



Information Sheet

THIRD ORDER, AMERICAN PROVINCE, SOCIETY OF ST. FRANCIS

JUNE 1985

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In May, Glen Ann Jicha resigned her position as Women's Formation Director. We are most thankful that she agreed to continue as a Counselor. Needless to say that we are most grateful for the gifts that Glen Ann has so willingly given to so many over such a long period of time. As a Counselor, her gifts will continue to inspire those who are struggling - and aren't we all?

Marie Webner has agreed to wear yet another hat and will be an interim Women's Formation Director. As she stated that she would prefer not to have this role for an indefinite period of time, we shall elect the Women's Formation Director when we meet in October at Chapter, for the remainder of Glen Ann's term..

Mickey Ibarra resigned as a Chapter member. Glenn Ann Jicha has consented to fulfill her term.

After evaluation of our records, it has been noted that only 31% of our family is either pledging or contributing to the financial support of the program/budget of the Third Order. It should be obvious that this makes it very difficult for your Chapter to not only plan, to envision our future, but it presents a very real problem in the formulation of a realistic budget. We are most grateful to those of you who are contributors of record.

As you know, your Chapter will meet in October. If you have particular concerns that need to be a part of our Chapter Agenda, please send them to me or to our Secretary, Mary Ann Jackman.

This has been a particularly fine year for the Convocations. We have had two new convocations this year. In February, Trinidad and Tobago Tertiaries hosted a West Indian Convocation and in May the South Central area hosted a Convocation in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This encompassed family from Arkansas, Texas, Kansas and Oklahoma. By the time you are reading this, there will have been another new convocation held in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Yours in Christ,

Dee Dobson, TSF
Guardian

REGIONAL CONVOCATIONS:

WESTERN CONVOCATION: August 2-4, 1985, The Bishop's Ranch, Healdsburg, CA. Contact Dorothy Voigt, 39847 San Moreno Court, Fremont, CA 94539, or Ann Harris, 555 Reed Drive, Davis, CA 95616. (Cost: \$65)

MIDWEST CONVOCATION: August 30 - September 2, 1985, Franciscan Retreat Center, 16385 St. Francis Lane, Prior Lake, MN. Contact: Julia Bergstrom, 5136 18th Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55417.

NOTRHEAST CONVOCATION: September 13-15, 1985, at Graymoor Friary, Garrison, NY. The Theme is Humility, Healing and Hospitality. Contact: Jean Carr, 1217 Morris Road, Wynnewood, PA 19096.

SOUTHEAST CONVOCATION: Date and location. Check with your nearest Southeastern Fellowship Convenor (see Directory listings). It's scheduled, but this information was not in the Secretary's files at press time.

SUMMER WILDERNESS OPPORTUNITY: Interested in a hermitage experience? The Land of the Sky, Third Order Fellowship, in co-operation with the Diocese of Western North Carolina, is beginning an opportunity for a new ministry and Franciscan presence in a wilderness area of the Blue Ridge Mountains near Asheville, North Carolina.

The fellowship is looking for a Tertiary or Tertiary couple that could live on a beautiful isolated property that will be in the process of being developed into a small base camp for wilderness journeys and retreat/respite facilities. The duties would include property sitting, some minor repairs and upkeep, grounds care, and co-ordination of visitors and programs (which will be very limited).

An ability and interest in living in an isolated setting (exact length of time negotiable - could be for one to three or five months) is the main qualification we are looking for in the individual or couple. We hope to finalize plans in late June or in early July.

A one bedroom furnished cottage will be provided, water and electricity included. There is not a stipend available, but the only expenses you need incur would be food and transportation. If you are interested in more information, please contact:

David Nard, TSF
17-H Ascension Drive
Asheville, North Carolina 28806
704-254-0103

A Resume and References will be required.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER to our Rev. sisters Catherine Joy, CSF and Machrina Blasdel, TSF, newly ordained Priests, and Beverly Ann Hosea, TSF, ordained Deacon, in the Diocese of California on June 8, 1985, to Allen Hall, TSF, ordained Deacon in Denver on June 14, to Jon Dwyer, n/TSF, new CDSP graduate, and to Tammy Sparks, TSF, who graduated from the Diocese of California's School for Deacons on June 23. Our best wishes, also, to the new Mr. and Mrs. S. Kovacs, (the former Karen Belfry), married June 22, 1985!

MANY THANKS to all of you who have written to me with your thanks and prayers for my new labors -- I'm feeling those prayers very much, and the joy of meeting so many of my scattered family by mail is very moving. I feel very privileged, indeed, to have such company on the journey, and I am very grateful for your prayers and support. --With love and gratitude, in Christ and Francis, Mary Ann Jackman, Secretary Pro Tem.

MORE ON STEWARDSHIP: One of the reasons our parishes, and even more so, the Third Order, have such problems getting people to contribute financial support is that we always preach reliance on God's providence. We do, indeed, rely on God for all things, but it's not reasonable to wait for him to get out his Celestial Checkbook to cover our postage and printer's bills! This mailing cost \$250. \$150 of that was just for stamps! Each "basics" packet sent to a Postulant has cost the Order \$15 in printing and postage. In the two months that I've been acting as Secretary, postage for this part of the work alone was \$500. Multiply that by the costs our Guardian, Chaplain, Formation Directors, AFDs, Fellowship Coordinator, Bursar and Novice Counselors must spend, not to mention the Fellowship Convenors and the "Franciscan Times", and you begin to see our desperate need for your pledges. Yes, God gives us everything, and working in partnership with God, we make that grow. Fr. Jack Eastwood of St. John's gave me a story to share: "A priest went to visit one of his parishioners who lived in a run-down house. The front yard had been a wild tangle of weeds, brush and tall grass, but in a few months, the the man had transformed that yard into a beautiful lawn and garden. When the priest saw this, he exclaimed, "My, isn't it wonderful what you and God have done!" "Yes," said the man, "but you should have seen it when God was doing it alone!" Yes, God provides, but with our good stewardship of that providence, it can truly become a beautiful garden. However little we are given, it's important to plow some of it back in to enrich the soil so that our community garden can grow! (Not to be confused with Marie Webner's story of her Benedictine friend, who took one look at Marie's yard and exclaimed: "Franciscans! Even their GARDENS are wild!" Is that what's wrong with our pledging? Dig down, please... OK, I'll be quiet.) -mj

THANK ALL OF YOU who have helped alleviate our financial burdens by sending in donations for printed materials. Your thoughtful stewardship is very much appreciated. Some of these come to me with requests for things -- you can send all contributions directly to our Bursar, Carole Watson, 292 W. Acadia Drive, Tucson, AZ 85706.

MARIE WEBNER wears a lot of Third Order hats, and a couple of these were left out of the new Directory and last year's Directory, too! Marie, in addition to being interim Formation Director and Area Chaplain for three states, is our tireless Fellowship Coordinator, a member of Chapter, an Officer of the Corporation, and a member of the Standing Committee! (did I say "tireless"?) Our hats are off to Marie!

FROM GUYANA: Fr. John Dorman writes: "Greetings to you in the Name of Jesus, Saviour, Risen Lord. I am happy to enclose your copy of the Profession Vows of the Rev. Fr. Winston Williams, which he made yesterday (4/7/85) at St. John's Church, Jawalla, 35 miles from here, having offered his first Mass the previous day among his rejoicing people, the Akawaio Indians, who now have one of themselves as their first resident priest. His Ordination was a week before, in our Cathedral, as one of the twelve Priests then made at what must be among the most significant acts of the Church in the 144 years of our Diocese. Fr. Charles Roland, TSF is also now a priest, in charge of St. Peter's Kurupung, and the other churches of the middle Mazaruni River. That area is not much more than 50 miles straight from here, but a high range of forest-covered mountains lies between -- which he hopes to cross on foot for a week's Conference and Retreat of our 5 parish clergy from July 21 to 28." After that, John will fly to Britain for 4 months, and plans to visit the Holy Land. Congratulations to our two new priests and our newly Professed brother from all of us! May our dear Lord bless you! +++

FIRST ORDER NEWS: Mel and Cameron are elected to First Profession; David Burgdorf and Lee Brunner were dispensed for their first vows. Sunset house will close September 1; Brs. Robert and Justus will be at San Damiano, Sr. Cecilia at St. Francis House, Brs. Jason and Don, at L.P., and Sr. Mary Katherine, RCR, will summer at Maryhill and winter in Arizona. Brs. Dunstan and John Charles will be at Wayside house, mail c/o Little Portion. Rehabilitation of the Brooklyn friary is under way; they have had their first Mass there.

THE FRANCISCANS

Mary Ann Jackman
1632 Great Highway
San Francisco, CA 94122

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



FIRST CLASS MAIL