

AUSTIN FELLOWSHIP:

Dee Dobson, Third Order Guardian, visited the Austin Fellowship for their January meeting. The program was a discussion of "Some Ways of Looking at Love," led by The Rev. Dutch Stolz of St. David's, Austin. In February, they met for fun and fellowship and a potluck lunch and Morning Prayer.

In March, they met at the home of Trebor and Betty Morris in Canyon Lake for Eucharist, potluck, and a program presented by The Rev. Tom Bradfield.



meeting

THE LAND OF THE SKY FELLOWSHIP, Diocese of Western North Carolina

held a wonderful Christmas party at the home of Heber and Edith Peacock. The highlight of the day was their theatrical production based on the first creche at Greccio, which dramatized the love that Francis had for Jesus. Carole reported that "...the most fun was being caught up in the reality that the reenactment made present."

In January, they met at Grace Church, Asheville for a program on humility, led by Cleaves Johnson. An added treat was a workshop led by Mary Cosby of Church of the Savior, Washington DC.

Their February was an Information Day, held at Grace Church. It was well attended, and began with Morning Prayer and a film, Troubador of God's Peace. Afterward, there was information given about the Third Order and other orders founded by Francis, with time for questions. The inquirers also stayed for the meeting of the group.

In March, the meeting featured an unusual meditation on Bonsai trees -- the tiny, graceful trees cultivated by the Japanese. Fr. Larry, who raises these trees, shared thoughts comparing their development to the spiritual life.

The annual Fellowship Retreat was held in April at In-The-Oaks at Black Mountain, NC. Betty Hayward was retreat leader.



NOTICE: The eighth Northeast Conference at Graymoor, Garrison, NY will be held August 26-28, 1988. Contact Jane Ellen Traugott and the Long Island Fellowship for more information. Costs are: \$20, registration. Room & meals additional: \$75 double, \$85 single. Scholarship assistance is available; write Bob Teudesman, Little Portion, Box 399, Mt. Sinai, NY 11766.

FROM SEATTLE:

St. Clare Fellowship happenings in 1987 and January 1988:



We held our January meeting in conjunction with a seminar on meditation open to the public at Gloria Goller's church, St. Barnabas, on Bainbridge Island. Fr. John Gorsuch, the seminar leader, began by asking each person to share where he/she was in his/her practice of meditation. Then followed three sessions. During the first session Fr. Gorsuch asked each of us to discern in his life the current issues, the voices, the deepest desires, and the will of God. He said that a person's deepest desires and the will of God are congruent. During the second session Fr. Gorsuch focussed on being finely tuned to God, the Presence, the Now, as Christ is tuned to and at one with God and to go with the Direction. Following time for lunch he shared with us what it is to be at one with the essence of prayer, through centering in God. At the conclusion of the seminar Fr. David Heany, rector of St. Barnabas, celebrated the Holy Eucharist during which Gloria received Ella Maria as a novice.

Gloria, Ella Maria, Dale, and I attended the Western Convocation at the Bishop's Ranch. As usual the convocation was super. We experienced a real sense of family.

During our Francistide celebration at the end of September we had the pleasure of receiving Nicole Herron as an Associate. It was wonderful to be able to include a Franciscan Associate.

Gloria Goller has opened St. Francis Center, Inc., as an ecumenical center for spiritual growth. Besides the daily cycle of prayer Gloria and her fellow staff members offer a study program, counselling, and spiritual direction.

We are enjoying the fellowship of two new people, Fr. Kenneth Shepard, a fellow TSSFer who comes from Sidney, Nebraska, and Steve Best, an inquirer.

On January 16th., 1988, I made my life profession at a Service of Holy Eucharist which followed the general meeting held at my church, St. Paul's, in Bellingham, WA. Fr. Harold K. Lawrence, my spiritual director, concelebrated the Eucharist with Fr. John F. Walker and Fr. Ronald K. Reddell. Fr. Walker inspired everyone with his sermon on the way of perfection, the way one travels, through Christ and Francis, until one knows him-/herself as God knows Himself. I experienced the joy of professing life; that was what everyone in the Fellowship and family and several friends were doing that day! Thank you, TSSF. After the Service everyone went into the church library for tea.

Blessings in Christ and Francis,

Converset

THE DALLAS FELLOWSHIP is breathing new life
The Rev. Loyd Morris is convenor. They met
with Dee Dobson in January for dinner at the
Dallas Fort Worth Airport In March they met

Dallas-Fort Worth Airport. In March. they met for a Quiet Day with Sister Gabriel, C.H.S. in Plano, Texas. Mary Beth Alban was Noviced at their February meeting. They plan to meet in May and have a program on prayer. They're considering a new name that would be non-geographic, since the members come from many cities in the area.

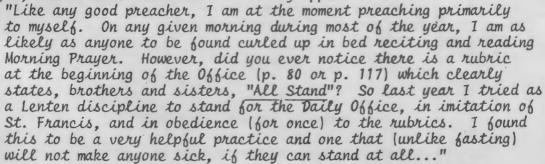


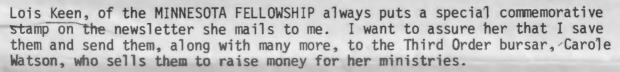
THE MUSTARDSEED FELLOWSHIP of Upstate New York dedicated their Lenten issue to the subject of prayer. Members sent in contributions on this theme. They invited the Juniper Fellowship in Massachusetts to join with them on a retreat. Although the group was not able to do that, a new closeness has developed between the two groups, and they are exchanging newsletters.

The Mustard Seed Fellowship retreat will be held at the Diocese of Albany facilities at Brant Lake, NY May 5-7. Brother Dunstan, SSF of Wayside Hermitage, Mount Sinai, NY will be retreatmaster.

In the newsletter, Kathy Eichwort wrote about the importance of the body in

prayer, and included this idea which may appeal to others:





Their January meeting had to be cancelled because of bad weather. They made up for it, however, in February when Brother Robert Hugh met with them at the Episcopal Church Home. At their March meeting, they discussed <u>Lent</u>, <u>Past</u> and Present.

A retreat is planned for May 20-22 at Mount Olivet Retreat Center, Farmington, Minnesota. David Burgdorf will be retreat director.

Barbara Leonard was noviced at their April meeting. The program consisted of discussion of an issue of Franciscan magazine, and thoughts were shared on favorite articles, poems, etc. "What appealed to us and why."





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For nearly a year, THE LONG ISLAND FELLOWSHIP has been experimenting with shared leadership in the form of a program committee. The committee consists of three people, professed and novices. Every three months, they rotate one person. This gives both continuity and variety. Jane Ellen Traugott, who reported this to us, admitted that the process is actually more informal than it sounds here. "When it's time to choose a new member, we all sit around and look at each other until someone weakens and agrees to serve." She adds: "The committee sets the dates, places and programs of our meetings. The convenors sends out the notices and takes care of other details." The group likes this system because it gives a great variety of style and content to their meetings, and gives everyone a chance to contribute to the life of the Fellowship.

They met in March at St. Joseph's House, Little Portion for Eucharist, pot luck supper, and quiet time. They shared their meal with the Brothers.

WHITE HYACINTHS

During winter's drab bedraggled days Shuffling onward clad in sullen grays, Lovely treasure in my garden lies Now hidden deep.

Later, April, gay light-hearted flirt Swirls the snowflakes from her tattered skirt; Patches it with blooming crocuses; Then tints it green.

Crowns her hair with golden daffodils; O'er her lap my hidden treasure spills --There! She's found the shawl embroidered with White hyacinths!

Nina L. Andrews



BROTHER JUNIPER FELLOWSHIP

This fellowship has been meeting quarterly. Their January meeting began at 10 a.m. and ended at 3 and they enjoyed a meal together at noon. The weather was "a lovely winter day" and there was a lot of good discussion and sharing. John Russo is now a Postulant, and so is Ann Mancini. Michael DePetrillo will be noviced soon. Their fellowship is goowing.

They're planning a retreat for June 10-11, but did not have a place chosen at the time of their February newsletter.

NINA ANDREWS, whose lovely poem appears above, and who has had many other poems printed, in this and other publications, was pictured on the cover of the winter issue of Holy Cross magazine. The article that accompanied the photograph appears at the right...

Nina is also a member of the Third Order.



Faithful CCL member Nina Andrews' association with the Order of the Holy Cross began when she undertook the Rule of The Servants of Christ the King, then under the direction of Fr. Bonnell Spencer, OHC.

At the age of 30, the maximum age for membership in The Servants of Christ the King, Nina transferred her affiliation to the Confraternity of the Christian Life.

Nina cheerfully carries on her energetic missionary work as a resident volunteer at The Nursing Care Center of Bristol, Conn., where she helps other residents pursue their hobbies, lovingly prepares welcoming cards for newly arrived residents, sells plants she has grown for the Garden Fund and raises money for the Piggy Fund, a fund which is distributed annually to a family or person outside the care center.

She regularly attends services and activities at her parish church, Trinity in Bristol.

This poem was written by Adrienne Dillon, TSSF of Boston, Massachusetts, and appeared in her parish's literary magazine last summer. We thank her for sharing it with us...

EASTER ENCOUNTER

Another year has passed.
Again we come
to worship God,
Incarnate, crucified,
Risen, glorified.
Fulfilling His divine mission
with human agony and divine grace.
The Sinless One has suffered,
and we are worthy to feast
at the supper of the Lamb.

Gazing at the face of Death, we see Life. In Christ, mortality is wed to infinity, sin embraces perfection, time is joined to eternity.



Heaven and all worlds are filled with His glory. The stars dance, and the community of saints takes up the song.

Holy, holy, holy is the God of hosts. Holy is the Breath of Life. Holy is the Anointed.

Through His death we die to fear, corruption and violence. With Him we rise to the freshness of buds and dew.

All of God's people are freed to know themselves as Christ's own for whose sake the cup did not pass. God's will is done on Earth as in Heaven.

We are delivered eternally from the bondage of futility and despair. The Anointed is glorified, and the Spirit dwells in us.

In the breaking of bread we are united to glimpse eternal beauty through darkened glass.



Allehia · Allehia · Allehia

(over, please)

- Continued from pg. 5 -

The years pass.
Purified by the very struggle of life,
we join the Eternal
through the Incarnate and Risen Way,
to see the Truth at last unveiled.
We are all together in Eternity,
never again to part.

Alleluia! sing the saints gathered from all lands and peoples.

Alleluia! replies the choir of angels.

The universe resounds, Alleluia! without end.



A new commandment I give you: for one another as I have loved you

THE CHI-RHO COMMUNICATOR is the information sheet for the Chi-Rho Fellowship. They met in January for Eucharist, a light collation, and a program presented by Dean Fiske of Seabury-Western Seminary. A brown-bag lunch followed.

In February, they enjoyed a quiet day conducted by The Rt. Rev. Frank Griswold. The topic was "The Canticle of Brother Sun and the Experience of Grace." The day began with Eucharist, and there was a lunch of soup and bread provided.

In March, Hattie Cockshoot presented the program on "Listening." THE MIDWEST CONVOCATION will take place at Saint Francis Retreat House, Oakbrook, Illinois...June 3-5.



A BEAUTIFUL NEWSLETTER done by John La Boone arrived not long ago, from the GEORGIA FELLOWSHIP. John has been a postulant for six months (longer than that, by now). Liz Peacock is taking a leave of absence from the Third Order to enter a time of re-evaluation.

There was a Franciscan Quarterly Meeting in March at the Stella Maris Catholic Worker House in Savannah.. The program included a video on Mother Teresa of Calcutta, a Lenten meditation, and a discussion of how we live out St. Francis's principles of love, joy, and humilty.

John LaBoone and his wife Frances organized a special service which was used on the Feast of the Holy Innocents at Holy Nativity Church, on St. Simon's Island. This service was a memorial for the victims of child abuse. The service was open to the public, and a reception followed where professional in the field helped iterested people find way that they could help. The La Boones and their priest, The Rev. Grant LeRoux, hope that this will become an annual event, and that other churches will consider doing something similar. John and Frances are volunteer workers with the children of those in the Parents Anonymous program.

This decoration is from the Georgia Fellowship Newsletter.

SOUTH-EAST FLORIDA FELLOWSHIP

Our S.E. Florida, Miami area, Fellowship meeting was held on 15 'Feb. (President's Day), at 12 noon, at the home of our Convenor, Fr. Sam Hale, and his wife Jessie, oceanside in the Florida Keys (Plantation Key). In attendance were: Dee Dobson (Minister Provincial), the Rev. Louise Baker (newly ordained to the Deaconate), Betty Melfa, Anna Pruett, Fr. Hale, Diane Darrah and Elaine Schofield; our guests were: our Bishop the Rt. Rev. Calvin Schofield and Br. Dunstan (1st Order Br. from Winter Park, Fl.) and on their best behavior were Anna's two young son's. After a poolside gathering, with delightful snacks and chit-chat, we moved to the dining room for a lovely luncheon provided by Jessie and which we all enjoyed. After our meal, during which we all traded stories and anecdotes, including the changing of the oil at the Cathedral, we all wrote a line or two on notes to be sent to two who are ill. We moved out under the palm trees, where we had a discussion on "Centering Prayer", led by Fr. Hale (he teaches this at The School for Ministry) and to begin you need a comfortable chair and a quiet place. It is done with the use of a sacred word (not a mantra) to help you let go, and it gets to the roots, transforms and heals through Grace. We thank Fr. Hale for these pointers to assist us in our spiritual growth. We also discussed current and future business, including the coming profession of Louise, and the Novicing of Anna. "The Journey of the Heart" was recommended as a retreat "not to miss", on 24 June, with Br. Robert Hugh in charge. Louise passed out questionaires to be given to the elderly and filled in and returned to her, to help her to complete her requirements for her Doctorate. Br. Dunstan gave us an interesting review of his life and whereabouts as a Br., from Fl. in the 50's, to England and Assisi in the 60's and Rome and back to Fl. 69-70 and Miami and Trinidad in '74, N.Y., and Gyanna, visited by Dee while he was there. We enjoyed hearing Br. Dunstan relate these most interesting details of his life, which continues on at Winter Park, an area showing tremendous growth. We went inside and we did Evening Prayer. We decided to have our next meeting on 8 April, a potluck supper, at Dee's house at 6:00P.M. We adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Submitted by Diane C. Darrah 25 Feb. 1988



(Diane also said that she would send some of her poetry for <u>The Times</u>. She hasn't done it yet, but I'm hoping that she will.)



LILY PATTER, from the Lilies of the Field Fellowship, reports that the group met with Brother Robert Hugh, SSF, who was serving as Colorado's Lenten Missioner. The meeting was February 13 at the home of Fr. Allen and Mary Lou Hall. They began with a lunch of homemade minestrone soup, along with french bread, and homemade goodies for dessert. They had a brief meeting and then enjoyed listening to Brother Robert recount his exploits since he left office as Minister Provincial. To close the meeting. Brother Robert celebrated Mass.



THE SACRAMENTO FELLOWSHIP (California) has been increasing in numbers and activity over the past year, reports Sandy Shontz. After an article in the Diocese of Northern California newspaper, The Missionary, responses came from interest people in San Franciscan, Eureka, Nevada, Santa Rosa and of course Sacramento and Davis. Fr. John Brownfield and Shirley Smith are new postulants. Sandy, who is the convenor, and Fr. Deane Kennedy renewed their vows at a recent meeting.

The professed, postulants and other interested in the Third Order attend monthly meetings in the homes of members. The meetings include Eucharist, fellowship, and study. The study over the past several months has focused on each aspect of the vows.

A retreat was led in December by Sister Cecelia, CSF, providing the gentle humor and deepening of the spirit so characteristic of her message of Christ and Francis.

The membership was saddened by the death of Fr. Robert Affleck January 12, following a prolonger illness. His clear and powerful support for the group will be missed. He insisted that we be active and intentional. As one member said, "...though I never met him, I continue to feel his love and support."

Future plans include meetings with Roman Catholic Seculars and group study

through the tapes of Fr. Stephen Doyle, OFM.

NEW UMBRIAN FELLOWSHIP

Bonita Palmer was professed at their January meeting. Following her profession, the group celebrated with an Epiphany party.

In February they had a family meeting at the Sister's House in San Francisco. They had a potluck supper and then a meeting, followed by Taize prayer. In March, eight members enjoyed a restful retreat weekend at St. Michael's Wagontree Ranch.

An April 9 meeting at Mary Ann Jackman's home was an Open Meeting. The May meeting will be a family meeting.

WESTERN CONVOCATION -- "FUN IN THE SUN WITH FRANCIS" -- AUGUST 12-14 AT THE BISHOP'S RANCH. Leaders will be Mary Ann Jackman, Ann Harris, and Masud Syedullah.

ST. MARY'S OF THE ANGELS -- ARIZONA FELLOWSHIP enjoyed a silent Lenten retreat, February 26-28. This retreat was conducted by The Rev. Masud Syedullah, and was held at Picture Rocks Retreat Center, near Tucson.

BOOK REVIEW:



Old Testament Message: A Biblical-Theological Commentary
Vol. 20; Wisdom and Song of Songs by James Reese O.S.F.S. (\$8.95, paper)

Vols. 21 & 22; The Psalms by Carroll Stuhlmueller (\$9.95 & \$8.95) (Published by Michael Glazier, Inc. 1723 Delaware Ave., Wilmington, Delaware 19806)

This series, admirably conceived and splendidly executed, brings the life and faith of the Old Testament into our lives. The commentaries are characterised by a breadth of approach, spiritual insight as well as critical acumen, and a devotional concern. An international team of Roman Catholic scholars is responsible for them. The volumes I have sampled display an impressive ability to communicate great truths simply and in a way which relates to our times. These qualities are achieved without sacrificing learning or integrity.

I have found these commentaries refreshing and helpful.

+John-Charles, SSF

TWO TERTIARIES had an opportunity to meet when the Times editor flew to Portland, Oregon to the regional meeting of Readers of the General Ordination Examinations. She was met at the airport after a rather unsettling flight in a series of snow storms by The Rev. Lindsay Warren and his wife Mary. We went to breakfast at a pancake house and had a great time, and then the Warrens delivered me to the Loyola Retreat House where the GOE meeting took place. This is the second year we've done that. After three times, it becomes a Tradition -- isn't that right? -- And we can say "We've always done it this way."



-- joanne maynard



N A RECENT NEWSLETTER from the Tennessee Fellowship, a new name is featured: The Portiuncula Messenger. They met in December with the Land of the Sky Fellowship in Asheville, NC. And to quote from their newsletter -- "The food was great, the blessing were more than could be counted, but the highlight of the day was the re-enactment of St. Francis' making the first nativity commemoration at Greccio."

In January, they met at the home of Father Boulet. They discussed Henri Nouwen's book <u>Out of Solitude</u>. Also of note is the fact that local members of the Third Order at St. Timothy's, Kingsport, along with The local chapter of Daughters of the King, sponsored a Quiet Day during Advent. Now, this is a <u>small</u> group (2 people) -- or this might be a suggestion that other small groups could follow.

Some of the members went to Asheville and enjoyed their "Information Day." (See an earlier entry in <u>The Times.</u>) They hope to put together an information booth for the diocesan convention in East Tennessee.

In April they met at Fr. Boulet's to learn about Thomas Aquinas.

ST. FRANCIS HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY -- Orlando, Florida

A newspaper was received from this ministry. Listed in "The Community" is Karl Welsher, TSSF. This is a Catholic Worker Community. their Statement of Purpose says that they seek "to provide basic housing and shelter needs to people who do not have access to their own personal housing facilities ... to provide nutritional meals and instruction in purchasing and preparation of nutritional basics; and to provide an atmosphere that fosters respect of self, responsible home life practices, and personal economics; and to provide basic support services in aiding such people to obtain the necessary financial support to reintegrate into the larger community (i.e. help them seek gainful employment and/or seek public assistance).

Looking through the paper, I see that Karl "runs his church's hunger ministry and worked up until its closing as the shelter assistant at the Methodist shelter.'

MARJORY REESON kindly mailed a letter for "Guapa Receson (now 5 years old) our South American Franciscan feline." Although a cat is certainly capable of writing a letter, I'm sure, she is not able to slide the letter into the slot of the mail box. And so we are grateful to Marjory for helping with the posting of this missive:

It is a long time since I last wrote to my Franciscan friends, but today I want to share with you all our grief at the loss of Maggie, beloved Trinity Parish cat. The news reached us today, five months later, but it is not too late to share with you my pleasure and joy that a fellow cat achieved the distinction of being on the cover of Trinity News, with the following obituary inside: "Maggie's memory will be cherished because she conveyed the joy intended in God's creation." Congratulations, Trinity Church, on being so appretiative of my sister cats in the U.S.A., and Greetings to Franciscans everywhere.

(Signed) Guapa Reeson, Medellin, Colombia, S.A.

MAYBE EVERYONE HAS ALREADY HEARD

Operation Phoenix. This is the title the Poor Clares have given to their new development program. Women aspiring to a like of silence and enclosure will come together this summer for an introduction to this form of the Religious Life. Those who stay on, after a period of time as Postulants, will be received as Novices and sent to the Clare Sisters in England in the spring of 1989. After two years of formation there, they will return to build up a new Community in the U.S.A. Once spiritual growth is under way, Operation Phoenix will proceed with the building of a new convent on the top of Maryhill, overlooking beautiful Mount Sinai Harbor and Long Island Sound. They ask your prayers that they may seek only Our Lord's way as Please pray for anna marie. a teenage with complications from chicken pox. they step out in faith.



FROM A DECEMBER LETTER TO THE THIRD ORDER SECRETARY:

Dear Ann

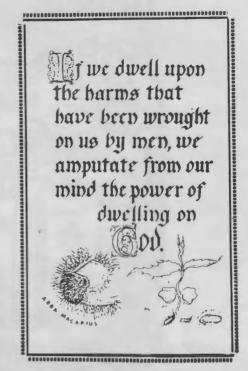
Best Christmas wishes and greetings to all Tertiaries in USA from us all over here. We all seem to have got much closer together after the IPTOC. It was lovely meeting Dee, and I also saw Sr. Cecilia briefly, -- it is some time since I saw her, but managed to get a brief glimpse by acting as chauffeur at one point.

Bob Pope has now officially become our "Provincial Minister" -- following the practice you started. (Our Regional Chairmen have become Regional Guardians -- corresponding to First

Order Practice here).

With my love, Gwen Mosop 8 Castleton Close Banstead, Swrrey





BOOK REVIEW:

A Cry of Absence: Reflections for the Winter of the Heart by Martin E. Marty Illustrated by Susan Teumer Marty (Harper and Row, \$11.95)

Awareness of the "absence" of God is one of the most disturbing of all spiritual experiences. Yet, rather than a time of despair, it can become a season of hope and rebirth. In the crises of life which so often bring desolation, there is the opportunity of finding one's true self and a fresh meaning for life.

Dr. Marty, associate editor of <u>The Christian Century</u> and Professor of the History of Modern Christianity at the <u>University</u> of Chicago, is one of the most distinguished Christian interpreters in America.

He guides us in this book with the help of the Paslter and a wide range of authors to discern the presence of God in the midst of life's darkness. Read slowly and reflectively, the solid meat of his writing will lead to deeper prayer. He has no shallow optimism, no saccharine prescriptions. Rather, there is a profound grasp of the reality of the Christian hope.

He shares his own journey and reflections and deals clearly with the final questions of death and what follows. Priests and pastors will find help here for their own particular dark nights of the soul, and insights to help others in their "encircling gloom." Winter is followed by a thaw, and life's blackest moments can, if we follow Marty's suggestions, be the harbingers of dawn. For those who have found meditation and reflective prayer difficult, this book could give a new impetus to begin again.

BARTIMAEUS

The story of Bartimaeus, in Mark 10:46-52, is my favorite Gospel story. I once read a poem about this miracle, told from the point of view of Timaeus, the father. "At least he made ends meet as a beggar... What's he going to do now?"

I guess that's what they call a "mixed blessing." In the movie, The Life of Brian, a healthy young man pleads, "Alms for a former leper!" He had been healed, but hadn't taken on any responsibility for his new life.

The formation of market

- 11 -

+John-Charles, SSF

Maybe that's how all of God's blessings are. Every blessing carries with it an obligation. What do you consider to be your blessings? What obligations go along with these blessings? If I am blessed with good health and energy, how might I use these to God's glory? If I am blessed with sight, how might I help someone who cannot see? If I am blessed with family, food, goods . . . how might I share these with others.

Remember Bartimaeus. Saying "Thank you, God" is just the first step.



THE THIRD ORDER, SOCIETY OF ST. FRANCIS P.O. BOX 1513 DAVIS, CA 95617 For birds with broken wings, For rabbits caught in springs, For poor bewildered foxes And butterflies in boxes Hear us, we beseech Thee.

For dogs without a home, For cats "that walk alone", For horses worn and old For sheep without a fold Hear us, we beseech Thee.

For all those weak and lowly
Depending on man solely
By all we hold most holy
Hear us, we beseech Thee.

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Joan Powers 806 E Dakota Street Milwaukee WI 53207

SHARING NEWS OF OUR THIRD ORDER COMMUNITY