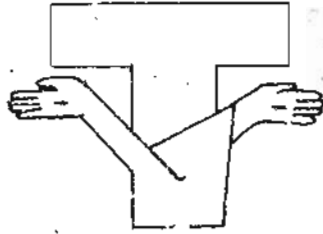


Information Sheet

Third Order
Society of St. Francis
American Province



November 1982

CHAPTER SUMMARY

(Taken from the Third Order Chapter annual meeting Minutes. Complete Minutes and Reports are available by request to the Secretary, Helen Webb.)

Chapter met at Little Portion, November 10-12, 1982. Ken Cox and Dorothy Nakatsuji could not attend because of illness. Jackie Richards, Fellowship Convenor in Trinidad, attended through Chapter's invitation.

A rough draft of the new Calendar & Devotional booklet was presented, and the finished copies should be sent to all tertiaries in 1983. It does not include hymns, so a Franciscan song book is planned next.

Marie Webner is the new Fellowship Coordinator. A committee will seek input for a manual for Fellowships and Convenors. The term, "Convocation", may apply to regional convocations. It was asked that the timing of such convocations be coordinated through Marie. Dates we have so far are:

- July 17-22 3rd Order family camp at Bishop's Ranch in California
- July 22-24 Western Convocation at the Ranch
- Sep. 9-11 Northeast Conference
- Sep. 30 - Oct. 2 Southeast Conference

The two Provincial's Visitors, newly appointed, are Sister Cecilia, CSF and Br. Justus Richard, SSF.

Our Chaplain, Fr. Robert "Gooch" Goode, mentioned attending an anniversary of the founding of the Order of St. Francis, in Merrill, Wisconsin. We will try to ease Ken Cox's work load, but he will continue to receive letters and rules from aspirants. Alden Whitney, Br. Chad, SSF and Br. Mark Charles, SSF, are new Third Order counselors.

Guardian Dee Dobson expressed thanks for our love and support.

Novice Director Ken Cox listed 55 novices, 41 postulants and 10 aspirants with rules, and 5 new counselors, as of November. He is very appreciative of the calls and mail during his illness.

Novice Director Glen-Ann Jicha gave totals for the year of 52 novices, 29 postulants, 22 aspirants, and 9 new counselors. She mentioned counselor training sessions which she and Ken conducted in California and Chicago, which were well attended.

Br. Justus Richard, SSF and Br. John George, SSF, spoke of their many visits to tertiaries during the past year.

Assistant Chaplain, Br. Dunstan, SSF, reported on the Third Order in the Caribbean and South America: in Trinidad and Tobago - 3 professed, 5 novices, 3 postulants, 1 aspirant; Guyana - 2 professed, 3 novices, 7 postulants; Jamaica - 1 postulant, 1 aspirant; Barbados - 1 novice; South America - 1 novice, 1 postulant (Venezuela & Colombia).

John Scott, Dee Dobson, David and Anita Catron represented us at an international Franciscan Congress in Rome. (John's report is to be circulated.) He felt we have much to contribute, and gain, from Roman Catholic Franciscan contacts. He is active as our representative to the N.F.C.C. - National Franciscan Communications Conference.

Joanne Maynard is the new editor of the Franciscan Times. It is hoped there can be correspondents from various parts of the Province. The "Information Sheet" will continue to be published.

The title, "Novice Director", was changed to "Formation Director", to be more descriptive of the overall responsibility.

The timing of major elections was arranged in a 3-year cycle: 1983 - Chapter, Formation Directors, Secretary; 1984 - Guardian; 1985 - Chaplain. Nominations for Guardian will be made by professed, but election by the Chapter.

Those elected to profession:

Graciela Alvarez	Robert Hasserries	Clare Webner Shelby
Kay Neel Ashby	Lew & Carol Johnson	Tammy Sparks
Jean Bear	Joanne Maynard	Barbara Sundberg
Katrine "Kitten" Gray		Masud Syedullah

The 1982 budget item for non-Franciscan ministry was divided:

\$300 to St. Michael's Mission in Montreal
\$200 to "Christ in the Poor", a house of prayer and mission in Albuquerque.

They both minister to needy people.

A further gift was made to cover a special need of Ken Cox.

There was an expression of thanks to Ken Cox, the Little Portion Friars, Br. John George, and Dee Dobson. A profession cross was given to Bishop Paul Moore, our Protector, as a special symbol of our commitment to the Gospel life and witness. (We appreciated his visit with Chapter one afternoon.)

The next annual Chapter meeting will be held Nov. 9-11, 1983 at the Bishop's Ranch in California.

FRANCISCANS INVOLVED IN NUCLEAR RESISTANCE

In September a group of 16 Franciscans formed an informal network as a way to inform and affirm each other in their Franciscan peacemaking. Several of them are active, through civil disobedience, tax resistance, speaking and writing, and other forms of public witness. If you would like further information, write Bill Barrett, OFM, P.O. Box 3746, Philadelphia, PA 19125.

I. GOVERNMENT, A. The Chapter

3. (omit) "One month before the meeting, the agenda is to be mailed to all professed for study and comments."
4. (change to read) "The Guardian shall normally chair meetings of the Chapter; but Chapter may select one of its members to preside in his or her absence."
6. (change to read) "The Chapter shall consist of: the Guardian, the Provincial, the Chaplain, the Formation Directors, the Secretary, and the Fellowship Coordinator, ex officio; and 7 elected brothers and sisters of the Order. The elected members shall serve for three years. The Provincial's Visitor(s) are invited to attend the Chapter. "

D. The Guardian

3. (change to read) "Any professed brother or sister is eligible for the office of Guardian. The term of office is 3 years. No person shall serve more than 3 full consecutive terms.

In May of the year in which the term of the Guardian in office expires, each professed brother and sister has the right to nominate to the Secretary, on a form sent by first class mail, one eligible brother or sister. Local Fellowships and other Third Order groups shall undertake a full discussion of the nominees, and every effort should be made to include all brothers and sisters of the Order in the discussions. In addition, the Standing Committee may nominate 2 candidates.

Nominations will close on the first of July. Consent to serve shall be obtained from each nominee prior to balloting for election.

The Guardian shall be elected by ballot by Chapter at its annual meeting. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be Guardian.

In case of a tie, a second ballot, with the names of those tied, shall be circulated. An unresolved tie shall be referred to the Provincial for decision.

The Guardian shall take office at the termination of the Chapter meeting at which he or she is elected. "

4. (change to read) "In the event of a vacancy in the Guardianship during a 3-year term, the members of Chapter shall elect a Guardian, at a meeting or by mail, to complete the remainder of that term. The Chapter may extend such short term for a period of less than 18 months, by a two-thirds vote of Chapter members present and voting at a meeting, or two-thirds of total Chapter members when voting by mail."

Old sections 5, 6 and 7 are omitted.

II. MINISTERS

E. The Secretary

2. (change to read) "The Secretary shall serve for 3 years, beginning and terminating on the first of December following the triennial Chapter elections. No person shall serve more than 3 full consecutive terms as Secretary."

F. The Chaplain

- 4. (change to read) "At the third annual meeting following the election of a Chapter, the Provincial and the Guardian nominate the candidate for Chaplain to the Chapter for ratification.

The Chaplain shall have a term of 3 years effective from the date of election.

The Chapter may extend the term for a period of less than 18 months, by a two-thirds vote of Chapter members present and voting at a meeting, or two-thirds of total Chapter members when voting by mail."

SPECIAL NOTE: The name "Novice Director(s)" is changed to "Formation Director(s)" wherever it appears.

G. Formation Directors

- 1. (change to read) "There shall be at least two Formation Directors. They shall be responsible for the general pastoral care and direction of the novices."

- 2. (change to read) "In particular they shall be responsible for preparing the formation program, for supervising the progress of those in formation, and for recommending postulants for admission as novices, and novices for profession. The Formation Directors may appoint Counselors to assist in their work, with the approval of the Chaplain."

- 3. (change to read) "At the annual meeting following the election of a Chapter, the Chapter members present elect at least 2 brothers or sisters to be Formation Directors, by majority vote."

- 4. "The Formation Directors shall serve for 3 years, beginning and terminating on the first of December. No person shall serve more than 3 full consecutive terms as Formation Director."

III. MEMBERSHIP

A. Postulants

- 2. (change to read) "Postulants shall report monthly as instructed by the Formation Directors on their observance of the Rule, and more generally of the Franciscan life."

B. Novices

- 1. (change to read) "Normally, six months or more after his or her acceptance, a Postulant may apply to the Formation Director for admission to the Order as a Novice. The Formation Director shall review his or her manner of life, and proposed rule, and shall either: drop the Postulant, or recommend that he or she continue as a Postulant for some definite period of time, or accept the Postulant as a Novice - subject to the consent of the Chaplain."

C. The Professed

- 6. (change the beginning to read) "A professed brother or sister may apply to the members of Chapter, through the Chaplain, for release" ...

- 7. (in place of the present #7) "If a professed brother or sister, without applying for release from the obligations of profession, should leave the Episcopal Church, or a Church in communion with the See of Canterbury, the

(continued)

Third Order regards the person as having left the Society without release from obligations."

Old "7." becomes "8."

IV. MEETINGS

A. Convocations

(change to read)

"1. A Convocation is a meeting of the brothers and sisters of the Third Order for the discussion of the Franciscan life, and especially the life of the Third Order. A Convocation has no legislative powers, but Chapter shall consider its recommendations and suggestions. All brothers and sisters of the Order are encouraged to attend Convocations. Members of Chapter should make every attempt to attend Convocations, in order that they may gain insight into the needs and concerns of the brothers and sisters of the entire Province.

2. Chapter may initiate Convocations when there is need.

3. Regional Convocations may be held from time to time under the sponsorship of Area Fellowships. One brother or sister present shall be designated to report to the Guardian."

B. Other Meetings

2. (second paragraph: change to read) "The Guardian shall keep the Provincial, the Chaplain, and the Fellowship Coordinator informed of the formation of new Fellowships. "

3. (change to read) "Other occasional meetings of tertiaries should be encouraged, especially where there is no regular Fellowship. One brother or sister present at such occasional meetings should be designated to report on them to the Guardian."

MINISTER PROVINCIAL'S REPORT TO CHAPTER - November 1982

It is quite evident that the Third Order in this Province is experiencing striking growth. God is clearly calling many: woman and man, lay and clerical, younger and older, to the Gospel life which Francis models. But it says much for the quality of witness offered by our professed tertiaries, and in particular by those exercising leadership and guiding formation, that so many are able to realize their sense of call within the Third Order of S.S.F.

Inevitably, growth brings growing pains. In the past year, the First Order Brothers have experienced much growth out of pain, resurrection out of death, and we have a long way to go. For that personal and community growth to translate into growth in numbers will take time, for aspirants need to find a credible environment for the pursuit of their vision, and that, I believe, the Friars are increasingly providing as we make priorities for communication of faith and feelings, for formation, and for encouraging individual and community discernment of vision for ministry and outreach.

(continued)

Your situation is different. Priorities already established over the past 10-15 years are bearing fruit. The personal growth which you, as Chapter members, as administrators, pastors, counselors, have made and are making already provides in large degree a credible context for the 200 men and women presently in formation to engage in vocational search and journey.

So you face actual growth: exponential, explosive growth in numbers. Numbers alone are certainly not a measure of "success", but your commitment and concern to maintain quality of witness and pastoral care in the face of growing numbers, while essential and absolutely right, does point us to the place of your present growing pains.

How can we respond generously to the divine initiative that is calling so many, as we ourselves have been called, without in the process so overloading our most dedicated and gifted members to the point of "self-destruct"? I share with you a deep concern about this.

Our immediate need to take steps to provide contingencies for the gradual handing over of Ken Cox's work as Formation Director underlines this concern. Have we unwittingly already, precisely through the heroic commitment of Ken and Glen-Ann, given ourselves a model for Formation Director which no one person in the future can be expected to fulfil? I know that both Ken and Glen-Ann love their ministry; but for people in full-time work to give that many hours daily, to use up their vacation time in order not only to attend Chapter but also workshops for novice counselors, for example, is a hard act to follow. Do we say in future that we may only look outside the ranks of those in full-time work, or only to those of such heroic commitment? Or do we need to look searchingly at the roles of Formation Director, Chaplain, Guardian, etc., and ask what redefinition of priorities, sharing of aspects of these ministries, may be possible and indeed essential?

When I became Provincial Minister, I brought with me a diary full of commitments for 12-18 months ahead. My sense was that this could well be maintained along with my work as Minister. By the time of our General Chapter in January/February, I was discovering that my priorities needed rearranging. So, since then, I have not accepted new engagements that would involve tours, and by May first my calendar will be clear. In the past few months I have increasingly realized that my hectic schedule, however worthwhile, neither allows me to be available to the Province in appropriate ways, nor does it allow me the space to make priorities for nourishing my own spiritual and vocational journey. So at our next Friar Chapter, I shall feel free with a clear diary to be open to whatever individual and group discernment of the role and place of the Provincial Minister emerges.

Similarly, I believe we need to be open to, if necessary, discernment of a quite radical degree of change in our understandings of key roles in the life of the Third Order.

I am excited about where the Third Order is, and about the possibilities for where it is being led.

- Robert Hugh, S.S.F.

PERSONALS

Ruth Dennis died September 20th; and Faith Booth on November 8th.

Fr. Thomas Rogers celebrated the 50th anniversary of his priesthood, and the 5th anniversary of his profession, on November 14th with friends. It was a gala occasion.

Professions:

- | | | | |
|---------|-------------|---------|---------------------|
| Sep. 25 | Gail Zerbe | Oct. 2 | Mary Jane Duncan |
| Sep. 25 | David Nard | Oct. 3 | Gloria Goller |
| Sep. 10 | John Apmann | Oct. 17 | Patricia Schumacher |

LENT BOOK

Brother John-Charles, SSF has edited and updated Miles Lowell Yates' "Believing in God," and Forward Movement is to publish this as their 1983 Lent Book. It is a superb and spiritual approach to living the faith in the world and an invitation to meditation and prayer from one of America's greatest masters of the spiritual life. Orders may be placed with Forward Movement from December onwards.

A FRANCIS PICTURE BOOK

Francis: The Poor Man of Assisi. Tomie de Paola (text and illustrations)
Holiday House, New York \$14.95

This is an exquisite and sensitive book which, although it will make a delightful present for the young, is for children of all ages.

It is the fulfilment of a life's ambition for Tomie de Paola, author of more than one hundred books. He has drawn on primary sources, incorporated the inspiration from two visits to Assisi, and made extraordinary use of his remarkable artistic talents. The result is one of the best books produced for the commemoration of the 800th anniversary of Francis's birth. Like the film, "Brother Sun, Sister Moon", it captures the spirit of Francis and his unfailing attractiveness without, in this case, serious departure from fact. Given the necessarily compressed style, this is a great achievement.

With great economy, de Paola has highlighted the most significant events in the life of Francis in a manner which leaves a lasting impression. He has, as he promises, given us a glimpse "into the essential Franciscan spirit -- simplicity, joy, the love of nature, and the love of Lady Poverty".

Those readers who have visited Assisi will recognize the source of the inspiration for several of the paintings. But none of them is ever purely imitative. They have a quality all of their own. The adaptation of the "Canticle of the Creatures" from several translations is a tour de force. If, as the author insists is true, the best way to meet Francis is to visit Assisi, then I would want to add that this book could be, for many who cannot make the journey, the next best thing.

An excellent present, a joy to read and to have in the house, this beautifully executed book with its simple words and enchanting pictures is a fitting tribute to Francis on his birthday.

In February 1983 Br. Geoffrey, Minister General, will meet in Trinidad with the First Order Provincial Ministers from America, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, and the Pacific Islands. Among items for discussion is the question about the differing boundaries for First & Third Orders in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. The next Ministers' meeting is planned for April 1984 just before a First Order Brothers' Chapter at Bishop's Ranch, California.

Last July the European Province announced publication of a history of Anglican Franciscanism by the Rev'd Barrie Williams, retail cost 9.50 pounds, from the Hilfield Friary, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 7BE, United Kingdom

In Auckland, a Community Retreat was planned for First and Third Orders, from a Tuesday to Sunday. Tertiaries were welcome to attend for the weekend, or the whole time.

CORRECTION: Peter and Mary Funk's address in the directory is incorrect. It should be: Rt. 2, 4825 Province Line Road, Princeton, NJ 08540.

REMINDER: When inquirers first ask about the Third Order, please recommend that they write for information to Little Portion Friary, Box 399, Mount Sinai, NY 11766.

If you have items to include in the "Information Sheet", please send them to Helen Webb (address below).

THE FRANCISCANS
4008 Buckingham Road
Baltimore, MD 21207 USA

Address correction requested