
INFORMATION SHEET March 1990

POSTULANTS (see Directory Update for address)

Clifford Amos (00/00/00)
Donna L. Fuller (02/24/90)

Marie E. McShea (11/14/90)
Marylee Prince (01/10/90)

PROFESSED

Charles Bjorlin 02/24/90
Dale M. Simison 02/23/90

LAPSED, WITHDRAWN

Kathy Sedinger Floreffe, PA
Robert Whitaker Washington, DC

CONVENORS: Barbara Hunt (Hawaii); Donna Marie Slack/Karl Welscher (Central FL)

INTERCESSIONS: John, Dorothy Adams, Marie McShea

!!!! NOTA BENE - If you did not receive the February Information Sheet please let me know. I will send one immediately (or thereabouts) so you don't miss all the important stuff therein contained !!!!

TO THE PROFESSED: On 2/22/90 a form requesting nominations for Minister Provincial was mailed to the professed. If you did not receive this, please drop me a note (enclosing a copy of your profession mandate so I may update our records).

TO ALL: Dee Dobson's term of office will end this October and Chapter will elect a new Minister Provincial (three-year term) from among those nominated by the Professed. The statutes of the Third Order state that "local fellowships and other Third Order groups shall undertake a full discussion of the nominees, and every effort shall be made to include all brothers and sisters of the order in the discussions" (Provincial Statutes, Ministers, Section E). The slate of nominees will be published in July.

NEW BOOKLETS: You soon will receive the newly-printed Order For Admission and Provincial Statutes, and as the TV evangelist said, "These are sent to you absolutely free; however, your donation will be most gratefully accepted"!

\$1.00 each should cover the cost of printing and mailing. If you would like to, you may send your contribution to Carole Watson, Bursar (but please, please, if it's a hardship, the community can, will and wants to take care of it).

A LETTER FROM THE PROVINCIAL CHAPLAIN

My brothers and sisters,

It is a joy for me to serve you as Chaplain of the Third Order. As Chaplain, I am as much under obedience as you are. In compliance with Chapter's instruction to me, I am writing to you about the obligation we all have, as members of the Third Order of St. Francis, to report to each other on how we are observing our Way of Life and Rule.

Postulants and novices report to their counselors at least once every two months, and the professed report to area chaplains "normally 4 times a year during the months of March, June, September and December" (to quote our Statutes). I believe this obligation of reporting is essential to our life as a community, and I hope to persuade you to agree.

Let's look at "The Way of St. Francis" for some guidelines:

1. "Obedience is the acceptance of our vocation as lovers..."
2. "Obedience is not fulfilled in passively accepting and obeying the direction of others, for it involves the offering of our whole personality with all its gifts."
3. "Obedience can never be imposed from without but must be the inner, loving response of each member of God, manifested in obeying the Rule and Chapter of our Society."

Our Vocation as Lovers

Reporting is part of our vocation as lovers. It may not always be convenient. We may not feel enthusiastic about doing it. But our life as a family of brothers and sisters depends on regular communication. Can I serve you without knowing your needs? Can you serve me without knowing my weaknesses? To grow together - supporting each other, forgiving each other, laughing and crying with each other - we must report to each other faithfully. The area chaplains are appointed by me to respond to your needs with pastoral support and spiritual counsel. They may give permission for less frequent reporting (though never less frequently than annually), and they are willing to accept reports in writing, in person, or by phone. They want very much to hear from you, however you choose to do it. The assistant chaplain and I want very much to hear from the area chaplains, who report to us. Everybody in the Order reports to someone in the Order. The sharing that is the nature of our reports to one another is fundamental to the building of a community of lovers.

The Offering of Ourselves

Because I have been a member of the Third Order all my adult life, I know that my life has been shaped by the Order. Whatever gifts I may offer to my tertiary brothers and sisters and to the Church or the world as a whole have been identified and encouraged by those wonderful people who responded to my reports through the years, cautioning, encouraging, correcting, and supporting according to my need. May they be blessed, every one of them!

But youth is not a requirement for change. I know men and women who have joined the Third Order in their sixties whose lives have been enriched and changed by reporting and by fellowship, by others' service to them and by their own service to others. That's how it is with families. When we offer ourselves in obedience, we

find we are offering more and more of ourselves and are discovering that we have more and more to offer. The joy of giving develops our gifts. Obedience is the beginning, but love, humility, and joy are the fruit of our journeying with Christ and Francis in company with fellow Franciscans.

Loving Response to God

Within the Franciscan vocation that we all share, each of us has a unique calling. The purpose of the Franciscan life is to enable us to be responsive to our individual callings with the support of brothers and sisters who share our understanding of the radical demands of the Gospel. A loving response to God includes a recognition of the Christ who speaks to us through members of our community. Faithful reporting, in obedience to Rule and Chapter, puts us in touch with the Christ in a brother or sister, whose perceptions may illuminate our own.

Reporting is a call to obedience, yes. It is far more. It is a call to creative community, to openness in giving and receiving in loving response to our fellow pilgrims in the Franciscan Way.

As your chaplain, I am here to serve you all and respond to all. But I have great faith in the men and women who have agreed to serve you as area chaplains, whose names and areas follow this letter.

May the Lord bless each of you and all of us,

Deacon Marie L. Webner, TSSF
Provincial Chaplain

AREA CHAPLAINS (as of 3/15/90)

*WESTERN CANADA	The Rev. Muriel Adey
*EASTERN CANADA	Warren Beal
*CARIBBEAN & ENGLISH-SPEAKING	
SOUTH AMERICA	Gloria Waldron
*SOUTH AMERICA (SPANISH-SPEAKING)	The Rev. Jose Valenzuela
*HAWAII & AMERICAN POSSESSIONS	
IN THE PACIFIC	The Rev. Robert Goode
*SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	
(SANTA BARBARA & SOUTH)	The Rev. Robert Woodfield
*CENTRAL CALIFORNIA (SAN FRANCISCO TO SANTA BARBARA)	Jan Meikle
*NORTHERN CALIFORNIA (NORTH OF SAN LORENZO, TRACEY & MANTECA) & NEVADA	The Rev. Kay Salinaro
*ALASKA, WASHINGTON, OREGON & MONTANA	The Rev. Robert Hasseries
*ARIZONA	Darlene Sipes
*NEW MEXICO & TEXAS WITHIN DIOCESE OF RIO GRANDE	The Rev. Canon Paul Saunders
*KANSAS, NEBRASKA, COLORADO, UTAH, WYOMING & THE DAKOTAS	The Rev. Bill Graham
*OKLAHOMA & TEXAS	The Rev. Loyd Morris
*ARKANSAS & LOUISIANA	Wray Wittkes
*MINNESOTA	The Rev. Stephen Schaitberger
*WISCONSIN & MICHIGAN	The Rev. Patricia Drake
*ILLINOIS, INDIANA & IOWA	Julia Bergstrom
*GEORGIA, ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI & FLORIDA PANHANDLE	The Rev. Bill Dennis
*SOUTHERN FLORIDA (OKEECHOBEE TO KEY WEST)	Dee Dobson
*CENTRAL FLORIDA	Kenneth Watts
*THE CAROLINAS, KENTUCKY & TENNESSEE	The Rev. David Nard
*WASHINGTON DC, MARYLAND, VIRGINIA & WEST VIRGINIA	Pam Moffat
*OHIO & WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA	The Rev. Gretchen Wood
*EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, NEW JERSEY & DELAWARE	Rheta Weidenbacker
*LONG ISLAND (NY)	Peter Funk
*NEW YORK CITY & ENVIRONS	Terry Rogers
*UPPER NEW YORK STATE	The Rev. Joseph Byrne
*NEW ENGLAND	The Rev. Henry Bird

FROM NEW ZEALAND CHAPTER (held in Christchurch, Sept. '89)

- o Chris Barfoot (Auckland) is working on a history of the Third Order.
- o The position of FORMATION DIRECTOR has been introduced.
- o Brian Hamilton (Min. Prov.) noted that an increased challenge to unity within the four Provinces was the order of the Ministers' Meeting at Stroud.
- o A new Third Order poster was approved.
- o Bill Atkin (Wellington) was appointed to the Inter-Provincial Commission to review the Principles.
- o \$2,400 (NZ) was approved for distribution to CSF, SSF & Franciscan Aid in varying amounts.
- o Three members of other denominations have been approved as Tertiaries in Australia by permission of the Protector (Bishop Gilbert, Auckland).
- o Provincial Secretary: Jan Ross, POB 45 147, Te Atatu, Auckland 8

[There are approximately 100 Tertiaries (professed and in formation) in the New Zealand Province.]

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**FRANCISCAN ROSARIES:** Fr. Tom Schultz OHC makes lovely olive wood rosaries "packaged" in a small cloth drawstring sachet in which he encloses rosemary, eucalyptus and mint (grown just outside his hermitage) and four cloves. All for \$20. His address is Holy Savior Priory, POB 40, Pineville, SC 29468.

Jacqui R. Belcher, Prov. Secretary  
Third Order, Society of St. Francis  
American Province  
611 East Bay Street  
Savannah, GA 31401

Address Correction Requested

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**