

Editor: Mrs. Edward Webb, 4008 Buckingham Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21207

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CONVOCATION IN APRIL
Now is the time to register.

Who: All postulants, novices and professed tertiaries are invited.

When: Friday evening, April 22, through Sunday noon, April 24.

Where: Mt. Sequoyah (Methodist) Assembly (conference center) Fayetteville, Arkansas

Travel: By car, bus, or airline (Frontier Airlines or Scheduled Skyways)

Train is not practical.

Program: Fellowship with your tertiary brothers and sisters.

Br. Geoffrey, SSF, Minister General, will speak.

Accommodations:

(A) \$13.75 per person, per day. 2 or 3 persons to a room with bath.

(B) \$12.25...4 to 6 persons, sharing a bath.

(C) \$11.25...Multi-person room, bath in hall.

There will be a credit of \$2.35 if the Sunday noon meal is not wanted.

Registrar: Mrs. John (Eunice) Hamilton (501) 442-4087

Other local tertiaries:

Mrs. Warren (Carolyn) Banks, 1109 Sunset Drive, Fayetteville

Dr. Wray Wilkes, 319 Holly Street, Fayetteville

Please use the registration blank which is enclosed with this Newsletter.

R.S.V.P.

Enclosed with this mailing is a card for you. Please fill in the information and return the card promptly to the Secretary. (In Trinidad, please contact Br. Dunstan, SSF.) If you have a question, write it at the bottom. However, the most important thing is that we hear from you. We are checking our mailing list, calling the roll.

NOTE FOR PROFESSED TERTIARIES

As soon as possible - at least by March first - please send in nominations for Chapter and Guardian. An election must be held this spring. Chapter members represent you as decisions are made. Meetings are held once a year, and there is money in the budget for transportation. Between annual meetings, Chapter members are called on to vote by mail for novices requesting profession. Nominations are also needed now for the office of Guardian. The Guardian plans and calls meetings of the Chapter and Standing Committee. Please include the name of your nominee for Guardian in your list of nominees for Chapter - in case someone else is elected Guardian, and you want your person on Chapter, at least. Although you may not have met tertiaries who do not live near you, from our past Newsletters you should have some idea of those who have been active. Each professed tertiary has the right to nominate up to five professed brothers and sisters. For full details, see our Provincial Statutes.

The nomination form is enclosed as the bottom half of the Convocation registration sheet.

A PERSONAL LETTER

From Robert Goode

I have offered to write to you out of concern for my brothers and sisters, who like myself are appalled by the agonies we are being asked to endure over the question of women priests. In discussions with other Chapter members I have pointed out that our problem is many-faceted. Scriptural authority, human

sexuality, the received nature of the Faith, Catholic consensus, etc. are all involved. Our brothers and sisters represent just about all the possible positions in the Church and we continue to be a "mixed bag" as an Order. This is a time for heroic charity, communication, and a lot of time on our knees.

I still find as yet no reasonable and viable alternative to the Episcopal Church. There are already four splinter groups busily beating their own drums. Most of them seem more concerned about appearances and right-wing politics than the Gospel. None of them has the earthy, warm, embracing qualities I have come to look for in a truly Catholic atmosphere. Some of them sound Jousenist, and most of them have rather exotically derived episcopates, to say the least. The other legitimate Catholic Communion all require an assimilation of an ethnic tradition foreign to me. Having grown up in Irish Boston, I can say this also applies in some instances still to even the Roman Catholic Church.

We also have to face the fact that discontented priests who feel they can command the allegiance of 100 or more persons are often very much aware that they are likely candidates for the episcopate of a splinter church.

If you feel strongly enough, this might be a good time to reread some of the great heroes of the Oxford Movement. They operated in an atmosphere far more hostile than the present one. In addition, the clergy at least faced the possibility of civil penalties and imprisonment as well as ecclesiastical censure and deprivation. Our religious orders themselves were born into what seemed an impossible situation. And remember, our communion endured over three hundred years of prohibition of the religious life. Despite that, we still had our Little Giddings and our Nicolas Ferrars.

Those of us who are considered conservative (odd, since I am a socialist and love the new Prayer Book!) must ask ourselves how important the Franciscan life is. It is precisely that kind of life born in the spirit of the Passion and Franciscan penance which may be the means of our healing. Do not abandon it lightly.

It is true that I cannot say, as I once could, that I will live and die a priest of this Church, though I may die trying. We Franciscans have been very adaptable and undaunted. After all, did we not go to the tents of the Sultan himself? Share your agony with me, or the Guardian, or another Chapter member. I even invite you to call me collect at (219) 533-3830 if talking will help.

Let me also express to those of you who are concerned, my own feelings of confidence in the Chapter and its sense of fraternity and charity. At least in the Third Order, nobody is steamrolling anybody else.

Those of you who read this who do not find any objection in what is going on should bear in mind that the problem is real and dangerous. These are my own personal feelings and opinions, and don't represent those of any official faction.

Every strength and grace of our Franciscan training is called for in this difficult period. Let us not be found wanting.

With respect and love to all my Franciscan brothers and sisters.

Gooch+
(The Rev. Robert Goode)
Assistant Chaplain
Member of Chapter

NEW BURSAR

As of February 1, 1977 we have a new Bursar for the Third Order. Please send your checks, made out to Third Order, Society of St. Francis, to:

Mr. Richard Hohlfeld
Suite 1342
Fidelity Bank
Philadelphia, PA 19109

THE DAY OF PENITENCE

One of the earliest names for the Third Order was "An Order of Penitents". What does this mean?

- As Penitents, we must be seeking to turn to God and away from all that is against his will. We must do this primarily in our own hearts and minds. Repentance, metanoia, means a change of mind, and we need to be continually transformed by God so that we know him clearly and see things his way. Saint Paul's words may come to be true of us: "We have the mind of Christ."

- We are to be Penitents in our own situation, by our attitudes and our whole way of life, helping those around us to turn to God and away from evil. As St. Francis humbly embraced the leper, so we must seek in humility to share in the suffering of our own time. The love of God must inflame our hearts, so that in life and prayer, God's redeeming power may penetrate evil and overcome it.

The Day of Penitence is kept in the European Province on the Friday before Palm Sunday, but a different date may seem appropriate in other provinces. The Day was first kept with special concern for the needs of the unemployed during the depression of the 1930's; now it must be informed by the experiences and insights of our members around the world.

A leaflet of thoughts and prayers for Penitence will be produced each year for use on the Day of Penitence and at other times; this should help us to express our membership together in an Order of Penitents.

(This article appeared as an Appendix to the Minutes of the Third Order Inter-provincial Chapter of November 1976, and was written by the Rev. John Betton, Guardian of the Third Order, European Province.)

FELLOWSHIPS

Our life as an Order is expressed in our Fellowships, where as brothers and sisters in Christ and Saint Francis we study, work and worship together. Please send Fellowship news to Marie Webner, so that your experience in community may be shared by all members of the Third Order.

Retreats Our tertiary commitment motivates many fellowships to sponsor quiet days or retreats. Members of the New Umbrian Fellowship of San Francisco were in retreat at Bishop's Ranch in November; and Br. Mark Francis was the retreat conductor in Lexington in early December. In Spokane tertiaries sponsored a Quiet Day in December, with associates and members of other religious orders. A Preaching Mission featuring Br. Michael, SSF, was sponsored in November by Christ Church, Fitchburg, Massachusetts, and provided an occasion of enrichment for the New England Fellowship. Coming up this spring: a Quiet Day planned by the Chicago

Fellowship and to be shared with associates of other religious orders; a weekend retreat beginning March 4 at Sunglow Mission Ranch, led by Br. Robert, SSF, for tertiaries, associates and friends of the Arizona Fellowship.

Growing Pains A new Fellowship north of San Francisco (which we hope will soon find a suitable name for itself) met under the leadership of Mary Mobert at Bishop's Ranch on February 5. Overnight hospitality for members with long distances to travel homeward over mountain roads was extended by the friars. In Lexington the recognition that 12 is the ideal number of members for a fellowship is resulting in consideration of a split to form a second fellowship in the area. Florida tertiaries in Fort Lauderdale have begun to meet monthly as a sub-group of the Miami Fellowship, which meets every other month. At last report, the Trinidad Fellowship numbered one professed tertiary, one novice, and three postulants. All of us owe thanks to the New Umbrian Fellowship for the time and effort devoted to arranging for the Chapter meetings at Bishop's Ranch in November. Thanks also to the Fayetteville Fellowship for their efforts in preparing for our April Convocation.

Under Discussion The Franciscan way of life, especially as described in The Way of St. Francis, is the basis of most study and discussion in fellowships throughout the country. The Santa Clara Fellowship, south of San Francisco, has also devoted time to discussions of Eastern Orthodoxy, St. Teresa of Avila, and early documents on the Franciscan life. The Arizona Fellowship is beginning a series of studies on Franciscan saints. In Fort Lauderdale, Bishop Moore's ordination of a lesbian was the subject of group reflection.

Novicings and Professions The following Fellowships report these occasions of joy. Arizona - novicing of Esther King; ~~Minnesota~~ - novicing of Carol Lundquist; New England - novicing of Eleanor Nichols.

What do you think? Suki Miller has been meeting with a Roman Catholic Third Order Fellowship in Yuma, Arizona. This fellowship meets once a week in order better to develop a sense of community. Ken Cox, in San Bernardino, California, says his fellowship meets once every two months to avoid "pressure" feelings in its very busy members. Once a month is probably the most common meeting frequency. Opinions?

STANDING COMMITTEE

The committee met via conference telephone call on January 25. The members discussed the Convocation, the renewal cards to be sent out, and the election of Chapter and Guardian which is to take place this spring.

The new Bursar, Richard Hohlfeld, was announced. Kale King reported receiving 93 pledges for 1977, or \$4730. That will not cover our proposed budget of \$7100. However, in 1976 there were 57 people who contributed without pledging. Although we did not meet our 1976 budget, the income did just barely take care of actual expenses.

Br. Mark Francis has written a Paper to be mailed to everyone before the Convocation, for study and discussion. John Scott has talked to Br. Dunstan, SSF, who is in charge of tertiaries in Trinidad. They are taking care of their own expenses, and may even have something to contribute to the Third Order treasury.

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Standing Committee, continued

By official vote of Chapter, we concur with the ratification of the S.S.F. Constitution (international). It can now become part of our official documents.

We have had inquiries from two Lutherans who are interested in becoming part of the Third Order. Preliminary approval has been granted by our Bishop Protector.

A number of tertiaries are wrestling with the problem created by the decision of General Convention. Robert Goode, Assistant Chaplain, has been in touch with several of them, and has a keen perception of the overall situation.

PERSONAL NEWS

We rejoice in the professions of the following:

Pat Mahon - October 14

The Rev. Jeremiah Williams - October 4

Caroline Moran - January 6

The Rev. Robert Brandt took part in a production of "A Man for All Seasons" in January at St. Ann's Church in Sayville, New York, and his picture appeared with others in a local newspaper.

Wayne Conboy, of Ontario, is now trying his vocation with the Society of St. John the Evangelist in Bracebridge, Canada. However, he still welcomes news of our Third Order. Mrs. Ward (Lee) Malloy has moved with her husband and family to Kiel, Wisconsin, and will be missed as former Co-Convenor of her area's fellowship.

Joseph McCoy, of Memphis, Tennessee, reported that the St. Joan of Arc Fraternity of the Roman Catholic Third Order of St. Francis, in which he took an active part, has had to disband because they were unable to find a spiritual director. Fr. David Burt is leaving the Rectorship of the Church in Clinton, Mass. and asks for prayers as he and his family ask God for a new direction and a new call to ministry. His home address continues to be: Partridge Hill Road, Harvard, Mass. 01451.

LIBRARY

So much material has come in, with more expected, that the new listing of books will have to be included in the next mailing, along with mention of some of that other material. Meanwhile, we can mention the following, which are available through our Librarian, Mrs. Lawrence Mahon (Pat), 1990 S.E. Mulberry Avenue, Portland, OR 97214. (In fact, she has recently had serious surgery, and her husband has graciously agreed to "hold the fort" until she can take over again. Please remember Pat in your prayers.) The Little Brothers of St. Francis, Mission Hill, Mass. sent a brochure and their first Newsletter, January 1977. Hat Rock Valley Retreat Center Message No. 22 from Father Liebler and Companions dated December 1976, includes the news: "No new pastor having appeared on the horizon, Father Liebler is carrying on." National Franciscans Communications Conference Newsletter, Winter 1976 mentions tips for news releases, among other things. Prayers are requested for Fr. Roy Gasnick, President, who recently suffered a heart attack. "Good News from Naramata Centre" in British Columbia (Nov. 1976) sketched activities planned for summer 1977 with a variety of educational opportunities. The Society of St. Francis and CLUSTER staff have a brochure describing the project which our SSF novices are working with in Yonkers, New York.

Some people have asked, "What is a Spiritual Director?" The following definitions were published by The Bishop's Prayer Commission, Diocese of California. The third category, Spiritual Guide, is the sort of person we mean by Spiritual Director (rather than the other two types).

Spiritual Companion - The key concept of a spiritual companion is sharing. The spiritual companion shares his or her own spiritual pilgrimage while hearing the story of others. Successes, failures, frustrations, puzzlements, and feelings are exchanged. Advice may be given and received. Encouragement and understanding are offered.

Spiritual Teacher - Knowledge. The key concept of a spiritual teacher is the imparting of knowledge. The spiritual teacher is knowledgeable in one or more of the following areas: ascetical theology, prayer techniques, devotional literature, writings of great mystics, lives of the saints, traditional and modern Christian devotional techniques, non-Christian devotional techniques which may be used in a Christian framework, theology of prayer, a variety of psychological schools and techniques which relate to prayer. Spiritual teachers may or may not be on their own spiritual pilgrimages, but they must be able to teach effectively one or more of these subjects to individuals or to groups. They may or may not choose to share their own pilgrimages.

SPIRITUAL GUIDE - DIRECTION. The key concept of a spiritual guide is individual direction. Spiritual guides have at least some knowledge in all of the areas detailed under spiritual teacher, and they apply this knowledge to the "formation" of the souls they guide. Spiritual guides should be on their own pilgrimages and under guidance themselves. They must have a relative lack of ego-involvement and be able to guide others on paths and in techniques which are not part of their own pilgrimages. When appropriate, they share their own insights and experiences. They may or may not be confessors to the persons they guide. Their basic approach is to meet regularly with the persons they are guiding, in order to hear accounts of spiritual discipline and progress, and to make additions, deletions, and adjustments in the rule of life which those persons under direction have assumed. Spiritual guides may function as consultants, giving advice and discussion suggestions with the persons they are guiding. By agreement, they may have authority over the persons they guide.

Friday, April 22 - Sunday noon, April 24 1977.

We have a reservation at the Mount Sequoyah Assembly center,
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Carolyn Banks, of the Fayetteville Fellowship, wrote a letter in August, asking what would be expected of them, along with some suggested possibilities.

She also reported that the local Associates would like to have a meeting concurrent with the Third Order Convocation, and that they have specific ideas about more organization among the Associates. Brother Luke, Provincial Minister, wrote to her on August 17, and his reply was read to Chapter - defining the role of Associates as individuals. Br. Isaac, Secretary of the Associates, was present for this part of the discussion, and was in agreement. He plans to send a general mailing soon, and will mention the invitation to participate in an Associates' meeting, and inclusion in part of the Third Order gathering. We offer to share our resource persons for whatever study sessions the Associates might carry out simultaneously. A full reply to Carolyn's letter was written and approved by Chapter, also mentioning a Sunday service at St. Paul's Parish, and hospitality.

The Convocation is to feature education on what the Third Order is, how it differs from the Associates, and on Commitment. Speakers will include Brother Geoffrey, Minister General, and Br. Mark Francis.

Kale King requested that a cassette recording be made at the Convocation which can be copied and shared. John Scott is to appoint a Fayetteville arrangements committee.

THIRD ORDER COMMUNITY LIVING

The Portland inquiry was resolved. Some tertiaries have been seriously considering community living, some planning early retirement. One present example of community living is that of Lloyd and Lou Gebhart, who are working with the Friars at Bishop's Ranch, and living in their camper on the Ranch property while a house is being built for them.

In England groups of tertiaries have planned vacations together. Fr. Metcalf, a Third Order novice, has some property about 20 miles east of Minneapolis suitable for a retreat center, and invites tertiaries to spend a vacation there together. If anyone is interested, write to him for details.

It was pointed out that there are difficulties in community living on a permanent basis, and a strong vocation is necessary especially when whole families are involved.

INTERPROVINCIAL CHAPTER

Delegates elected at today's meeting of our Chapter are John Scott and Dee Dobson. (It would have been helpful to elect these earlier.) We appreciated having the African and English delegates with us for our Chapter; they added a valuable dimension. In considering the items on the Interprovincial Agenda, those we particularly noted and discussed are as follows.

The Manual Ours is spread out in three books: - the Statutes, the Way of Saint Francis (purple book), and the Calendar and Devotions.

Forms of Profession We desire a common, world-wide statement of profession within the provincial, varied services of profession. At present, the European Province distinguishes between "vow" and "pledge".

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INTERPROVINCIAL CHAPTER (continued)

Calendar. A short list of interprovincial feast days would be good.

Day of Penitence It is a logical observance for us as an "order of penitents" but the manner of doing it or the need for a particular day sparked much discussion. The consensus was that we are willing to go along with the decision of the Interprovincial Chapter.

Third Order for the Third World This was felt to be the most important item on the agenda. We could help to supply the need for printed material and books. Zambia would especially appreciate this. We might consider setting aside some money in our budget.

Third Order Chronicle This is actually the newsletter of the European Province. It is possible to have individual subscriptions.

OTHER

All the Chapter members traveled to San Francisco by plane, and most of them gathered at the Ranch on Thursday evening, November 4th, with a brief stop at either San Damiano Friary or the Sisters' St. Francis House in San Francisco.

Business sessions of Chapter were held mornings and afternoons, Friday and Saturday, with a Sunday morning session. Each was opened with prayer.

On Saturday at the 2 p.m. Holy Eucharist, The Rev. Lloyd Gebhart and his wife Lou took part in a Service of New Ministry, marking their decision to become part of the staff of the Ranch; and they were accepted as Third Order postulants.

Most mornings, John Scott and Richard Scott cooked breakfast. One evening, Dee Dobson cooked supper. Other tertiaries helped generally with table setting, clearing, and some dish washing.

All were welcome to participate in the regular daily worship services: Morning and Evening Prayer, Holy Eucharist, Noonday Office, and Compline. Brother Mark Francis and Fr. John Scott were among the Celebrants of the Eucharist. Helen Webb played the organ for hymns.

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

Friday, November 4 and Saturday, November 5, 1977 (plan to arrive Thursday night). Place - Little Portion Friary, Mt. Sinai, New York.