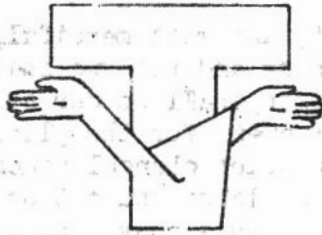


Information Sheet

THIRD ORDER
Society of St. Francis
American Province



September 1982

CHAPTER TO MEET NOVEMBER 10-12

The annual business meeting of the Third Order Chapter will be held at Little Portion.

- Is there anything you would like added to the agenda? Please send it to Dee Dobson.

As part of our annual budget we have an item of money to be used for some non-Franciscan ministry, as our outreach. If you have any suggestions about the use of that money, please send them to Dee. Keep in mind that our budget is limited; and although all the requests will be considered, we will not be able to fund all of them.

FROM THE GUARDIAN

Fellowships, and the lack of Fellowships, seems to be a major concern of our tertiaries, both those who belong to a Fellowship, and even those who are isolated.

Chapter, as you know, meets in November. The matter of Fellowships will be an important item on the agenda. Some are very successful, some try hard but feel that they are lacking a cohesiveness, a fulfillment of needs and in general could be improved upon.

We, your Chapter, and I, your Guardian, would greatly appreciate it if you would take a moment to write down the plusses and the minuses of your experiences. I have in mind to attempt to draw up guidelines for Fellowships, bearing in mind that they cannot all be alike, but must have their own unique differences. Please send your comments to me, or to Helen Webb.

A blessed St. Francistide to all! Dee
(Mrs. William Dobson, 4001 S.W. 5 Terrace, Miami, FL 33134)

CONGRATULATIONS TO

- Mary Elizabeth Campana, professed March 14, 1982.
- James P. F. Hansen, professed August 6
- James and June Costigan, professed July 17
- Margaret Wyse Shull, received a Master of Divinity degree
- Mrs. Dorothy Ridley, elected Guardian of the New Zealand Province, 3rd Order

FROM THE FIRST ORDER

Br. Dunstan has asked that we join him in praying for a suitable place for a House of Prayer.

Heavenly Father, almighty and most merciful, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: Guide us by your Spirit in our quest for the place to return and rest; that there in your quiet changelessness we may be strengthened to go out and labor and not be weary among all the changes and chances of this busy world. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Did you know that now there are just three Brothers at Little Portion: John Charles, Douglas and Justus Richard? They happily announced that Barry Lacey, a Third Order postulant, consented to help out for a year with the Guest House, along with Marty Gerber, his companion who will also be there. Justus writes, "The tremendous response in terms of offers of help is very exciting. It is one more sign of the strong sense of family between the First and Third Orders. My visits with tertiaries have also added to my appreciation for the Third Order vocation. I was introduced to the Franciscans by a tertiary, and several TO members have been very instrumental in the unfolding of my vocation."

THE THIRD ORDER IN AUSTRALIA

In a January newsletter, it was announced that a Chapter meeting had been held, and those present were: the Minister General, the Minister Provincial, the Chaplain (Br. Alan Barnabas), Assistant Chaplain, Guardian, Assistant Guardian, Provincial Secretary and 3 other tertiaries. One Chapter member, and the Treasurer were unable to attend. (Note: our American Province Chapter includes 7 or 8 ex officio members, and 7 elected members, of which total only two or three are Friars.)

They had just completed their first General Chapter (similar to our Convocation) with 52 adults and 17 children present. They found difficulty keeping in personal contact with Papua-New Guinea because of travel expense. Finances were very tight, and a plea was made for support of an enlarged budget to cover expenses of \$4,980. The membership is 126. Their representatives to the Gospel Now Conference and Interprovincial T.O. Chapter brought back enthusiastic reports. Br. Alan Barnabas mentioned attending the American Province Convocation, and said they could use some of our ideas! About 70 books were donated to the Third Order to form a library.

The February newsletter mentioned that several tertiaries brought families to the General Chapter, and the children "came to worship, and made their offerings: rock people, posters and emblems, and a bright altar cloth to hang over the original drab table". A major concern was the situation of the Aboriginal people, and suggestions of ways to help them in their struggle to secure their identity and to win recognition for their claims to tribal lands.

The July newsletter advertised two Australian tapes: "Aboriginal Well-Being" by Tony Hall-Matthews; and "What it's like to be a tertiary", by Helen Granowski. The tapes are available from Laraine Hinds, 107 Tarrigindi Road, Tarrigindi, Qld. 4121.

Br. Alan Barnabas has moved to Morris House, where he is involved in the care of up to eleven young men. The newsletter included word from fellowships in Sydney, Brisbane, Townsville and Southern N.S.W., mentioning the schedule of meetings, a September retreat, and two novicings.

"FRANCISCAN AID"

Excerpts from a Report by Brother Geoffrey, July 1982

A Trust Deed has been prepared, and is waiting the approval of the Inland Revenue (in England). Then it can be registered by the Charity Commissioners. Mr. George McCormack is Treasurer of the Fund, and other trustees are the Guardian and Treasurer of the 3rd Order European Province and the Minister General.

At the time of writing, an excess of 9000 pounds had been received. This included several large contributions from brothers and sisters of the Society of St. Francis in all parts of the world, for which Brother Geoffrey expressed his gratitude. But the sum also included a large number of comparatively small donations, some of which are from people who are not members of SSF. He states that apart from a very small sum to cover postage and secretarial expense, the entire amount is passed on to those in need. Grants made:

- L 200 A student in Lesotho with no means of support.
 - 228 A man in Malaysia working for the Church, who cannot feed and educate his five children.
 - 53 A grant to bring temporary help to a man in Dar es Salaam.
 - 300 Oxford Mission in Bangla Desh, to help care for the desperately poor.
 - 303 A woman in Tanzania whose house was knocked down by the military, because she refused to move to a new village some way distant.
 - 2000 The Diocese of Mutare in Zimbabwe, where our 3rd Order member Elijah Masuko is Bishop, and which suffered considerably during the war. Christian life has to be built up again.
 - 550 A Zimbabwean student studying in England, to help maintain him and his wife, as his grant only covers his tuition.
 - 506 Two young men in Tanzania who are doing courses to improve their education in order to get jobs.
 - 650 A family in Zululand, South Africa, to help educate their children. Their mother is the only wage earner.
 - 33 Some books for 2 students in Zambia, to help with their theological study.
 - 250 A Roman Catholic Community in South India doing great work with homeless children and the aged.
 - 2000 Diocese of Lesotho, where our tertiary Philip Mokukya is Bishop, to help with the aged and poor in the mountains of that land, who have no means of support
-
- L 7073 Total grants
9076.27 Gogal income

This leaves about 2000 pounds still to be dispensed, and we are considering one or two requests for aid. This is basically a fund of our Franciscan family, where we can share what we have with those personally known to us in Third World countries who are in real need but who, on the whole, would not be helped by other relief. I make this statement about Franciscan Aid not only for your information, but also so that you can pray for those whom it is our privilege to care for.

In the American Province, you may send contributions, marked for the Franciscan Aid fund, to our Bursar: Carole J. Watson, 962 W. Acadia Drive, Tucson, AZ 85706. Checks should be made out to Third Order, Society of Saint Francis.

LIBRARY

Don't forget our Lending Library. If you wish to borrow books by mail, write to Mrs. Laurence Mahon, 1990 S.E. Mulberry Ave., Portland, OR 97214, and Pat will be glad to work on your request.

FRANCISCAN CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

In New York City, an overall Lutheran organization proposed a plan to commemorate the Eighth Centenary ecumenically, including:

- Sunday, Oct. 3 - Franciscans invite Lutherans to a service.
- Sunday, Oct. 10 - Lutherans invite Franciscans to a service.
- Sunday, Oct. 17 - Several major Lutheran-Roman Catholic gatherings proposed across the country.
- Sunday, Oct. 24 - Regional gatherings (dialogues, lectures, etc.) to be held.
- Sunday, Oct. 31 - Lutherans observe Reformation/Reconciliation Sunday, focusing on Martin Luther, another "renewer of the Church".

At Graymoor, New York, the Eighth Centenary Executive Committee suggested a national pilgrimage of a full-size replica of the San Damiano Cross to promote prayer for peace. The pilgrimage would begin in San Francisco on October 4th. Contact the Rev. Roy Gasnick, OFM, 135 West 31st Street, New York, NY 10001.

The Franciscans
P.O. Box 4013
Topeka, Kansas 66604
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