



# The Franciscan Times

*A Publication of the Third Order  
Society of St. Francis  
Province of the Americas*

*Pace e bene*

**Advent 2023**

## Newly Elected Minister Provincial: Some Thoughts About My Life

*By Charlie McCarron*

**W**hile I was a student in Richard Rohr's Living School program, I encountered Bede Griffiths for the first time. I had heard about

him, but had never read any of his stuff. He was an English Roman Catholic Benedictine who set out for India and ended up as the head of a Christian ashram, which had been started at about the same time as our own Christa Seva Sangha. It's still thriving, due in no small part to Bede's writings and those of his predecessors at the ashram. When he wrote his memoir, he entitled it the *Golden String*. Bede's title meant that through all the many twists and turns and transitions in his life he could look back and see a Golden String which ran through it. Sometimes he had consciously followed it, and sometimes he did not. Boy, does that resonate with me! So, I've often borrowed his metaphor in thinking about my own twisty/"turny" life, realizing, in hindsight, I've always followed the same Golden String.

I grew up as an only child, born to older Scottish immigrant parents in a very Irish neighborhood in the Bronx. This November, I'll turn 68. My parents and I lived in a sort of mini-Scottish ghetto on a street that many Scots had moved

to, drawn by the word of mouth of other Scottish immigrants.

### How I Became Charles-Francis



Well, here's one of the crazy moments in my story. When my mother was eight months pregnant with me, a group of Graymoor friars came to preach a parish mission, that is, the Roman Catholic version of a revival. The Scottish friar who heard my mother's accent recognized it and asked to meet my father as well. My father, it turned out, remembered this friar from his youth, seeing him as an exhibition dancer in Glasgow in his days before his vocation as a friar. The friar asked my parents if the baby was a boy, would they name him Anthony or Francis. Since my father disliked the American custom of "Junior" or numerals after the name, he said he'd give me a middle name. And so, in the family I've always been Charles-Francis.

Anthony got his turn when I was assigned to write a master's thesis on his life and theology many years later!

As a little Catholic boy, Charles Borromeo wasn't a very kid-friendly subject for the then popular "saints for boys" books, so I always got Francis

*cont. on page 4*



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is a publication  
of the Third Order  
Society of Saint Francis  
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## Table of Contents

The Franciscan Times, Advent 2023

*Go directly to each article by clicking on it.*

### TSSF Leadership Changes

Newly Elected Minister Provincial Charlie McCarron: Thoughts  
about My Life.....1

#### *Reflections of Outgoing Co-Acting Ministers Provincial of Our Province*

Reflections, *by Ken Norian*.....5

Reflecting on Seven Years of Service to the Third Order, *by  
Peter Stube*.....6

#### *A New Minister General from South Africa*

Michael Twum-Darko Elected New Minister General of  
TSSF, *by R. John Brockmann*.....8

Address to Chapter Members in St. Louis, *by Rev. Prof.  
Michael Twum-Darko, Minister General*.....9

### News from the Province

Tercer Retiro Anual de TSSF en Guantánamo, Cuba (Third  
Annual TSSF Retreat in Guantanamo, Cuba) in Spanish and  
English, *by Luiz Sirtoli and Victoria Tester*.....10

TSSF and the *Pace e Bene* Nonviolence Service, *by Jim Crosby*....12

112 Years of Movies About Saint Francis: From the Silents to  
TV Miniseries (1911-2023): A Franciscan Times Serialization, *by  
R. John Brockmann*.....14

### Milestones

#### *Welcome the Newly Professed*

Shawn Cady.....15

David Galloway.....15

Keith Oglesby.....16

*cont. on page 3*

# Table of Contents, *cont.*

## *Newly Professed, cont.*

Gloria Trevino.....	16
Debra Vela.....	17

## *Rest in Peace*

Helen Parker, <i>Professed 36 Years</i> .....	17
Nancy Kangas, <i>Professed 33 Years</i> .....	18
Luis Guillermo Rivera, <i>Professed 18 Years</i> .....	20
Phoenix O'Faery, <i>Professed Posthumously</i> .....	21

## **Poetry**

Three Prayer Poems, <i>by Victoria Tester</i> .....	24
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## **Addenda**

Western Convocation: Creativity and the Creator.....	26
Wishing Godspeed to a Franciscan Times "Revolutionary," <i>by R. John Brockmann</i> .....	27

A special *thank you* to  
**James Alexander**  
for his assistance  
on the editorial board  
for the past 13 issues.

*McCarron, continued from page 1*

books. Then a school trip to see the 1961 film, *St Francis of Assisi*, with Bradford Dillman and Dolores Hart clinched it. Watching it now, the movie seems kind of cheesy, but for years I could see scenes from the movie in my mind's eye. I still can. When the time came, being drawn, I now realize, by that Golden String to the more contemplative and simpler end of the Franciscan spectrum, I chose to be a Capuchin. I went off to Catholic University then as a Capuchin postulant at age 17.

### **The Next Phase: Service to the SSF Family**

I've tried to serve the SSF family since I first became a seeker with our Province some 23 years ago. I've served as a convener; as a teacher for the novices and friars at Little Portion, and as a spiritual director for them there; as Assistant Minister Provincial; as Assisting Minister Provincial for our Portuguese and Spanish-speaking sisters and brothers; and in offering presentations and serving in Formation; and in all those many ways that I believe we all do. However, I've become more aware, to paraphrase our

*Now how do we do that in a dispersed community and in the world of statutes, rules, and norms which form the trellis for our common life? How to avoid putting stumbling blocks in each other's way and rather encourage and accompany each other on the Way? Those are the million-dollar questions.*

principles, that our main task is to live in the posture, or stance, which offers the least resistance to our ever-deepening devotion to the indwelling

Christ, [the] source of [our] strength and joy. It is Christ's love [alone] that [can] inspire us to [the] service [of our sisters and brothers] and strengthens us for sacrifice. My self-reflection has taught me how far short of that reality I am. Despite that, I believe that the main task of a province is to create the space where the indwelling Christ can happen for each of us.

### **TSSF as a School of the Love of Christ**

Benedict said that a monastery should be a school of perfection. I believe that our life in community, that interconnected web of relationship and accountability that Francis wove to replace the monastery, should be a school of the love of Christ, empowering us for service. Now how do we do that in a dispersed community and in the world of statutes, rules, and norms which form the trellis for our common life? How to avoid putting stumbling blocks in each other's way and rather by encouraging and accompanying each other on the Way? Those are the million-dollar questions. But I think that, together, we can find the next step on that stairway of which we can't see the end, (as MLK described the life of faith). I think that in the discernment and hard work that has taken place in so many areas of our community in these recent years, we have taken the first steps. Though sometimes faltering, and sometimes bold, together we have been willing to risk moving forward.

Whatever the outcome of our discernment together for this particular ministry, I'll continue to do the best I can to support this, our journey together. ♦

## Reflections of Outgoing Co-Acting Ministers Provincial of Our Province

### Writing a Final Minister's Provincial Report—*Again!*

By Ken Norian



A year-and-a-half ago I couldn't have imagined I would be writing a final Minister's Provincial report—*again!* I'm also amazed at the fact that this will be the 24<sup>th</sup> Provincial Chapter that I have attended. It's time for me to move on for good and (with a nod to our brother, Tupper Morehead) be "*just Ken, TSSF.*"

I toyed with the idea of scouring past Directories to make a list of all the folks I've been privileged to have served with over the years. The enormity of the task was overwhelming and was not likely to be an efficient use of my time. But, the number of those who have served in various roles over almost two-and-a-half decades on Chapter is certainly in the hundreds. My takeaway is this: that amidst changes in society, in technology, in the wider church, and in our Order, God has blessed us with continuity and faithfulness to our vision and mission as servants of Jesus in the ways of Francis and Clare. This continuity has persisted through the diverse skills and abilities of those called to serve. Co-acting Minister Peter and I have been an example of complementary personalities and talents working together to make  $1+1>2$ .

Every iteration of Chapter has left footprints on a continuing path. Peter and I are thankful for not only having been a bridge along that path but also to contribute to its future growth. We move on, confident that the Spirit will continue to provide discernment, direction, and perseverance to those who serve in our community. We encourage all members of our community to discern ways that God may be calling them to undertake work of which they feel they are unworthy or incapable (or too busy) to do and confidently attempt it through the power that is made perfect in weakness.

*We move on, confident that the Spirit will continue to provide discernment, direction, and perseverance to those who serve in our community.*

My prayer for myself and for all of my siblings in TSSF is that in all we say and do we will continue to make the Lord Jesus known and loved, spread a spirit of love and harmony, and live more simply.

May God make us more effective in our service through our work, study, and prayer, and increase in us a spirit of humility, love, and joy.

*Peace, love, and all good,  
just Ken, TSSF*



## Reflecting on Seven Years of Service to TSSF

*By Peter B. Stube*

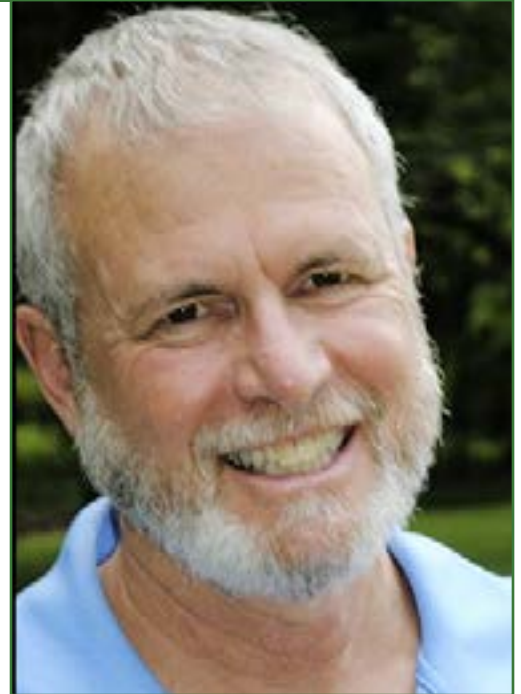
**I**t has been my privilege to serve on Chapter these seven years; first as Fellowship Guardian for six years and then as acting Co-Minister Provincial with Ken Norian this past year and a half. Simultaneously, I chaired a task force on Lifelong Formation whose members were drawn from all five provinces. We met quarterly to examine ways to extend our formation begun when inquirers enter postulancy, so that formation would become a lifelong journey leading to ever deepening attentiveness to the movement of God in our lives and mission on God's behalf reflecting the vision of Sts. Francis and Clare.

### **Beginnings: The First Five- and-one-half Years**

At the Inter-Provincial Order Chapter in September of 2017, through prayer and faithful conversation we sought to discern together what the Holy Spirit was saying to the Church and the Order at that moment. We believed that the Holy Spirit is in the habit of reviving the Church and the Order from time to time to remind us of the urgency of the mission of God to the world. And we believed we were in another Holy Spirit moment in both the Church and Order during which we must follow the Spirit's leading at all costs. We knew well that we must be attentive to the Holy Spirit for principles, methods, and skills, so that we might proclaim the Gospel to the peoples and cultures we serve in ways that they may hear and know Christ. Because discernment is the function of the faithful community, we presented this to you so that you might discern with us the vision the Holy Spirit was calling us to in this chapter of Franciscan life. We were concerned to become more fully an Order in which we remembered the values and vision of Francis and Clare that first won our hearts, so that we could return to our first loves of Jesus, Francis, and Clare. We desired to rekindle loving Jesus and loving neighbors as the passionate, risk taking, guiding motivation of our lives. Chapter embraced this work.

We are now seven years into this "Holy Experiment" and much progress has been made.

From the outset the task force, immersed in prayer, began to envision what resources would be necessary for lifelong formation for the diverse people in each province. We determined to pay attention to our indigenous people so that we could learn from them. To do this, we invited indigenous people to meet with us so that we could learn from them. Admittedly this attempt to invite indigenous people to work with us has been difficult, but we still hope this will happen. As we worked together, we tried to discern areas of common ground and common ministry across the whole Order. We found it necessary to discard some of our Western methodologies and curriculums because they would not speak to our Tertiaries in the Solomon Islands or New Guinea and to come back to founding visions of Scripture, St. Francis, and St. Clare.



### **OUR FINDINGS**

#### **Biblical considerations for the concept of small group/house church/ as a foundation for faith.**

- The early part of Acts describes the Jerusalem Community where all things are held in common. They devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching, the breaking of bread, and

*cont. on page 7*

*Stube, continued from page 6*

the prayers. They devoted themselves to the needs of the community, particularly the feeding and care of the rapidly growing community. The apostles devoted themselves to the ministry of the word, but also continued to serve. Some of the deacons also did the ministry of the word. It appears then that there is an interplay of work and word, with some specific tasks falling to each group.

- The faithful communities of Scripture speak of accountability, intimacy, and history together.
- The faith communities are also deeply concerned with communicating God's compassionate and steadfast love to the world.

### Considerations from The Principles of the Third Order

- **What we intend:** Three aims of the Franciscan movement: "To make our Lord known and loved everywhere, to spread the spirit of love and harmony, and to live simply. From this starting point we have wrestled in unity with what we would need to look like going forward if we were to fully live into this vision and these aims.
- **Our common work:** The three ways of service: "prayer, study, work (Resources to accomplish our Aims)
- The three notes of the order: "humility, love, joy. Three themes were set as "Plumbline" for Franciscan Balance.
  - **Contemplation:** We believe that ever-deepening prayer and contemplation takes place both in personal prayer and in community prayer. We may learn to pray best in faithful communities.
  - **Community:** Franciscans are committed to study. As we study the Principles, we see how important the study of Scripture is to ever-deepening Franciscan

understanding of Jesus and the Trinity, and our part in the reconciliation of the world that God has engaged through Christ through our agency. In community we are encouraged by our siblings to stand faithfully when we are tempted to lose heart.

- **Missional Action:** Most Franciscans are engaged in a Franciscan mission addressing social justice, peace, and environmental justice. We believe that a focus on these vocations on the Fellowship level can serve as encouragement, discernment and support in ways that deepen the mission of Franciscans to the world.

### Scriptural Considerations: The Gospel life is informed by the sweep of Scripture.

- The faithful are called to preferential treatment for the poor.
- The faithful are called to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. *Micah 6:8*
- Jesus indicates his continuity with the prophetic call of Isaiah in *Luke 4:18* "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, and to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's Favor."
- In *Luke 24:13-35* Jesus began the work of showing the Church that he is to be known in the Scriptures, in the breaking of bread and the prayers.
- In *Acts 1:8* the mission was passed to the faithful empowered by the Holy Spirit. "But you shall receive power after the Holy Spirit comes upon you and shall be witnesses in Jerusalem, in Judea, in Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth."

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## Michael Twum-Darko Elected New Minister General of TSSF

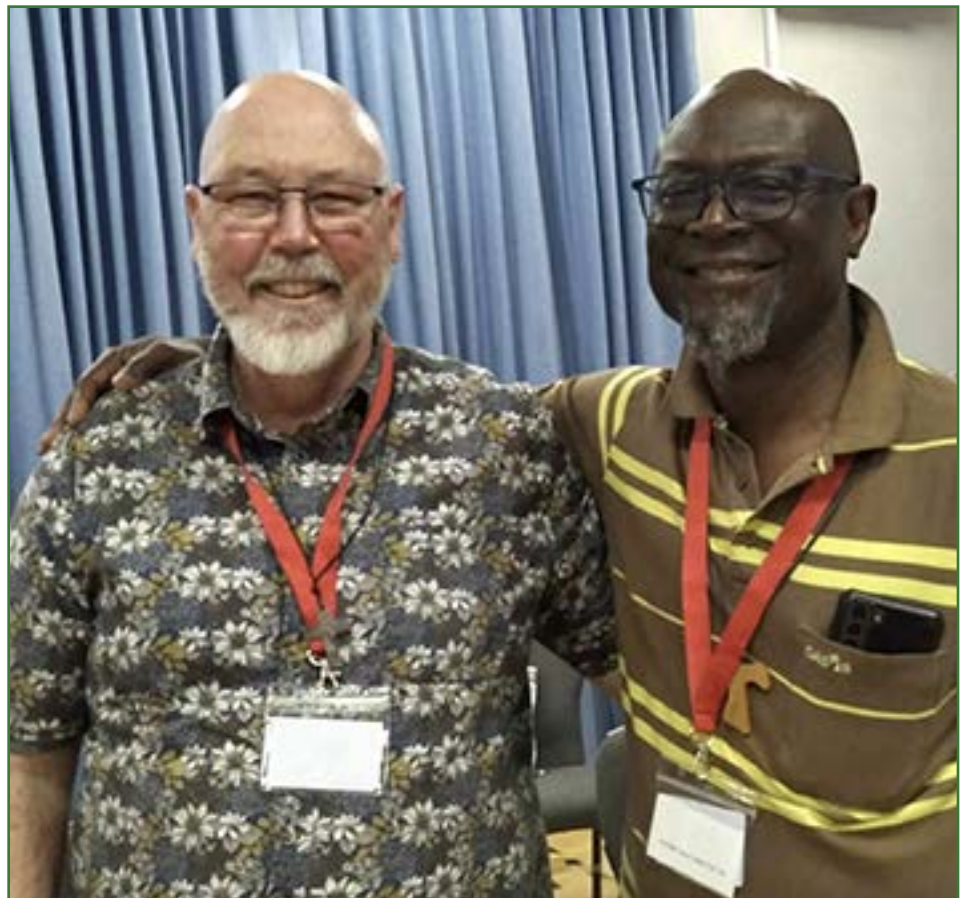
*By R. John Brockmann*

**T**he Rev. (Prof.) Michael Twum-Darko of Cape Town, Minister Provincial of the African Province, was elected Minister General of TSSF on September 8.

Rev. Twum-Darko is a non-stipendiary priest of the Anglican Diocese of Cape Town and has been in God's ministry for more than twenty-two years, most recently at Anglican Church of the Holy Redeemer, Sea Point Diocese of Cape Town. (You can see him giving a recent sermon on their Facebook page.) In 2020 he co-authored a book about good vs. evil, *Understanding Spiritual Warfare*, that is available on Amazon. (<https://a.co/d/98t67rZ>)

Professor Michael Twum-Darko is also Acting Head of the Department of Business and Management Sciences and Coordinator of Postgraduate Research at the Graduate Centre for Management, Cape Peninsula University of Technology. In this capacity, he has done research in Information Systems. A current project he is working on is the "Impact of digitalization on municipal services and local economic development." In 2011 he authored a book, *The Role of Information Systems in Legislation-led Reform: A Case Study of the New Municipal Rates Acts of South Africa*. It is available on Amazon <https://a.co/d/daDnLdz> ♦

*Passing the baton from former Minister General Rev. John Heberton of the Province of the Pacific (left) to Rev. (Prof.) Michael Twum-Darko, African Province.*





## Address to Chapter in St. Louis

**By Rev. Prof. Michael Twum-Darko, Minister General**

In high school in the mid-seventies, I heard radio and television preachers proclaiming that the world was ending due to what society was experiencing and the persecution of the Church in certain parts of the world. But in what we hear, read, watch, and encounter today, it seems that the world has never been closer to the end times than now. St. Paul, on the end times, wrote in his second letter to Timothy, prophesying:

*“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, and conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God - having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.” (2 Timothy 3:1-5).*



How can we have nothing to do with such people, when all these immoral acts have been well-packaged and sold to us without our knowing?

Drawing from St. Paul's message to Timothy, the time has come for Christians, who constitute the Church, to renew themselves in order to renew the Church. This renewal should be sustained daily for God to heal our land. (2 Chronicles 7:14).

***Drawing from St. Paul's message to Timothy, the time has come for Christians, who constitute the Church, to renew themselves in order to renew the Church. This renewal should be sustained daily for God to heal our land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)***

The question is: “What then becomes the basis to sustain one's renewal that will contribute to renewing the Church?”

Franciscan spirituality offers a lifestyle of daily Advent observation whereby one surrenders to the Lord Jesus Christ to serve Him for the rest of one's life in the company of one's brothers and sisters, undertaking to spread the knowledge and love of Christ, to promote the spirit of love and harmony as the family of God, and to live joyfully a life of simplicity after the example of St Francis.

With Franciscan spirituality the Church's mission and the Anglican Communion are renewed. One cannot over-emphasize the need for a lifestyle that sustains one's Christian life and the Church of God. The renewal of the Anglican Communion will encourage its members to a new spiritual life that diminishes the influence of 2 Timothy 3:1-5 in our society and promotes an Advent life of daily preparation to meet the resurrected Christ one day. ♦

## NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE

### Tercer Retiro Anual de TSSF en Guantánamo, Cuba

**Luiz Sirtoli**



*Recepción a la Postulancia de: Arelis Jeffers  
Fabr , Kyra Liana Ramos Catello y Ernesto Nu o  
Sierra.*

*Celebrating new postulancies of Arelis Jeffers  
Fabr , Kyra Liana Ramos Catello and Ernesto  
Nu o Sierra.*

**D**el 2 al 5 de agosto, 17 participantes se reunieron en el tercer retiro anual cubano de la TSSF cuyo tema principal se bas  en ‘convertirse en receptores de amor compasivo’ y del que surgieron exploraciones tituladas *Tiempo de Creaci n 2023 y Franciscanismo, El Camino del Amor, Un Francisco Personalizado, Retiro, Encarnaci n Profunda y El Lobo de Gubbio*. Las actividades incluyeron visualizaci n y discusi n de la pel cula sobre Santa Clara, *Chiara D’assisi, Storia di una Cristian, la vita di Santa Chiara di Assisi*, presentaciones personales e historias sobre las vocaciones franciscanas, rica conversaci n y debate en grupo, el Oficio Diario, Oraci n Centrante, Lectio Divina, cantos y acompa amiento de guitarra, misa y una reuni n del Cap tulo. Se celebraron tres nuevos postulantes y cuatro nuevos noviciados. El retiro y la misa se realizaron en la Iglesia de Todos los Santos en Guant namo, Cuba, cuyo

*cont. on page 11, first column*

### Third Annual TSSF Retreat in Guantanamo, Cuba

**Victoria Tester**

**F**rom the second to the fifth of August, 17 participants met in the third annual TSSF Cuban retreat whose main theme was “Becoming Recipients of Compassionate Love.” From this main theme developed a number of explorations: *Time of Creation 2023 and Franciscanism; The Path of Love; A Personalized Francis; Retreat, Deep Incarnation; and Gubbio and the Wolf*.

Participants watched and discussed a film about St. Clare, *Clare of Assisi, the Story of a Christian, the Life of St. Clare of Assisi*, as well as shared personal introductions and stories concerning each one’s Franciscan vocations. Additionally, there was the Daily Office, Centering Prayer, Lectio Divina, songs and guitar accompaniment, Mass and a Chapter meeting. Three new postulants and four new novices were received. The retreat and the Mass were held at All Saints Church in Guantanamo, Cuba, whose parish priest Revdo. Leandro is a strong supporter and spiritual companion for the TSSF in Guantanamo.

Cuba’s TSSF Regional Minister is Rev. Armando Delgado, and Rev. Luiz Sirtoli serves as the Coordinator of Hispanic American Ministries. The next TSSF Retreat in Cuba

*cont. on page 11, second column*



*Revdo. Armando Delgado en exposici n del El  
Camino del Amor.*

*Rev. Armando Delgado presenting The Path of  
Love.*



*Tercer Retiro Anual, cont. from page 10*

párroco, el Revdo. Leandro es un fuerte apoyo y compañero espiritual de la TSSF en Guantánamo. El Ministro Regional de la TSSF de Cuba es el Revdo. Armando Delgado, y el Revdo. Luiz Sirtoli se desempeña como Coordinador de los Ministerios Hispanoamericanos. El próximo retiro de la TSSF en Cuba está programado del 14 al 21 de abril de 2024. La TSSF cubana desea reconocer y agradecer al Revdo. Luiz Sirtoli por su compañía en la formación y consolidación de la Orden en Cuba y a la Obispa jubilada Griselda Delgado del Carpio por su aceptación de nuestra establecimiento y su colaboración, protección y bendición de la TSSF en Cuba durante su episcopado. ♦

*Revds. Armando Delgado y Luiz Sirtoli en la recepción de nuevas novicias: Yaigdairis del Toro, Melba Galán, Moraima Cazul e Yillian Arriba.*

*Revds. Armando Delgado and Luiz Sirtoli receiving new novices: Yaigdairis del Toro, Melba Galán, Moraima Cazul and Yillian Arriba.*

*Third Annual Retreat, cont. from page 10*

is scheduled for April 14-21, 2024. The Cuban tertiaries thank Revdo. Sirtoli for his companionship in the formation and consolidation of the Order in Cuba as well as now retired Bishop Griselda Delgado del Carpio for her acceptance of our establishment and her collaboration, protection, and blessing of the TSSF in Cuba during her episcopate. ♦



*Participantes del Retiro: Ernesto Nuño, postulante. Daysi Brown, novicia, y su nieta. Diannelys Domínguez, esposa del ministro encargado, invitada. Yillian Arriba, novicia, Rev. Armando Delgado, profeso, Lidice Coutin Legrá, novicia. Revda. Haydeé Lugo, profesora. María Caridad Roig, Asociada. Rev Leandro Cardona, ministro encargado de Todos los Santos. Tania Rodríguez, profesora. Carmen Jiménez, novicia. Rev. Luiz Sirtoli, profeso. Yaigdairis del Toro, novicia. Melba Galán, novicia. Moraima Cazul, novicia. Anoland Rodríguez, profesora y Noel Arencibia, profeso*

*Retreat Participants: Ernesto Nuño, postulant. Daysi Brown, novice, and her granddaughter. Diannelys Domínguez, wife of the minister in charge, guest. Yillian Arriba, novice, Rev. Armando Delgado, professed, Lidice Coutin Legrá, novice. Rev. Haydeé Lugo, professed. María Caridad Roig, Associate. Rev. Leandro Cardona, minister in charge of All Saints. Tania Rodríguez, professed. Carmen Jiménez, novice. Rev. Luiz Sirtoli, professed. Yaigdairis del Toro, novice. Melba Galán, novice. Moraima Cazul, novice. Anoland Rodríguez, professed and Noel Arencibia, professed*

## TSSF and Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service

By Jim Crosby



I started checking out The Third Order, Society of St. Francis in the spring of 2002. I was in the process of increasing both my social and my spiritual engagement in the wake of the 9/11 attacks and the U.S. response. Anti-war activism with me went all the way back to my college days when I applied for conscientious objector status during the Vietnam War.

Thirty years later, my reading during the period between September 2001 and May 2002 included *Nonviolent Soldier of Islam: Badshah Khan: A Man to Match His Mountains*, by Eknath Easwaran, *The Nonviolent Coming of God*, by James W. Douglass, *The Great Work*, by Thomas Berry, and everything I could get my hands on by Cornel West and Wendell Berry (no kin to Thomas).

*Founded in California by Franciscan friars in 1989, Pace e Bene has specialized in producing nonviolence training manuals and conducting trainings.*

As I entered into the Franciscan novitiate, I also got involved with the Austin Center for Peace and Justice. Sometime around then I also began to hear about Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service. Founded in California by Franciscan friars in 1989, Pace e Bene has specialized in producing nonviolence training manuals and conducting trainings.

Here's the organization's mission statement: "Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service's mission is to foster justice, peace, and the well-being of all through education, resources, and action for nonviolent change."

## Campaign Nonviolence

In 2014, Pace e Bene started Campaign Nonviolence as an ongoing activist arm focused on ending war, poverty, racism, and environmental destruction. The annual "Days of Action" program (<https://paceebene.org/action-days>) put on by Campaign Nonviolence has grown to more than 4,000 events nationwide between Sept. 21, the UN International Day of Peace, and Oct. 2, Gandhi's birthday, as well as being the UN International Day of Nonviolence.

What I have discovered, most pronouncedly in my interaction with the people and programs of Pace e Bene, is that peace activism and a nonviolent way of life are part and parcel of the Franciscan charism and my effort to follow St. Francis as he followed Jesus.

In July 2018, I journeyed to Ossining, New York, for a weeklong workshop with Fr. John Dear. Titled "Following Jesus on the Path of Nonviolence," it was a trip through the Gospels using the lens of nonviolence as developed by Mohandas Gandhi in India and Martin Luther King, Jr. in the U.S. That week was for me a true spiritual mountaintop experience. I learned that Fr. John, then on the staff of Campaign Nonviolence, had heard of something called Nonviolent Carbondale, and from that sprang the Nonviolent Cities Project (<https://paceebene.org/nonviolent-cities>).

## Nonviolence Austin

A few weeks after the Ossining workshop, in the wake of Austin becoming the

*cont. on page 13*



*Pace e Bene, cont.*  
*from page 12*

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headquarters of the U.S. Army Futures Command, I founded Nonviolent Austin. Over the past five years, we have hosted book clubs, nonviolence trainings, and weekly vigils for peace and justice in front of the state capitol. Last September, the Austin City Council honored Sept 21 and Oct. 2 with Nonviolent Austin resolutions. We have also helped produce concerts focused on peace and nonviolence, both online and in person (see for example, <https://tinyurl.com/569axt7k> and <https://tinyurl.com/6pwes5yh>)

In July of 2019, my wife Tara and I got to spend a week in Assisi with a Pace e Bene group

*So, my TSSF siblings, I wholeheartedly invite you into the world of Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service, Campaign Nonviolence, and the Nonviolence Cities Project*

of 35 pilgrims. I met TSSF brother Rev. David Burgdorf there. Each morning we got started with Fr. John Dear giving us an inspiring short homily and leading us in the Eucharist. By virtue of a special dispensation from the Vatican, we worshiped each day in one of the historic Franciscan sites, such as San Damiano and the Portiuncula. That was followed by a history lesson on Francis or Clare taught by Ken Butigan, professor at DePaul University, a leading scholar on Franciscan history, and the staff member of longest standing with Pace e Bene. We made friends with our fellow pilgrims from around the U.S., with some of whom we continue to meet regularly online.

One of them, Michele Dunne, has since become the Executive Director of the Franciscan Action Network, based in Washington, DC. Another, Judy Traeger, is on the Albuquerque staff that edits and publishes Richard Rohr's daily online blog.

### **Developing a Culture of Peace**

Last year I was honored to join the national board of Pace e Bene. It is wonderfully inspiring to see the work going on all over the country, and even internationally, in the effort to develop a culture of peace.

The "Store" tab on the Pace e Bene website has become one of the key resources for my sustained Franciscan reading (<https://paceebene.org/store>). Having recently retired as a theology teacher to high school seniors, I am dedicated to shifting increasingly to action, not just thought, in line with my convictions. I am working on being more and more a doer, not just a hearer of the word. Pace e Bene has encouraged and facilitated that transition in so many ways.

So, my TSSF siblings, I wholeheartedly invite you into the world of Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service, Campaign Nonviolence, and the Nonviolence Cities Project. I'm in the directory, so please let me know if you have questions or want to visit about any of this.



112 Years of Movies About  
St. Francis: From the  
Silents to TV Miniseries

*A Franciscan Times  
Serialization*

By R. John Brockmann



*The movie poster for the first  
Francis talkie (1944) from  
Mexico!*

So many of those in our last edition's "Welcome the Newly Professed" mentioned that the first time they fell in love with the Poor Man of Assisi was while viewing Franco Zeffirelli's 1972 movie, ***Brother Sun, Sister Moon***.

In the Order of Ecumenical Franciscans (OEF) home website, in a section entitled "Feeling Called?" there is this parallel observation:

*...why twenty-first century people would spend their time and energy on such nonsense. Perhaps they are simply intrigued by the romantic image of Francis after watching Fratello Sole, Sorella Luna (Brother Sun, Sister Moon). (<https://oeffranciscans.org/about/feeling-called/>)*

And, when Gasnick's classic *THE Francis Book: 800 Years with the Saint from Assisi* (1980) wanted to describe Francis in the movies, he only described Zeffirelli's movie.

Yet, Francis's biography has appeared on film more than 15 times over the last 112 years, ranging from silent movies to TV miniseries, to plush Hollywood technicolor features. If Zeffirelli's single movie could cause so many to fall in love with Francis, imagine what a film festival of different movies about Francis could do! Just viewing a wider variety of movies about Francis could seriously broaden your vision of Francis.

In the next six issues of *The Franciscan Times*, beginning with the Winter 2024 issue, you will find 100-word reviews and background summaries of all the movies in our collection. The reviews have been written by members of the Provincial Library: Janice Syedullah, R. John Brockmann, and Neil Tumber, along with Victoria Tester. We will invite you to view these movies on your own or with your fellowship and then to send in your own equally succinct 100-word reviews, which we will share in the following issue of the *Times*.

***We want all to participate.***

This will be a fun way to share what moved you in these films, what you felt was done particularly well, and what were some of the errors or distortions depicted. And who knows? At the end of our Francis Film Fest, there may be awards for best, worst, and funniest reviews!

The Provincial Library has collected many of the movies for you to borrow, many are available at your local public libraries, and a good number can be seen on YouTube for free.

***So, let's get on with the show!!!***

***Look for reviews of two silent movies about Saint Francis in our next issue.***



# MILESTONES

## *Welcome the Newly Professed*

### *Newly Professed*

#### Shawn Cady



**O**n August 5<sup>th</sup> I became a Third Order Franciscan, though I feel like I have been on this path my whole life.

I discovered TSSF right before the pandemic, and, after reading about the Order on our website, I knew that this was the path I needed to take. I've always seen God in everything around me, and I've always loved nature and animals, and especially Christmas! When I discovered St. Francis made the first creche, I almost swooned.

I believe that sometimes I try to make my faith and relationship with God too complicated. St. Francis taught me to simplify my life and my prayer life. In AA we have a saying I have to remember, KISS—Keep It Simple Stupid.

One thing that I have especially enjoyed is discovering that I have a huge Franciscan family that believes, prays, and studies as I do. I believe I have found my family, and I am forever grateful to God for leading me to TSSF. ♦

### *Newly Professed*

#### David Galloway



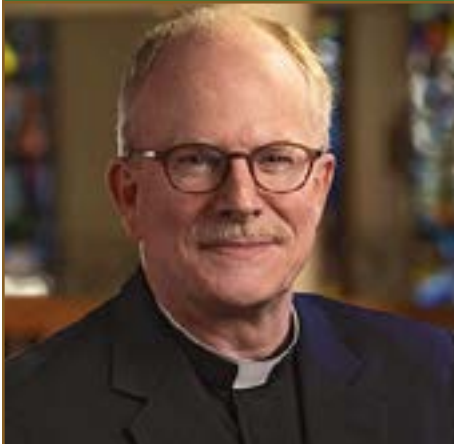
**T**he Rev. Dr. Canon David Galloway is an Episcopal priest, canonically resident in the Diocese of Atlanta. He served as the Canon Pastor of St. Philip's, the Cathedral in Atlanta, in the late 1980s. He then became Rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Tyler, Texas, and also served as Canon to East Texas for the Bishop of Texas. While in Tyler, he received a Pew Grant and established a leadership development program, focusing on building capacity for minorities. He was an Adjunct Professor at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, teaching Faith Development along with pastoral leadership. He served on the National Commission on Ministry Development, chairing the committee on theological education. In 2001, he returned to Atlanta as the Rector of Holy Innocents, as well as chair of the Diocesan Commission on Ministry. Having served as a consultant to parishes, dioceses, and episcopal elections, he began a full-time career in consulting in Organizational Development, working primarily in leadership and coaching clergy.

David is married, has two adult children, and is awaiting the birth of his first grandchild in January 2024.



*Newly Professed*

Keith Oglesby



Keith Oglesby, from Atlanta, Georgia, met his wife Lynn during college. They have been married 44 years and have three married adult children and three grandchildren. Keith's parents raised him faithfully in the church. As a teenager, he had a personal conversion that deepened his faith in Christ and his desire for intentional community. As an adult, he returned from a four-year sojourn with a non-denominational church to the Episcopal Church and expressed his faith through serving in various ways as a layperson in his parish.

Throughout his life, Keith felt a call to ordained ministry. In his early forties, he went through a diocesan discernment process that eventually led to his approval to attend seminary and be ordained as a priest. Over the past 16-plus years, Keith has served two parishes in the Diocese of Atlanta, and most recently served at Christ Church in Ponte Vedra Beach in the Diocese of Florida.

Over the past three years of discernment and formation as a TSSF postulant and novice, Keith has found the way of Francis to be how he seeks to follow Jesus. He was looking forward to his profession near to the date of his retirement from full-time parish ministry on November 1, 2023. He believes that his Franciscan rule and local fellowship will help him in his work of community organizing for justice in northeast Florida. He also looks forward to serving the TSSF community in whatever way is helpful. ♦

*Newly Professed*

Gloria Trevino



Writing a Rule of Life seemed foreign to me. I always obeyed rules in society, had a regular religious life, was active in my church, and cared for others and my family and the planet. I sought guidance from spiritual directors, studied scripture, and thought I was living the Franciscan way. But I came to realize through formation that my Rule of Life is a continuous process of conversion.

Thank you to my family, my church, and members of TSSF, who were all part of my formation. With them I have come to understand a life of conversion, simplicity, daily prayer, community, and how to live daily with humility, love, and joy. ♦



*Newly Professed*

Debra Vela



**G**reetings, brothers and sisters in Christ. My name is Debra Vela, and I am a deacon in the Diocese of Dallas. I presently serve at Christ Church, Dallas. My husband, Ismael, and I have been blessed with three amazing children, Sarah, Samuel, and Mariel, and three amazing grandchildren, Graciela, Lucas, and Christianna.

With our children and grandchildren all grown, my husband and I partner in a mobile food ministry serving throughout the Dallas area and east Texas. We are both bilingual in Spanish and English and able to share Christ's love with many refugee and immigrant families. We also serve as Executive Directora of Children's Food Ministry, a children's food and a water program in Kenya and Tanzania. And, from my heart for music and dance, we now teach music, dance, art, and gardening to our immigrant and refugee children in Dallas through "Mangos y Mozart," giving frequent performances at Christ Church and assisted living centers. ♦

*Rest in Peace**Rest in Peace*

Helen Parker

*Professed 36 Years**From Masud Ibn Syedullah*

**H**elen was 100 years old at the time of her death, July 21, and would have been 101 on October 2 of this year.

It happens that it was I who received Helen's vows for Profession to the Third Order in 1987 at St. Peter's Church, New York City, during my term as Provincial Chaplain. Helen was a member of the New York City Fellowship for many years until she could no longer travel to fellowship meetings, living in Rockland County, north of the city.

For many years Helen had a very active life of service in and through her parish, Christ Church of Ramapo, in Suffern, New York. Terry Rogers, who had served many times as Convener of the New York City Fellowship, and I, who served as her spiritual director for years, kept in phone contact with Helen for many years beyond the time when she could no longer attend meetings.

She lived her last years (about four) in the Kings Way Community (a residential facility for the aged) in Schenectady, New York, about 160 miles north of New York City. I know that several members of the Third Order were in communication with her from time to time during her stay at Kings Way, including Brother Willy, Ken Norian, and myself. She was also served pastorally and sacramentally by St. George's Episcopal Church, Schenectady, where her family had her committal service.

*cont. on page 18*

**RIP: Helen Parker, cont.**

*from page 17*

**From Daly Funeral Home**

Just over a century ago, Helen Parker was born a premature baby, weighing only 3 pounds. She was named hastily in case she did not survive, as was likely in those days. But survive she did, until this year when she passed away in Schenectady at age 101.

Helen attended Washington Irving High School and then Cooper Union in New York City, both art schools. An accomplished painter like her mother before her, Helen worked in an art studio prior to WWII. During the war, the OSS (forerunner of the CIA) used her talents in drafting their charts and maps. Helen hoped to work as a commercial artist after WWII, having specialized in advertising design at Cooper Union. However, it was difficult for women to get non-traditional jobs at that time, especially with returning servicemen also seeking employment after the war. Instead, she had a long career at the New York Stock Exchange as an executive secretary and communications specialist until her retirement.

During her lifetime Helen was a devoted Third Order Franciscan and a volunteer in many capacities to her Episcopal Church in New York City, and later in Suffern, New York. In addition, Helen had a long association with Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York, where she volunteered in their neonatal unit. She was also an avid outdoorswoman. As a Girl Scout leader, she organized and led many camping, hiking, and canoe trips in the Catskills and Adirondacks and beyond—as far afield as the mountains of northern Idaho. ♦

*Rest in Peace*

**Nancy Kangas**

*Professed 33 Years*



**Boucher Funeral Home Obituary Published in Newspapers**

Nancy died unexpectedly Saturday, September 16, 2023, in her home.

Nancy was a retired veteran of the United States Army, amassing 18 years of active duty in which she served from 1968 and retired in 1986 as a Sergeant, which included the Vietnam Era from 1968 to 1971. While in the Army, she attended medical school and was the chaplain assistant, serving in many states, Germany, and South Korea.

She attended Full Gospel Bible Seminary in Coatesville, Pennsylvania in 1976, and was ordained a Reverend with the license to preach. She received an Associate's Degree in Theology from International Christian Bible Institute in Panama City, Florida, a Diploma from Rhema Bible College, and a Certificate from Sarasota Academy of Christian Counselors. Nancy was employed by the Gardner Visiting Nursing Association prior to retiring in 1993. She was a volunteer for the VNA Hospice of Gardner, the Monadnock Hospice, and the Orthodox Hospice of Worcester.

*cont. on page 19*

**RIP: Nancy Kangas, cont.***from page 18*

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Nancy was a congregant of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Westminster. Nancy was Past Commander of the Disabled Veterans #70, member of the Fitchburg Disabled Veterans #30, Past Commander of the American Legion Post 129 of Gardner, member of the American Legion Women's Auxiliary Post 129 of Gardner, member of the Honor Guard Bugler, member of the VFW 7389 in Westminster, the Women's Army Corps Veterans, and the New England Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans.

Nancy enjoyed digging for rocks and donated her finds to the Worcester Mineral Club. Nancy had a passion for studying the Bible, Ministry, Jewish studies, and the history of Finland and Sweden.

Nancy leaves her partner Joseph Salcito, of Gardner; a brother, Gary W. Kangas and his wife Donna of Hubbardston; a sister, Esther M. Gonzalez, of Charlton; several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews and cousins, and her beloved cat Henrietta.

**From Karin Wade**

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I met Nancy years ago in Germany where she served in the Army and I worked for the U.S. Government. We were both involved in the Episcopal Community in Europe. Nancy attended my novicing in Wiesbaden in the mid-80s. She was always an enthusiastic supporter of my involvement in TSSF and in my vocational discernment. I am grateful for her enthusiasm and quirkiness!

**From Janet Moore**

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When she was younger and had a car, she came to a lot of meetings and attended our retreats and Area Convocations. She always lived in Gardner, Massachusetts. I remember at least one year back when the Area Convocation was at Graymoor, and I drove all the way to Gardner to pick her up and then to Graymoor. She brought Gospel Praise tapes, and we sang the whole way and back, both of us. I never forgot it.

**From Rick Bellows**

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Nancy Kangas was very ecumenically minded, and she participated in several religious institutions. Besides being a Third Order Franciscan, she became a Lutheran when her beloved Episcopal parish fell on hard times and closed. She also participated in Messianic Jewish worship. She always had a funny story to tell, sometimes about her Finnish upbringing, of which she was very proud. I remember one funny story she told about her discovery of an urn in her apartment. Her landlord, prior tenants, and police didn't want anything to do with it. I am not sure how she resolved this, but when no one claimed it as their own, and when she couldn't find anyone who wanted it, she had the urn buried in a church garden with an anonymous prayer service. She was disabled because of a helicopter crash while in the military and needed some assistance. In later years she was aided by her companion, Joseph Salcito, who gave her loving support.



*Rest in Peace*

**Luis Guillermo Rivera**

*Professed 18 Years*



**By Anita Miner**

**T**he Rev. Canon Luis Guillermo Rivera was a priest in the Diocese of Puerto Rico, serving at a church in Aibonito for many years. Before being ordained a priest, he worked in the hospitality industry, among other business ventures in the capital city of San Juan. Luis Guillermo leaves Zoraida, his wife, and other family members. The couple had no children.

He was professed in the Third Order Society of St. Francis on December 2, 2005, in San Juan. It was an honor for me to conduct the profession service at a Eucharist with many ecumenical colleagues present. Luis Guillermo was very much in tune with ecumenical events in the city, participating in and often leading such events. I also recall accompanying him while he visited some of his parishioners in their homes and seeing how he pastored them with kindness. In addition, he devoted himself to offering Franciscan retreats to Episcopalians in the diocese, as well as to other Christians. On another day during my visit, he interviewed me on the diocese's radio station about the Third Order.

Early on in his time in TSSF, he did the first translation of the *Principles of the Order*, along with Elsa Silvestre from Honduras. This version of the *Principles* was used for many years.

The Rt. Rev. Rafael Morales Maldonado conducted the service of Burial on April 15, 2023, and praised Luis Guillermo for his efforts toward the care of creation and for his ecumenical work. The bishop's final wish for Luis Guillermo was "Santa Alegría en la Vida Eterna." (*Holy Joy for Life Eternal.*)

Luis Guillermo was a friend of many, including Ralph Shower, the Rev. Iván Buxeda, the Rev. James Hagan, and the late Dr. Jonathan Steinhart. In fact, Jonathan visited him several times in Puerto Rico.

We shall miss Luis Guillermo's pioneering Franciscan energy. ♦



*Rest in Peace*

Phoenix I. O'Faery

*Professed Posthumously*



*Phoenix often painted watercolors of religious subjects, reimagined. Here, Jesus in blue jeans, sipping coffee and scrolling through His computer, perhaps checking what they are saying about Him online.*

Phoenix I. O'Faery ended a long battle with illness on July 30, 2023, in Georgetown, Kentucky. Born Sheena Hopper on April 27, 1985, in Fort Thomas, Kentucky, she changed her name in 2014 to better reflect her values and self-image.

Phoenix was a talented artist who loved to paint, sew, and craft jewelry. She was an avid woodworker and carpenter who enjoyed building and refurbishing furniture, and she took great joy in gardening. Phoenix was a devout Episcopalian who attended the Church of the Holy Trinity in Georgetown. She was also a member of the Order of the Daughters of the King and of the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis. Her faith and spirituality were core parts of her life.

Phoenix was a kind, merciful, and generous person who was loved by many. Phoenix is survived by her husband of 15 years, Joseph M. Osborne, and her son, Aiden J. Ice. ♦

*Below, Mary, reimagined as Queen of Angels.*



## Stube, continued from page 7

- We are reminded in *Luke 6:27* that our call is to love the neighbor (who may also be our enemy).
- And in *Philippians 2:5-11* we are reminded of the humility and self-emptying love of Christ which we are to emulate.

### A direction for the Order to consider based on these things:

- Ever-deepening prayer and contemplation is best encouraged in the small groups.
- We need to train our leaders to be facilitators of spiritual discernment that enable tertiaries and fellowships to become places of continued faithful prayer, reflection on the vocations and missions of fellowship members, and gardens where new Franciscans can be raised up.
- We should encourage our creative people to try new ministries that grow out of the skill sets, passions, and needs of the people in the fellowship and to those to whom their ministry is directed.
- We believe that the place for the seekers is in community, along with those who are more mature of faith. We must avoid turning someone away because they do not appear to fit at first.
- Revisiting our foundational Franciscan roots and charisms, including Francis and the experience of the early Franciscan community: "The Rule and life of the Friars Minor is simply to live the Gospel."

In the last two years we welcomed Guardians from each of our Provinces who will continue the work begun by those of us who were assigned to the task force in 2017. This was a necessary transition because different skills and gifts were required to implement the vision. Susan Pitchford was appointed from the Americas and Pamela Redhead continues as an at-large member of the group.

The Provincial Guardians and Chapter will want to continue to consider how this vision might translate best throughout the Franciscan Provinces. The task force has understood that we are limited in our ability to know the needs

of Franciscans who live in other climates and cultural settings. We have concluded that if we are to hear from the Holy Spirit where she is leading the whole Order, it is necessary to broaden our task force to include those from New Guinea, the Pacific, and Africa. We would benefit from hearing and sharing our stories of ministry and community with each other and thus discern more clearly the direction the Spirit is leading us.

### Some parting words of encouragement and pastoral advice as we release this work to you.

1. Seek ever deepening prayer, in contemplation, in whole-hearted relationship with the Holy Trinity.
2. Act on our love for the poor, the indigenous, the Creation, and others in need. Be specific and personal.
3. Resolve to create more room for the Holy Spirit to maneuver.
4. Embrace the inclusiveness of Francis in our fellowships. Where our Anglican fellowships are small, we have encouraged our tertiaries to develop relationships with other Franciscan Orders, *e.g.*, Roman Catholic Secular Franciscans, Order of Ecumenical Franciscans, the Order of Lutheran Franciscan, *etc.*
5. Realizing the importance of small groups in lifelong formation, we encourage placing seekers in small groups early in the process of formation leading toward profession.
6. Encourage fellowships to understand the importance of balance/wholeness in their common life so that there is time for Contemplation, Community, and Missional Action—both individual and corporate.
7. Encourage special attention to the gift of discernment that the Spirit gives to the church for the building up of the church. This is listed in *1 Corinthians 12* and John refers to it in *1 John 4* as a necessary discipline for the church so that we avoid being led astray. There is a good conversation on this in the book *Listening Hearts* (on Amazon at <https://a.co/d/3mnzmpx>)
8. We also encourage fellowships to use the proven technique of Appreciative Inquiry (see Susan Hammond's book of 2013) that celebrates

*cont. on p.23*

*Stube, continued from page 22*

the work that sisters and brothers are doing for Christ, St. Francis, and St. Clare. Focusing on this can help us to move away from problem-solving and toward celebrating what the Holy Spirit is doing in the life and work of tertiaries.

9. Engage the effects of colonization and decolonization across the Order, addressing issues of our indigenous people, racism, and sacred ecology. Resolve to encourage tertiaries to enter into contemplation, community conversation, and missional action in our province and throughout the Order.

10. As an international order, we would do well to speak in the languages our people know. Each Province deals with many languages and cultures. We will do well to learn to speak more simply and listen more carefully across the cultures in which we Franciscans live, worship, and serve. This is a work in process for all of us.

Three final notes for consideration:

1. Consider how we might best support the various Provinces on ways to deepen the Franciscan vision and mission to the world and particularly to the people among whom we live and serve.
2. Pay attention to the cultures in which we live and serve; learn their stories, cultures, their “heart language.” Our inability to learn these things will hinder our ability to know and serve the indigenous and other Franciscan siblings. More attention to this is important going forward.
3. Though we may be limited by language and culture, the Holy Spirit is not. She has a marvelous way of directing and calling forth spiritual gifts that allow the work of missional action to go forth through the lives of attentive followers of the Trinity and their purposes for the world.

### Completing what is ours, with Ken Norian, to do.

Eighteen months ago, Janet Fedders, with Chapter’s consent, asked us to assume her unfulfilled term, which we embraced. We hit the ground running because there was much to learn while we sought to discover the things we needed to address, such as the rapid growth and complexity that Janet presided over. The

work of Chapter expanded exponentially during Janet’s tenure, and we knew that we as an Order needed to change in order to embrace the scope of the work. Ken and I were grateful for the opportunity to do this work together because it was soon clear that the task was too big for one Minister Provincial. Thus, in consultation with former Ministers Provincial, we proposed some structural changes and further missional work for our branch of the Order to embrace.

- To balance the workload, we proposed the creation of an Assisting Minister Provincial, selected by the Minister Provincial to share the workload.
- We added the post of Lifelong Formation Guardian to our other *ex officio* officers with voice and vote. Susan Pitchford fills this role and has quarterly conversations with her colleagues in the other Provinces. Together, they seek to address some of the concerns discussed above. And Susan and her committee are addressing resource development for lifelong formation in this province.
- We created a task force to look at the effects of colonization and decolonization in the countries throughout our Province. Members of the task force have substantial experience in addressing these crises. Susan Pitchford chairs this committee.
- Anton Armbruster (Provincial Chaplain) and John Rebstock (Formation) continue to do creative pastoral and inclusive work in their disciplines. Both indicate a profound need for more tertiaries to shoulder the work of formation and chaplaincy.
- To make these initiatives a possibility, Ken Norian led a statute review and revision that was passed at our last September Chapter meeting. He has splendid gifts in this area and has moved us forward with a clean and inclusive document. Added also to this document was the creation of a council of advice for future Ministers Provincial as they are the keepers of the history and lore of the Order.

Respectfully,  
Peter B. Stube

# P O E T R Y

## Three Prayers

*By Victoria Tester*

1.

And as for our guest brother cricket, who only played his rounds  
of good mornings, who only counted rising notes  
in his small tidy corner of air,

they tore apart his violin, our only violin,  
thereby breaking his lonely brown heart,  
thereby haunting my lonely, speckled heart,

and went back to fat cushions, satisfied  
my broom would do the rest.

Tell me, little cricket, how will we ever carry  
our one shared suitcase up to Mount Alverna?

How will we sit under pines where eight hundred years ago  
a tattered man in a brown robe took two sticks  
and played our violin and sang in French?

How will we sing in French together  
because the sun is rising and God is on our breaths?

2.

Before dawn a moth flew out of my forehead.

It was not a prayer or despair or a hole in a tapestry,  
a vowel or a tambourine, an empty pantry or a wedding.

Am I lost if I see more stars than roads?  
Why do I carry old bread?

*cont. on p.25*



My loves left to follow the fires of the earth  
because they were tired of long shadows.

Who reads dead books when she can sing?  
Once my body was green and Love

loves only red and beats strong wings  
towards what he cannot see in darkness.

I hold my hands in fire and call back Love.

An early fever left me blind at night,  
but small lamps still bless the corners of my hell.

3.

Offer a single blossom to this worst  
summer on moldering books of Texas history,

recorded after thin rings inside deep trees and changing courses

of flooding rivers told older stories. No one knows, but if  
there is a shadow anywhere it must be like a cool drink

of water. My prayer for rain is a short dry laugh,

bitter as a pomegranate dying, and I am falling at her feet,  
tallest and beautiful daughter, upright and dying in her too early

brown dress with a dignity rarely found in humans.

My righteous neighbor claims a sign of End of Times,  
and sometimes I worry: worse, an end to God's mercy.

That what is green is cursed and loving years I've spent on ruined knees  
with multitudes, all crying and green, have been futile.

From now on, are we all thirsty children of God? ◆

# 2024 Western Convocation Creativity and the Creator

May 3 - May 5, 2024

Holy Spirit Retreat Center  
Los Angeles, CA

Workshops by Janet Strickler  
Guided Tour of the Getty Museum



Come and explore the many levels of creativity at the first in-person Western Convocation since 2018. View great works of art at the world-famous Getty Museum and be inspired to explore your own creativity within the context of honoring the Source and Creator of all.

Janet Strickler, TSSF, is an artist and teacher from Colorado, whose focus is on finding the sacred in the ordinary. She loves encouraging adults to play and get in touch with their own creativity, pointing out that we are all made in the image of the great Creator.

## Wishing Godspeed to a Franciscan Times Publication "Revolutionary"

*By R. John Brockmann, Franciscan Times Editor*

**A**lice Baird, who has accomplished a revolution in the publication of the *Franciscan Times* over the past seven years, is retiring with this issue. On the TSSF website, there is a collection of all the issues of the *Franciscan Times* over the last 52 years. The final pre-Alice Baird issue was Fall 2015, in which I did most of the layout, as I had for the prior 19 years, based upon my training in paper-based, computer documentation. Alice joined the staff with the Winter 2016 issue, and she immediately began innovating the production process based upon her full-color marketing magazine experience at an independent Episcopal school where she had worked for 15 years before retirement. With Alice's help, the *Franciscan Times* evolved in multiple ways, including:

- A new layout was created for readers to more quickly scan topics;
- Color came in as we moved away from paper printing (the printer costs were becoming burdensome for the Province) and moved to online publication; and
- Hypertext linking came in so that online readers could quickly select and find items they were interested in reading.

While all this design innovation occurred, Alice also spearheaded a higher level of quality in content editing and copyediting than we had previously achieved.

With Alice retiring, the layout and design of the *Franciscan Times* is coming back to me, with aid from **Pamela Mooman**. Please be patient with us since we are not as facile with layout software as is Alice, and hypertext linking may not occur with the first non-Alice issue, Winter 2024.

*Godspeed, Alice, may the Lord bless you and keep you.  
May He show His face to you and have mercy on you.  
May He turn His countenance to you and give you peace.*

Alice was professed in TSSF in 2018 and released from her vows in 2021. She was professed in the Order of Franciscan Seculars in 2023.

