



Information Sheet

THIRD ORDER, AMERICAN PROVINCE, SOCIETY OF ST. FRANCIS

AUGUST 1985

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In June, in an attempt to determine why we had such a low percent of our Third Order family either pledging or contributing, I sent a letter to those who were not on record as contributing or pledging for our fiscal year of 1985. We are most appreciative of those who took the time to respond to my letter. It will be most helpful to your Chapter as they try to formulate a realistic budget for the next year.

A frequent response stated that the individual gave to the First Order. We, of course concur that their needs be met and encourage one and all to support them to the best of our ability. However, the support of the First Order does not mean that we are supporting the Third Order. Many years ago, this may have been so, but for several years, the Third Order has been solely responsible for its own finances - both the receipts and the disbursements. If you read the proposed budget, you will have noted items in it designated to assist the First Order.

Many of our members who are part of the Formation Program very generously donate the expenses that they incur. We appreciate this generosity, but in actuality, when trying to propose a realistic budget it would be more helpful for the expenses to be re-imbursed - in order for us to know just what our actual costs are - then if the individual wishes to donate, by all means send the check back to the Bursar.

The Convocation in Vancouver was a tremendous success. The Western Convocation held at the Bishop's Ranch was just as much of a tremendous success. All of our Convocations are special in their uniqueness - yet there is always the common thread of following our Lord in the way of Francis.

In October, Chapter will meet. In addition to the normal business of Chapter, we will be concerned with our future for at least the next five years. Your additional prayers at this time will be greatly appreciated.

A card from Little Portion said:

NO EYE HAS SEEN,
NOR EAR HEARD,
NOR THE HEART OF MAN CONCEIVED,
WHAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR
THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.

Yours in Christ and Francis,

Dee Dobson, TSF, Guardian

REGIONAL CONVOCATIONS:

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.

NORTHEAST 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: September 27-29, 1985, Camp Mikell, Toccoa, Georgia. Theme: God's Abundance. Contact Pete Brewer, 4669 Hairston Crossing Place, Stone Mountain, GA 30083.

PROFESSED: Mary Lou Hall, 6/1/85; Rex Chambers, 6/22/85; Dr. Richard Lilliard, 7/13/85; J. Stewart Williams, 6/17/85. Soon to be Professed: Kay Salinaro, 9/8/85; Ruth Duncan, 9/24/85. *charge.*

NOVICED: Joel Bowman, 3/6/85; Bonita Palmer, 5/3/85; Lauren J. Sullivan, 6/7/85; Patricia Hanley, 6/8/85; Mary Louise Reed, 6/10/85; Samuel Hale, 5/19/85; Charles F. Andrews, 3/27/85; Kent Goolsby, 3/9/85; Karin Perkins, 6/17/85; Peter B. Stube, 5/2/85; Miriam Francis, 3/16/85. *Chap.*

OUR CHAPLAIN has good news and bad news for us: the good news is, he has just accepted a call to St. Mark's, Honolulu. (Oh, the suffering of being forced to relocate in Hawaii! Imagine the anguish! Sigh...) The bad news is, this means he will not seek another term as Chaplain in October. Gooch has been a wise and caring Chaplain to us for a long time, and his wonderful wit and insightful guidance will be very much missed. In the words of our Nobel Laureate brother, Desmond Tutu, Gooch is "really something else!"

NEWS FROM ALICE CORDTZ: Alice and Bill Cordtz will be leaving for their Peace Corps assignment in Belize (formerly British Honduras) on September 7. From her description of the living conditions, it looks like Alice will have no problem with her rule of "simplicity"! From what she's been told so far, she can expect electricity for two hours every day, (whether necessary or not) and will soon be qualified to write a cookbook entitled "100 Gourmet Meals from Lentils". Our love and prayers go with them!

SAD NOTE FROM KALE KING: "I have just learned that Helen Myers of Nampa, Idaho, died 21 July, in Nampa. Her husband, Fr. Harold V. Myers, and two children survive her." Helen, Professed November 8, 1945, would have celebrated her 40th Profession anniversary this fall.

OUR FORMER THIRD ORDER SISTER, Anne Driscoll, will make her first Profession vows in the First Order on Labor Day. A former T.O. Novice, Kathy Staggs, is entering the Poor Clare Convent at Freeland in September. She joins Sr. Jane Ellen (Traugott), who has been in the Convent there for several years. T.O. Novice Connie Coligny is entering the Maryhill Convent to try her vocation in the Second Order at the end of August, too!

THE SUNSET HOUSE, fondly known as "the Fronvent", is closing; a garage sale will finish the moving process on the weekend of August 24-25. Brs. Jason and Don have been moving furniture and computers over to San Damiano. (Your Guardian and Secretary pro tem offered them sage advice on pricing the remaining items -- they asked for it, of course...) Sr. Mary Katherine had a gala farewell party before leaving for Maryhill. Sr. Cecilia is ensconced at St. Francis House. Br. Robert Hugh will be living at San Damiano. Jason and Don are off to Little Portion in September. I'll miss seeing Sr. Mary Katherine in her spiffy motorized wheelchair, zooming up Noriega Street with her bright red backpack flying in the wind like a banner. Seeing Sister whizzing by always filled me with delight and completely restored me from any frazzling I'd experienced in the sometimes hectic neighborhood traffic. There was a wonderful sense of family in running into any and all of them in the neighborhood supermarket, stopping for a minute for hugs and chatter amid the loaves of bread and jugs of wine. I'll miss having Jason there to comiserate with me when the secretarial stuff gets crazy, and Don, sharing computer stuff and comparing mailing lists. I'll especially miss our almost tradition of sharing the Holy Week liturgy from the Maundy and watch through Holy Saturday -- it was a very precious experience for me, something I'll always cherish. What a wonderful place -- an ordinary Sunset district row house, built in the late 1940's, probably, stucco, painted an intense shade of pink, indistinguishable from any other Sunset row house except for the color. Mass was said around the dining room table, Offices in the adjoining living room area. The Maundy Thursday altar of repose was placed in the front corner of Cecilia's bedroom. (I wondered what the neighbors thought if they saw me in the front yard, genuflecting toward the front bedroom on my way to the car!) It was clearly an ordinary house with an extraordinary life lived in it, always full of love and welcome, always a feeling of "home". Where else could one find two Ministers Provincial working cheerfully in the kitchen? It's in the homely, everyday things that we realize such wonderful relationship. We really have a lovely family. I wish all of us could have a Sunset House in our neighborhood! -mj

PRAYERS ARE ASKED for our brother Mohammed Bulbulia, who is gravely ill; for Bill and Clare Mahan (Bill is also very ill); for Peter Nelson; for Br. Mark Francis, who has been having severe back problems; for the repose of our sister, Helen Myers.

CHAPTER AGENDA: There have been so many changes in our leadership in the past few months, it almost appears we're being rebuilt from the ground up! "Behold," says the Lord, "I make all things new!" (Yes, Lord, but does it all have to come at once?) One of the more important things Chapter will look at when it meets October 8-12 is the basic structure of our leadership with an eye toward spreading the work around a bit more manageably. We have grown so, the current structure is just barely workable. Among the other items to be addressed are ratifications of a new Chaplain, and a Secretary and Women's Formation Director to serve for the remainder of the unexpired terms, plus two Provincial Visitors; elections of a current member of Chapter to serve on the Standing Committee and representatives for the International Congress; a new Novice Counselors' Handbook, guidelines for Area Chaplains, our Songbook, the possibility of a secretary for the Formation program (which amounts to splitting the current Provincial Secretary's work in two) and a look at editing the Order for Admissions and the Principles and Rule for more inclusive language. And that's just scratching the agenda's surface -- please keep Chapter in your prayers!

FELLOWSHIP & FRANCISCAN LIFE: "There are several things fellowships are not. They are not an advertising cartel to promote St. Francis. In other words, a fellowship should not be composed of everyone in the surrounding ten counties who likes St. Francis. A fellowship is not primarily a support group. There are, however, many periods in our Franciscan life when the support of a fellowship keeps us going. But a fellowship is not therapy, and a person who is in the formation process particularly should be doing his or her own growing in places other than the fellowship, as well as within the dynamic of the fellowship. It is not always advisable to share your innermost secrets with members of a fellowship. We are not all equally mature. Members come and go; people move. Fellowships, like people, change. Nor can a fellowship be a substitute for a spiritual director. As Chaplain, I deal over and over again with situations where the novice counselor, a friend in fellowship, a friendship with a friar, becomes a substitute for a spiritual director. It is too easy for a spiritual director to be just a name on a report form. This is where your trust and confidence should lie. This is where crises and problems should be resolved. All too often, I get requests for release from vows which show that the spiritual director hasn't even been asked for an opinion. People should bring as much or more to a fellowship as they take from it. More than anything else, a fellowship is a reinforcement of the one overriding fact about us. We are committed to this way of life. Good times, bad times; dry times, full times, we are trying to follow our Lord in the way of St. Francis for the rest of our lives. High Church, low Church, charismatic, Anglo-Catholic, whatever, our unity lies in the common vow. We live in an age when promises are broken not only frequently but casually, when we are taught to believe we owe everything to ourselves and little to others. It is the vow that separates us from those called to walk in other ways. Yet our vow is only part of our baptismal vow. Think of the consequences and importance of a vow in terms of the theology of St. John, where a word becomes a living and effective entity, where the Godhead itself is described as Word. May your word as a Franciscan be an extension of the Word in the life of the Church. -- The Rev. Robert Goode ("Gooch"), Chaplain, Third Order. (written for and quoted from the wonderful new newsletter of the Mustard Seed Fellowship [upstate NY])

THE FRANCISCANS

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

