and the Juniper's Seesaw Fellowship in Delaware with BONNIE BARNIDGE as convener (320-629-6543). Moving to more locally centered groups has allowed both the two new groups and the core Philadelphia group to improve the number and attendance at meetings. All are looking forward to at least one or two meetings each year as a group. For information on the Philadelphia Fellowship, contact BILL BREEDLOVE or JOAN BEDELL co-conveners.

LAND OF THE SKY FELLOWSHIP (Western North Carolina)

According to "Fruits of the Loom" newsletters, the members will be using and studying "*Franciscan Spirituality*" by Br. Ramon SSF beginning with the January meetings. Members traveled to Kingsport, TN on Dec. 16 for a "most joyous" Christmas party with the Portiuncula Fellowship of East Tennessee and four sisters from the Poverello Joy Community of the Cloistered Heart Franciscan Order, a religious community of men and women who live together on a farm in Mosheim, TN. The Blizzard of '96 cancelled the January meeting, but a Quiet Day was planned on Saturday, March 9, at Grace Church, led by David Nard, TSSF, the new archdeacon for the Diocese of Western North Carolina. For information about fellowship activities, please call convener MARY HAYES at (704) 254-0635 or DAVID NARD at (704) 254-0103..

THE SERVANTS OF SAN DAMIANO (North Carolina Piedmont)

Fellowship meetings will be on the third Saturday of each month, at the centrally-located St. Matthew's Parish in Kernersville. Members unable to attend are asked to send a post card to be read at the meeting. For more information about fellowship gatherings and activities, please contact new convener KALE KING at (910) 352-3822.

PLAINS, MOUNTAINS, & SEA FELLOWSHIP (Georgia and Alabama)

This fellowship hosted the 1996 Southeastern Convocation in Atlanta, September 20-22. For more information about Alabama Fellowship activities, please contact YVONNE WILLIE at (205) 933-8997. For more information about Georgia Fellowship activities, please contact ALAN VLACH.

CHI RHO FELLOWSHIP (Chicago)

Regular Chi Rho meetings take place on the third Saturday at the Church of the Ascension. For more information about fellowship activities, please contact convener MARK DRISH at (312) 539-3057

SAN DAMIANO FELLOWSHIP (Central Florida)

The Fellowship Retreat was scheduled for Feb. 16-18 at the Holy Name Priory in St. Leo, Florida. Leader will be Br. Anthony Balgrove SSF from St. Elizabeth's Friary in Brooklyn. Regular gatherings of the Fellowship are scheduled for the second Saturdays in March, May, July, and November. For more information about the location of meetings and other activities, please contact convener ELSIE IRELAND at (941) 687-2014 or BILLY SHREWSBURY at (813) 988-5283.

LA VERNA FELLOWSHIP (Cincinnati)

Dan Cooksey reports that the annual retreat was at the Convent of the Transfiguration in Glendale, OH, on the weekend of April 19 and 20. The leader was Fr. Paul Walsman OFM. For more information about Fellowship meetings and activities, please contact convener MARY LOUISE REED at (513) 724-3363.

LITTLE SPARROW FELLOWSHIP (Toronto)

Convener SYBIL YEARWOOD reports that the Fellowship meets on the second Saturday of each month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. George the Martyr Church in Toronto. Visiting tertiaries are welcome. For more information, please contact Sybil at (416) 759-2600.

IOWA FELLOWSHIP

Convener RICK SIMPSON reports that members gathered for an Advent Retreat at the Trappist Monastery of New Melleray. Time was spent in quiet prayer, the Divine Office (including a 3:30 a.m. vigil), and a sharing of our Franciscan lives and the walk of faith. A Lenten retreat was also planned.

PRAIRIE WIND FELLOWSHIP (Wyoming and Nebraska)

Convener BETTY WOOD reports that members made Third Order presentations to both the Wyoming and Nebraska Diocesan Conventions during 1995. Regular gatherings are held on the third Saturday of the month at St. Hilda's Church in Kimball, NE. The program includes discussions from chapters of *Franciscan Spirituality* by Br. Ramon. For more information about Fellowship gatherings, please contact Betty at 1406 East 19th St., Cheyenne, WY 82001, telephone (307) 632-1517.

SACRAMENTO-DAVIS FELLOWSHIP (California)

Convener HILARY BURWELL reports that the Fellowship will study the formation letters, but the person in charge of the program may present the assigned letters in any way "the spirit moves them" thus allowing for originality and creativity. For more information about Fellowship meetings and activities, please get in touch with Hilary at (916) 966-8164.

NEW UMBRIAN FELLOWSHIP (San Francisco Bay Area)

Ex co-convener Elizabeth Greiner reports that the new co-conveners are CAROL KENT and REBECCA GOLDBERG. She adds, "Our Fellowship is looking seriously at trying to send various members to other convocations to get to meet with (tertiaries) from other regions. We're afraid we're all becoming a bit myopic!" For more information about Fellowship meetings and activities, please call Carol at (415) 571-8577 or Becky at (415) 345-4683.

HAWAII FELLOWSHIP

Regular meetings of the Fellowship will be on the third Friday evening of each month, usually at the home of a member in Waikiki. A Spring Retreat will be held on the Island of Maui, April 25-27, at the St. John's Retreat House in Kula. Robert Durand will be the convener and guest master. Any tertiaries visiting the Islands and interested in the retreat or meeting with the Fellowship should contact convener EDEAN IWANAGA at 3348 Campbell Ave., Honolulu, HI 96815, telephone (808) 735-4044.

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A PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

by the late Brother Stephen SSF

Lord, open our eyes that we may see you in the bread and in the cup;
 But open them also that we may see you in the needy, the outcast,
 and the mean.

Open our ears that we may hear you speak;

But open them also to the bitter cry of your children.

Open our mouths that we may rightly praise and glorify you;

But open them also for the hard task of right thought.

Open our hearts that we may welcome you in love;

But open them also to all who need love and sympathy.

Open our hands that we may thankfully receive you;

But open them also to do your work in the world.

from *The Servants of San Damiano* newsletter, 2/97, Amory King editor

THIRD ORDER**LIBRARY NEWS**

Many new books, audio cassettes, and videotapes continue to be added to the Third Order Library. The complete list of titles has become too long and complex for frequent publication. However, anyone wishing to borrow a specific book or tape should send a request, listing the title and author, to:

Rosemond McFerran

TSSF Library

1518 Tulane Drive

Davis, CA 95616.

Suggestions for an efficient method of making titles known to tertiaries would be welcome. Please write your ideas to Rosie at the address above. (For information about Rosie online, see the opposite article about the WEB.)

**CONVOCATION NOTES
ATTENTION CONVENER:**

The Franciscan Times will reach interested and/or isolated tertiaries in your region (and elsewhere) who might make plans to attend your gathering. Advance notice and a name of a person to contact will be helpful to them. Please send the details to:

R. John Brockmann TSSF,

P.O. Box 277, Warwick, MD 21912-0277.

Deadline for the Fall issue is October 1, 1997.

OUR NEW BURSAR KEN AND THE WEB

Just want to remind everyone that Ken Norian's new snail-mail address at which to receive offerings and donations to the Order is PO Box 250, East Meadow, New York 11554-0250. The TSSF World Wide Web site created by Ken can be reached at

<http://www.li.net/~kenorian/tssf.htm>

(or by simply aiming any Web browser at the keyword *TSSF*). It has been phenomenally successful and now can give you online access to the TSSF Library holdings with an easy way to mail requests to our librarian, Rosie McFerran. So many people have found us via the Web that over a hundred inquiries have come in with the result that our novice counseling system was temporarily overwhelmed. But what a good problem to have to deal with!

INNOVATIVE WAY OF PAYING THE PLEDGE TO THE ORDER

To: Editor of the Franciscan Times

As a novice counselor I correspond with all "sorts and conditions." I am regularly privileged by and delighted with the innovative and creative solutions that Franciscans find to tackle and meet requirements. One of those requirements is a monetary pledge to the Third Order. I have, just recently, come across one that is so much in the Franciscan tradition that I want to share it with you. This novice has no money of her own from which to pledge. She does, however, love to garden. All year long she nurtures, pots, divides, prunes, and re-pots her beloved plants. Then she holds a plant sale. At the beginning of each year she fills out her pledge card with the intention of sending, as her pledge, the proceeds from her annual plant sale. It is a once a year amount but involves her all year long with loving work for the Order.

INTERESTED IN COMMON LIVING?

To: Editor of the Franciscan Times

We are attempting to create a Franciscan residential community house, and are seeking other interested Third Order Anglicans—men, women, lay, ordained, married, single, retired, disabled, any age—who are interested in sharing a common house or apartments. We are willing to relocate to any area of the US. We envision that participants would have their own rooms but could share a common living room library, kitchen, and chapel. We also envision that members will aim to live the TSSF Rule together and join in praying the daily offices while supporting each other's ministries in Christian love and fellowship. We hope that the house will be supported by a mutual sharing of individual resources according to the ability of each member. If interested, please write to KATHLEEN COLLADO, TSSF, Episcopal Apartments B233, 688 American Bangor Road, Bango, PA 18013 (610) 863-4404. (Kathleen and her husband Angel are members of the Bethel Community Fellowship.)—N.B. Our Provincial Minister, Anita Catron, reports that all TSSF Provincial Ministers just agreed in their meetings in New Zealand that when such groups are organized, they need to request permission from Chapter.

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