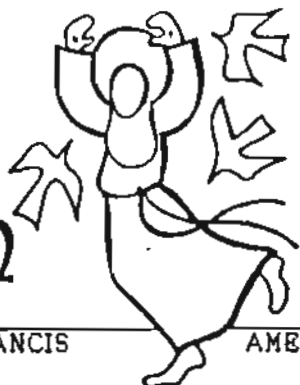


Information



Sheet

THE THIRD ORDER, SOCIETY OF ST. FRANCIS

AMERICAN PROVINCE

FEBRUARY 1986

Beloved in Christ and Francis,

Your positive response to our concern about the finances has allowed us to keep to our budget and to send to the First Order Brothers and Sisters the amount budgeted for them in 1985. For this I am most thankful.

The Chapter, as you know, is the legislative body of our Order. It has the ultimate authority in all that concerns its policy and work in this Province. It is entrusted with the responsibility of preserving the spirit of the Order as set forth in the Principles, in the life and work of the Province. As it is stated in the Statutes, February is the time for the nominations of our new Chapter. Any Professed brother or sister of the Order in this Province is eligible for election to the Chapter. Each Professed brother and sister has the right to nominate to the Secretary, on the form provided elsewhere in this Information Sheet, up to five (5) eligible brothers and sisters. Our Secretary's address is:

Mrs. M. L. Harris
555 Reed Drive
Davis, CA 95616

By now, the Admissions Booklets with the inclusive language should be in the hands of the Convenors. As you use them, please do let us (the Chapter) know your reactions and ideas. This booklet was authorized by Chapter for trial use for one year.

As we enter Lent for 1986, as we endeavor to follow Christ in simplicity, love and joy, may we continue to realize just what God wants us to do as we serve Him - that we will truly reflect the love of Christ and show his joy and peace to others by example.

Have a blessed Lent!
Dee Dobson, TSF
Guardian

CHAPTER ELECTIONS -- FROM THE PROVINCIAL STATUTES:

Any Professed brother or sister of the Order in this Province is eligible for election to Chapter. In February of the year in which the terms of the Chapter in office expire, each Professed brother and sister has the right to nominate to the Secretary, on a form provided by First Class mail, up to 5 eligible brothers and sisters. The 10 receiving the highest nominations shall be candidates for Chapter. Should brothers and sisters be tied for tenth position, all their names shall appear on the ballot. In addition, the standing committee shall nominate 4 candidates.

By the first of April, a ballot containing all the candidates' names shall be circulated, by First Class mail, to all the Professed. Local Fellowships and other Third Order groups shall undertake a full discussion of these candidates, and every effort shall be made to include all brothers and sisters of the Order in the discussions.

By the first of June, each Professed Tertiary shall vote for up to 7 of these candidates, taking due regard for the representation of all geographical areas in the Province, and return the ballot to the Secretary. The 7 candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected members of the Chapter. In the case of a tie for seventh position, the Guardian shall cast the deciding vote.

SAD NEWS: Several of our brothers and sisters have died in the past few months. We received word that from Eastern Canada that Mohammed Bulbulia died on August 31, 1985, after a long illness, and Clarence Scott also also passed away on November 5, 1985. News of Diana Carpenter's death in early November came to me from Marie Webner. Marie writes: "Diana was professed in 1981 before her two years in the Novitiate were over because she was believed to be dying of cancer. She was swinging around nobly in a wheelchair at the [1985] Minneapolis convocation... She died not of cancer, but of pneumonia (and its complications, presumably). She entered the hospital, fell into a coma, and died within days... A valiant, courageous person, whose life revolved around Church and Third Order. She gave me a book of prayers which I shall treasure." News also came of Bill Mahan's death on the morning of January 25, 1986, 5 days after his 7th Profession anniversary. Bill had been gravely ill with Lymphoma for many months. He was an active and wonderful part of our T.O. family, serving as Convenor of the Chi Rho Fellowship in Chicago, and as a Novice Counselor. He was also active in the Cursillo movement in the Chicago area. He is survived by his wife, Claire Mahan, TSF, and four children, Megan, Kevin, Deirdre and Brian. Our prayers and love go to the families and loved ones of Mohammed, Clarence, Diana, and Bill. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

A CALL FOR HELP came from our Third order brothers and sisters in the Southwestern Pennsylvania area, which was hit by severe flooding. James Bakewell, a Professed member of the Charleroi Fellowship, suffered a particularly devastating loss, with the first floor of his home totally damaged, including the kitchen, chapel, appliances, books and many other things, including a shrine to Our Lady of Walsingham. The convenor of Jim's Fellowship, The Rev. Keith Ackerman, asks our help. Sharing the burdens of our Third order family in this way is a time honored tradition, one that was instrumental in breaking the feudal system in Europe in the early days of the Order. This is an opportunity to continue that wonderful custom according to our abilities by, as Fr. Ackerman puts it, "donating whatever God would lay on your hearts." Send what you can to Fr. Ackerman at St. Mary's Church, 509 Sixth Street, Charleroi, PA 15022.

HELEN WEBB has informed us that the cost of subscriptions to The Franciscan, the Third Order journal published by the European Province, is now \$7 per year, not \$5 as erroneously stated in the last Info Sheet.

THE INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE Order for Admissions is in print (even typeset!) and available from the Provincial Secretary, Ann Harris (555 Reed Drive, Davis, CA 95616). It is much easier to follow than the previous addition, with the possible exception of the "brotherhood options" - it might be a good idea for Convenors (or others doing admissions) to underline or highlight the chosen option before the Admission service. By the time this Information Sheet reaches you, the new Principles and Rule will also be available from Ann. Thanks for your patience in waiting for these - I kept putting off the Principles in favor of handling one emergency or another until I realized how late it was getting. In addition to the minor Inclusive Language changes, the biblical texts are now in modern English. These and a more readable translation of the first section were taken from the First Order's new edition of their Principles and Rule. In comparing the two, I found it interesting that the only section that differs between the two is our "Three Aims of the Order", which we have instead of the literal Evangelical Counsels of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience. As you probably know, the Three Aims are our versions of the Evangelical Counsels, developed to fit our unique non-conventional expression of the religious life. The First Order's Principles form part of their Rule (as they describe ours), and in the current edition, are numbered in sections 1-30, and a part is read aloud each day. This has always been a custom of our First Order brothers and sisters. In doing our new "translation", mind ever on Formation (which hopefully doesn't stop at Profession), I wondered if that might not be a good "custom" for us to embrace, also. Do you feel that would be a good practice? When you let Chapter know your feelings re the new edition, also tell us if you'd like the sections numbered for daily use. We're finding that the materials that make up the "basics" are in large part going unused. Since these define and express our basic spirituality and the very nature of our Third Order vocations, we should all be very familiar with them and read them frequently. In fact, the Rule states: "Obedience can include the renewal of your annual pledge, reporting regularly, reading of the Principles and Rule, using available opportunities to meet with other Tertiaries." Ooops...

TWO ENCLOSURES: Carole asked me to include a copy of the completed 1985 budget. The Professed only will also find a copy of the ballot for Chapter nominations - if yours is missing, please let Ann Harris know.

REPEAT OF THE LIST OF OFFICERS for your quick and ready reference:

GUARDIAN: Dee Dobson

CHAPLAIN: The Rev. Masud Syedullah

ASST. CHAPLAIN (for Area Chaplains & Fellowships): Marie Webner

MEN'S FORMATION DIRECTOR: The Rev. Alden Whitney, MD

WOMEN'S FORMATION DIRECTOR: Mary Ann Jackman

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY: Ann Harris

BURSAR: Carole Watson

CHANGES are underlined. I have specially accented Ann's name, since so many people missed the change and I am still getting a large number of address changes, Novicing and Profession records, requests for "Basics", etc. I have as much (or, to my great amazement, MORE!!!) paperwork as Formation Director, and though I love you all dearly, and love hearing from you, truly, these things should be routed directly to Ann. Forgive my not writing you individually, but self preservation is a strong instinct, and I have to set (and stick to) priorities to keep afloat in my sea of paper.

YET ANOTHER REMINDER: (What a nag!!) Please let inquirers know that the correct procedure for inquiring, requesting Postulancy, etc. is to write to: The Third Order, Society of St. Francis, P.O. Box 399, Mt. Sinai, NY 11766. This is a necessary step, since we are incorporated in New York state and that is our legal address. This also insures that they get complete information on our requirements and saves a lot of extra letters back and forth to accomplish getting the needed information before the Aspirant can become a Postulant. Thanks, loves! A blessed Lent to you all!

The Franciscans

Ann Harris, Provincial Secretary

555 Reed Drive

Davis, CA 95616

Address Correction Requested