

Information Sheet

October/November 1991

Professed

Kent, Carole 09/28/91
Smith, Elizabeth 10/02/91
Stevenson, Ronald 04/27/91

Withdrawn/Released

Drisbrow, Jimmie
Villaverde, Leslie

Noviced

Black, Joseph Tr. from Secular Frans
Bailey, Kermit 10/05/91
Kramish, Robert 10/12/91
Larson, Carl 11/06/91
O'Keefe, Patrick 10/12/91
Pancake, Rosemary 11/09/11
Scalero, Elizabeth 10/12/91
Thomson, Rebecca 06/16/91

Postulants

Acker, Julia 09/30/91
Blanchard, Barbara 01/10/91
Greene, James 07/30/91
King, Linda 09/31/91
Pain, Jack 06/15/91
Judith Thomas 11/12/91

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Third Order, Society of St. Francis, American Province

Minutes of Chapter Meeting, October 8-12, 1991

St. Joseph's House, Little Portion, Mt. Sinai, New York

Chapter began with a Quiet Day on Tuesday, 8 October 1991, led by the Rt. Rev'd Paul Moore. The plenary sessions were conducted over the next several days. The Chaplain, Marie Webner, opened each day with prayer.

Members presents were: Alden Whitney, Marie Webner, Sam Hale, Ann Harris, Jackie Richards (who had to leave on Wednesday due to a personal emergency), Anita Catron, Jacqui Belcher, Dorothy Adams, David Nard, Mary Ann Jackman, Ruth Duncan, Terry Rogers, Dee Dobson, Hawley Todd. Absent: Carole Watson, Masud Syedullah, Gloria Waldron. Also present: Gordon Bates OEF.

Chapter was convened at 9:05 a.m., Wednesday 9 October, 1991 at St. Joseph's House, Little Portion Friary, Mt. Sinai, Alden Whitney, Minister Provincial, presiding. Alden asked Chapter to take some quiet reflection time. The following arose from this:

- o The history of the Order needs to be preserved. The professed should be supported as they continue their journey; they are the bearers of the tradition which nurtures those in formation.
- o The Order is alive and well. Much time and talent is given and should be encouraged.
- o Concern for isolated tertiaries.
- o The need for the Order to look into why tertiaries attend or don't attend convocation meetings.
- o Thanks for Chapter.
- o Those who take leadership responsibilities in the Order should remember to take sabbaticals to avoid burnout.

Alden welcomed visitor Gordon Bates from the Order of Ecumenical Franciscans, and Hawley Todd, a newly-appointed area formation director co-opted for this Chapter meeting.

1990 Minutes

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the 1990 Chapter be approved with the following amendments:

1. Substitute following for the last six lines of paragraph in "Membership Action" section - "In a letter approved by the Chaplain, the Minister Provincial admonished John and suggested that he request release from vows. John did not deny the charge but requested a leave of absence while he pursued therapy. His diocesan bishop strongly advised, in the absence of convincing evidence of amendment of life, that John be dismissed for proven immoral conduct. With the concurrence of the Minister Provincial, the Chaplain moved that John Filler be dismissed in accordance with Section III.7 of the Statutes. The motion was seconded and approved. The Chaplain was asked to notify the bishops involved, as well as John."
2. Substitute the following for paragraph following resolution on page three - "Initially this resolution was moved, seconded and approved with very little discussion. In a later plenary session, some members of Chapter suggested that there were in Chapter misunderstanding and reservations that could be resolved only by reopening discussion. Therefore, a motion to rescind the resolution was then made, seconded, and approved with two dissenting votes. The resolution was then reintroduced and seconded. In the full and lengthy discussion that followed, it was noted that the resolution emphasizes that Christ indwells each of us and that it speaks to sexual orientation rather than sexual practice. Again put to the vote, the resolution passed with one abstention (Jackie Richards). The secretary was instructed to distribute same to the membership, via the Information Sheet, and to the General Convention for its information."

Amended minutes were approved.

Requests for intercessions were made. Alden reported that Carole Watson had been involved in a bad accident and was recovering slowly.

Reports Laid Before Chapter

Minister Provincial
Chaplain/Asst. Chaplain
Formation

Fellowship Coordinator
Bursar
Secretary

Librarian
Franciscan Times
Pax et Bonum

The respective author presented his or her report to Chapter. The following discussion arose from the various reports.

Minister Provincial

The question of Chapter's not replacing Dorothy Nakatsuji (who had resigned early this year) was raised. Alden noted the co-opting of Dee Dobson. Terry Rogers moved that Dee fill Dorothy's unexpired term. The motion was seconded and approved.

It was moved, seconded and approved that Marie Webner be the third signatory on the bank accounts.

Chaplain

The Chaplain noted that Christine Dettner Boyd had renounced her vow. Marie asked that no action be taken until next Chapter meeting.

Discussion arose regarding the need for more pastoral visits to isolated tertiaries. Marie suggested the appointment of more assistant chaplains rather than asking area chaplains to take on this travel. No action was taken at this time.

Formation Director

A question arose as to whether it is Franciscan to categorize the membership (into clerical, lay, priest, deacon, etc.). It was determined that for liturgical reasons it is a good idea to note those in deacons orders.

The budget committee was to recommend to Chapter whether Ann should continue to donate the expenses of the copier [sec. note: copier line item was included, see 1992 budget].

Fellowship Coordinator

South Carolina and Central North Carolina may split from the Land of the Sky to form two new fellowships.

Discussion has begun on finding a more inclusive title than "fellowship".

Anita again recommended Graciela Alvarez Y Fuentes as the "tertiary on the spot" in Mexico City.

Bursar

It was moved and seconded that the 1991 Balance Sheet be accepted. After some discussion it was unanimously accepted. It was recommended that the filing of a tax return and the legal status of our incorporation be looked into. Alden will contact Masud Syedullah at Trinity Parish and see if their legal department can advise us.

Secretary

It was decided that the 1992 Directory will be published in January.

Librarian

The Library Policy Statement was referred to committee for drafting same. Ann Harris reported that Rosie McFerran recommended that the children's books currently in the library be given away. Chapter concurred. Budget needs were referred to budget committee.

Franciscan Times

Bob Durand and Rik Fitch were commended for their first edition.

Pax et Bonum

Terry reported that, as she was leaving for Israel, she needed to resign as editor. Arthur Wolsoncroft has likewise tended his resignation. Terry recommended Mary Ann Jackman for the position of editor. As of this Chapter meeting there was not yet enough material for another issue. Topics for articles were requested.

Order of Ecumenical Franciscans

Gordon Bates (Director of Formation Counsellors) brought greetings from OEF. He reported that the order currently has 12 professed members, 6 novices, 7 postulants and 7 aspirants. Issues they are facing:

Relationship of clergy to laity, orthodoxy of liturgy - the need for an OEF tradition, pace of progression, cost and frequency of chapter meetings, leadership succession, history, problems of community by correspondence and telephone. Chapter next meets on Memorial Day weekend in Louisville, Kentucky.

Chapter Committee Appointments

Principles & Rules - Marie, Mary Ann, Alden, Hawley

Budget 1992 - Ann, David, Dee, Alden

Mission Outreach - Terry, Dorothy, Jacqui

Provincial & Inter-regional Convocations/Chapter meeting sites - Ruth, Dee, Anita, Hawley, Sam, Alden

Regarding the latter, Alden read a letter from Jane Ellen Trauggot which questioned the added expense of moving Chapter meetings from Little Portion. Chapter noted the additional work involved if it were to meet elsewhere, and it was pointed out that the corporation legally needed to meet in New York.

Principles & Rules

Alden distributed "The Rule of The Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis (for daily reading)", published by the Australian Province and revised by them in March 1990 and containing amendments suggested by Marie, Mary Ann and himself. Alden requested additional input. He will "humbly present" these changes to the Australian Province at Hilfield in November, noting that they are intended for the use of the American Province, recognizing, however, that other provinces may wish to incorporate them to create one version.

Resolutions

The following resolution submitted by Ken Norian was distributed:

WHEREAS there exists within the Episcopal/Anglican Church and within the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis a wide diversity of opinion on moral and theological issues; and

WHEREAS the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis is to be the revival within the Anglican Communion of the Brothers and Sisters of Penance originally founded by Saint Francis; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Chapter of the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis, American Province, assert that we will, with integrity, accommodate differences of opinion on moral and theological issues in a way that strengthens our fellowship and affirms each member of this order. We are dedicated to a Franciscan spirituality that is independent of differences of validly held theological positions.

In a letter to Alden, Ken stated he was troubled by the disunity apparent in the Society and the Church as a whole and presented this resolution with the intention of including those with a "traditional" approach to sexuality. The resolution was not seconded. Discussion was centered on whether a resolution is the best vehicle to use. It was noted that Gary Seveck (Br. Sun, Sr. Moon Fellowship, Dallas) had reported a lack of fellowship attendance by Episcopal Synod members of the clergy. Conflict has arisen concerning whether an approved novice should be professed in the context of the fellowship meeting or congregation. The decision to appoint a resolutions committee was postponed, and discussion was suspended at this time.

Appointments Ratified by Chapter

- o Marie Webner as Chaplain
- o Robert Durand and Rik Fitch as Franciscan Times editors
- o Mary Ann Jackman as editor of Pax et Bonum
- o First Order Visitors as and when appointed by their respective Order.
- o Anita Catron as representative to OEF Chapter meeting.

Membership Action

- o Jimmie Disbrow released from vows after no response since his request in August 1990.
- o Election to profession: Paul Ledwitz (TX) - Alden will receive his vow to help bridge the gap between the fellowship and the clergy, Harold MacDonald (Canada), Richard Simpson (IA), Jean Treece (CO).
- o There was some discussion on the number of reports to be submitted (monthly or bimonthly). Ann reported that the process was being revamped, the new process to be reported in the Information Sheet.

- o Gloria Waldron (Spanish speaking area formation director) reported that she had heard only from John Dorman. Dee recommended a visit to Guyana. Alden asked Anita, Marie and Ann to meet with him during the coming months to further explore the situation.
- o A question was raised as to whether letters of recommendation for profession actually came from fellowships (as statutes require) or from convenors. Ann reported that it appeared that the fellowships were primarily making these recommendations.

Resolutions

Upon reopening discussion concerning Ken Norian's resolution, Marie stated that, while the sentiment was gospel imbedded, a pastoral letter from Chapter would be more effective than a resolution, especially given the reception of last year's resolution on sexuality. She further urged Chapter and the Order to use the collect for unity of the Church on page 818 BCP. Hawley Todd noted that language in different parts of the province will often have different meaning. David reminded us of the second aim of the Order - to spread the spirit of love and unity within the family of God. It was moved and seconded that Alden and Marie compose a pastoral letter addressing this area and that Alden write to Ken Norian acknowledging his resolution and affirming its contents. **Motion Carried.**

A draft of the pastoral letter is to be sent to Chapter for comment and input (to be returned to Alden and Marie in a timely manner) and the final draft to be distributed to the membership.

Budget Committee

The committee presented the 1992 proposed budget (\$50,000.00), representing a slight increase over 1991. The motion to refer the budget to the Corporation for its adoption was seconded. During discussion it was brought out that there were only 309 pledges this year. Marie suggested that more accountability of spending (i.e., a diary of Chapter) might be helpful. Chapter unanimously ratified the budget and referred it to the Corporation for its adoption.

Discussion also ensued on the tenure of the position of bursar, nine years being the maximum statutory time regarding other elected and appointed positions on Chapter. No action was taken at this time.

It was requested that the audit document be presented to Chapter annually.

Outreach Committee

It was the recommendation of this committee that

- o \$1,000 be given to St. Clare's Home for Senior Citizens in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, to help rebuild it after a devastating fire (St. Clare's also sponsors a feeding program from the homeless); and
- o \$500 be sent to the Civilian Casualty Fund of the Fellowship of Reconciliation to aid civilians trying to recover from the Gulf war.
- o No money be sent to Les Petit Freres et Soeurs in Haiti as not enough was known about them at this time; Dorothy will make the project known to her contacts who frequently travel to that country.

Motion was seconded and approved.

The committee raised the question as to whether we should continue the practice of distributing these funds; whether we were qualified. It was the sense of Chapter that this albeit at times symbolic act (in terms of amount of funds) was a necessary hands-on part of our ministry and should be continued.

Second Order Visitor

Sr. Mary Philomena spoke of the continued plans for a new convent. She stated that several problems have arisen to impede progress, but the vision was still alive. She reported that Sr. Mary Catherine was doing well in the nursing home in Smithtown, and that Sr. Mary Martha, a life professed solitary religious was now with them after spending some time in Stroud, Australia. There are currently two aspirants. She noted that if the Order had six stable vocations they plan to proceed with the building of the new convent, until such time they will use part of the original Little Portion Friary at the time the brothers move back in.

Principles & Rules Committee

It was moved and seconded that the 30-day reading edition of the Rule be approved. Some discussion followed. The amendment to Day Eighteen, last sentence - ~~other~~ all questions concerning ~~the life of faith~~ peace and justice in the Church - was accepted, as was changing the order of "male or female", "ordained or lay" and "women and men" in Days Four and Five. The document was commended and approved, subject to Alden's final revision.

Committee on Provincial, Inter-Regional Convocations, Chapter Sites

It was moved, seconded and approved that Chapter continue to meet at Little Portion.

Much discussion arose over the Inter-Regional/Provincial Chapter. Points raised were the expense and travel time for tertiaries, the necessary organization. It was suggested that such an event should be well advertised via the Franciscan Times. It was pointed out that 1997 would mark the 30th anniversary of the Society of St. Francis in the United States and the 80th anniversary of the Third Order in the American Province. It was also noted that General Convention meets in 1997. No action was taken.

Fellowships

The following alternative names were put forward: cell, community, sangha. Alden was asked to discuss this at the Minister Provincials' meeting at Hilfield in November.

It was the sense of Chapter that study in the fellowship was important in aiding the professed to be re-created in their Franciscan walk.

The issue of isolated tertiaries was discussed. While many choose their isolation, many have it thrust upon them through geographical reasons. These latter need to be visited. A list of pen-pals should be published in the Information Sheet.

Fellowships should make an effort to put together "living histories" of the long-time professed.

Review of Mailing List Policy

It was the consensus of Chapter that the mailing list should not be given out to other organizations.

Chapter then discussed the Sacramento/Davis Minstrel Fellowship's concern regarding mailing material containing members names and addresses to prison inmates, professed or in formation. It was determined that safety of all tertiaries was paramount. Since there is no control over what happens to material once it is inside the prison, the following was the mind of Chapter: "The policy of the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis, American Province, is normally not to accept into formation any person incarcerated in a penitentiary and that no material containing names and addresses of tertiaries be sent into prisons."

Order For Admission

It was pointed out that the present issue had a mistake in the "Invitation". Since there were very few copies left it was agreed that an amended edition should be printed as soon as possible and distributed to fellowship convenors and area chaplains for use at all novicings and professions.

Life Profession Election Process

The question was raised as to whether Chapter's voting on professions is a "rubber stamp" as, although they have the recommendation of their counsellor and formation director, little is known of these novices personally by Chapter. Alden acknowledged the tradition of religious orders to have their chapters vote on professions, and Ann stated it is important for the novice to be affirmed by Chapter in this process. Alden asked that Chapter members travelling to convocations and fellowships seek out those in formation and get to know them better. No decision was made at this time. Alden requested Ann, Marie and David to meet with him over the next twelve months to continue to explore this process.

First Order Visitor (CSF)

Sr. Catherine Joy reported that: Suzanne Elizabeth had begun a period of ex-claustration; Sr. Elizabeth Ann had made her life profession on 5 October at Little Portion; they have had 3 serious inquiries to vocation over the last year; one bathroom in the Army Street house has been redone and the other is well on the way to completion (TSSF gave a \$10,000 no interest loan in 1990 for this project).

The Manual

Discussion ensued as to whether or not a manual should replace the present set of "Basics". Points raised: The increased size of such a manual, especially if it were to include material on Franciscan saints, hymns and prayers; if size was increased to 6x9 in. the manual could be published in a loose-leaf edition, making the addition of revisions easier. Alden asked Marie, David and Ann to work with him over the coming year, to look into the feasibility of a manual.

A recess was called, during which time the corporation met.

Upon reconvening, Chapter brainstormed on the subject of "Francis and Healing" for Alden's paper to be presented at Hilfield in November.

New Business

- o Approved the publishing of profession anniversary lists in the Information Sheet.
- o Confirmed the policy that the formation of the terminally ill may be shortened at the discretion of the formation director but a minimum of one year in the novitiate will be required.

Thank You

Ken Watts, Loyd Morris, Kay Salinaro (Area Chaplains); Terry Rogers, Arthur Wolsoncroft (Pax et Bonum); Andrew Wilkes (AFD); David Nard and Terry (retiring from Chapter); all area formation directors, counsellors, fellowship convenors for their tremendous commitment to the Order; the First Order brothers for their hospitality; Vivian Wright for her culinary delights; Bp. Paul Moore for his food for thought during our Quiet Day.

Necrology

David Spencer (12/90); Mary Jane Duncan (8/91); Pauline Hudders (10/91).

The Minister Provincial thanked Chapter for its work. He wished Terry Godspeed as she departed for Israel and her work with Middle East Witness. There being no further business, the Chapter meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 10:51 a.m. Chapter will next meet at Little Portion 6-10 October, 1992.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqui Belcher

Jacqui R. Belcher
Provincial Secretary

1992 THIRD ORDER BUDGET

Minister Provincial	\$ 6,000.00
Minister's Discretionary Fund	900.00
Chaplain	3,500.00
Assistant Chaplain	700.00
Area Chaplains	450.00
Fellowship Coordinator	1,000.00
Inquirer Correspondant	125.00
Bursar	1,350.00
TOTAL SERVANTS	14,025.00
Directors & AFDs	4,500.00
Counselors	450.00
Training	450.00
Library	650.00
Copier	200.00
TOTAL FORMATION	6,250.00
Franciscan Aid Fund	700.00
Other Aid	1,500.00
1st Orders	3,500.00
1st Order Visitors	3,500.00
3rd Order Central Fund	2,000.00
TOTAL OUTREACH	11,200.00
Information Sheet	1,700.00
Franciscan Times	3,800.00
Brochures & Booklets	2,000.00
Office Costs	500.00
TOTAL COMMUNICATIONS	8,000.00
Annual Meeting	
Travel	6,400.00
Accommodations	4,000.00
Standing Committee	125.00
TOTAL CHAPTER	10,525.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 50,000.00

Area Chaplain Changes Northern CA & NV - Mary Ann Jackman; GA, AL, MS, FL Panhandle & SC - Bill Dennis; Central FL - Kale King; NC - David Nard; KY & TN - Dorothy Adams; OH & W. PA - Anthony Longhi; NYC and environs - to be announced

R.J.P. Our sympathy to Andrew Wilkes and his family as they mourn the loss of Andrew's wife, Betty.

Bursar Carole Watson, hit by a car in early October while riding her bicycle, sustained some serious injuries. While she is recovering, Dee Dobson will be acting bursar. Please send all checks and money matters to Dee until further notice. Carole is, at this writing, recuperating at a convalescence home. Our love and prayers to you, Carole.

AMNESTY! AMNESTY? AMNESTY! AMNESTY? AMNESTY!

Rosie McFerran is cataloging the books in the Third Order Library, getting the records computerized and preparing to circulate books on request. *Now is the time*, if you have any books that belong to the library, to return them to Rosie, no questions asked! Her address is 1518 Tulane Drive, Davis, CA 95616.

Donations of current, relevant books will also be gratefully received. If you have books that you would like to donate, please send Rosie a list of the authors and titles first to make sure that we don't already have them!

- o Fellowships should make an effort to put together "living histories" of the long-time professed.

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Third Order, Society of St. Francis
American Province
611 East Bay Street
Savannah, GA 31401

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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New Business

- o Profession anniversary lists will be published in the Information Sheet.
- o The formation of the terminally ill may be shortened at the discretion of the formation director but a minimum of one year in the novitiate will be required.

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Necrology - David Spencer (12/90); Mary Jane Duncan (8/91); Pauline Hudders (10/91).

Chapter concluded on 11 October. The 1992 Chapter will meet at Little Portion 6-10 October.

FIRST CLASS MAIL