


Franciscan Times

EASTER TIDE, 1986

Dear friends:



It is the beginning of Easter week. The sun is shining and the sky is blue. It is chilly and windy, which is more typical of March than the weather we've been having lately. Montana Lents are usually cold and nasty; perhaps conducive to a penitential mood. This year, we had warm weather and sun, with leaves beginning to bud out and a few hardy flowers in bloom. Perhaps this is a better way to think of Lent -- as a growing, budding, waking, stretching time. I spent Holy Saturday raking in my yard with my two-year-old grandson. Cleaning out the old garbage; the leaves of last fall and the litter of winter -- putting it all into bags and hauling them (with Thaddeus along for the ride) in the wheel barrow to the garbage pick-up site. A satisfying job; one of my few jobs that seems to stay done for a while. And a good sort of thing to be doing, I thought, on that day. A good metaphor for clearing out the old and making room for the new, the joy of Easter.

I'm not much of a gardener, or I could extend the metaphor -- and maybe I will anyway -- to include putting the old leaves into a compost pile. Then the old garbage of my life can turn into a material that promotes new growth; can become humus -- a root word which gave us the word "humble -- capable of supporting life."

Here is your new Franciscan Times. Later than I'd hoped. If you don't see news of your Fellowship here, it's because no one sent it to me. Do let us know what you're doing as Fellowships, as individuals, as followers of Francis in this beautiful, ugly, happy, and scary world we live in.

Remember to send your news to me at: 2020 Hauser Blvd., Helena, Montana 59601.

Peace & good - Joanne
Joanne Maynard

The Second Annual South Central Convocation of the Third Order will take place April 25-27 at Our Lady of Sorrows Convention in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. Sister Cecilia will give three meditations, and Br. Robert Hugh will address the group. Group discussion leaders will be The Rev. Masud Syedullah, chaplain; Dee Dobson, Guardian; Marie Webner, Fellowship Coordinator; and Mary Ann Jackman, Women's Formation Director.

Along with this announcement came the announcement of the Austin Fellowship Meeting on April 5 at the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest, with Fr. John Price speaking on spiritual direction.

Of interest to Tertiaries: The Scriptorium, All Saints' Convent, P.O. Box 3127, Catonsville, MD 21228, has superb cards for all occasions, set out in an attractive catalog which can be had for the asking. Cards, with envelopes are 15¢ each. #377-382 are based on the Canticle of the Sun. I've often used the cards to decorate the Times.



THE GEORGIA FELLOWSHIP prints a good newsletter every month. It sometimes features hand-colored designs. Paddy Kennington has been working hard at the Night Shelter in Savannah. Their February newsletter, under the heading Mything the Point? had these two quotes: "War isn't the good life, but it's life." (Capt. Kirk, *Star Trek*) "Nothing's worse than a dishwasher full of spots." (TV ad)

Paddy was honored as "Citizen of the Year" by the National Association of Social Workers, Local Chapter. She was presented the award by former TO postulant Wayne Welch, who as names Social Worker of the Year. Jacqui Belcher and her dog Souki have started a "Pet therapy" at local nursing homes.

THE "LAND OF THE SKY" FELLOWSHIP had some new people present at their December meeting. One antipodal couple has joined them: Ted and Rae Witham. They are in this country from Australia. Fr. Witham is attending classes at Duke University. (This Fellowship is in Western North Carolina, by the way.)

Their January meeting was held at Grace Church in Asheville. An adult class focusing on Franciscan spirituality was discussed, to be held at the church. David Nard and Heber Peacock presented the program, which included Heber's slides of Assisi. The film "Brother Sun, Sister Moon" was also shown at the church.

David Nard has been appointed area chaplain for Kentucky and Tennessee. The Annual Fellowship Retreat will be held at Living Waters Reflection Center in Maggie Valley, NC in the first weekend in May. In March, they held a joint meeting with St. Francis of the Hills, Roman SFO fraternity. The meeting began with luncheon, then the film, "Troubadour of God's Peace." Then they prayed the Stations of the Cross. Then Carole was received as a novice.

HELEN WEBB WRITES:

I've found another treasure of a book; The Prayer of COSA -- Praying in the Way of Francis of Assisi, by Cornelia Jessey. (Winston Press -- paperback, 1985)

She writes a series of meditations on the hands of St. Francis for each day of the week. Although her thoughts are personal, time and again she tries to see how St. Francis might have reacted to present-day life. I found the result interesting and thought-provoking.



THE PHILADELPHIA AREA FELLOWSHIP continues to struggle along -- sometimes triumphantly, sometimes limping. There are three new aspirants/postulants who have called us to greater accountability, and we thank God for them. That accountability in 1986 looks like quarterly meetings with prayer, study, and sharing -- plus a corporate celebration of Francis' and Clare's feast days. Still many of us (continued page 3)



The Resurrection, Albrecht Dürer

who love our Lord and Francis deeply and are committed to the Third Order, find fellowship meetings one of the most costly forms of obedience given other priorities. It is a continual quest for simplicity! Please pray for us to be faithful, write Jean Carr and Katharine Watt, co-convenors.

Jean and Katharine also commend to us the book Money, Sex and Power, Challenge of the Disciplined Life, by Richard Foster (Harper & Row). These are the "big three," to which poverty, chastity, and obedience is one response. As followers of Christ in the Third Order, we are asked to deal with the many ethical choices in these areas daily. It has been bread for our journey; and we invite you to share the feast.

BOOK REVIEW:

The Admonitions of Saint Francis of Assisi by Lothar Hardick, OFM. With an appendix by Sister M. Ethelburga Hacker, OSF. (Translated by David Smith. pp 316 + xxiii. Franciscan Herald Press. Cloth. \$15.00)

Among the accepted writing of St. Francis, The Admonitions have a special place. Hardick suggests that they are a "collection of short admonitory addresses given at various times by Francis." (p. viii) Here we have a genuine "mirror of perfection" held up to his followers by the saint himself. This book contains a revised version of the reflections on The Admonitions which were published between 1959 and 1969 by Kajetan Esser, OFM.

The Appendix gives a valuable guide to the use of The Admonitions so that they can become a living reality for all lovers and followers of Francis in our times. The superb commentary unfolds the deepest meaning of the texts and is a sure sid to understanding the mind of Francis. For all Christians, this is a challenging guide to spirituality and discipleship. There is ample material for reflection, meditation, and prayer.

-- Brother John-Charles, SSF

LORD
I WANT TO
SERVE YOU
WITH ALL
I HAVE
THE POVERTY
OF MY
HUMBLE GIFTS
THE WEAK
FLAME OF
MY LOVE
THE WEAKNESS
OF MY FAITH
KNOWING
ONLY
THIS
THAT
I AM
Y...

Jean Carr sent this photo of a banner in her room.



OUT OF AFRICA

Two newsletters have arrived from Laura (Adamski) Zeeman and her new husband, Zane, who are now back in South Africa and busily working at Africa Enterprise, under David Bliss and the Society for Frontier Mission. They were married on November 2 of last year. In January, they participated in a month-long "Perspectives on the World Christian Movement." They are co-cordinators-in-training of this course and will be putting on subsequent I.I.S. (Institute for International Studies) courses all over South Africa. Laura sends "A special thanks to the Franciscan tertiaries for their generous support of my research and ministry!"

In her letter of February 25, Laura asks for prayer for the Lord's guidance in preparing future I.I.S. courses. She hopes to be professed at either their July or November retreat weekends. Zane is now considering becoming a postulant. Their address is: P.O. Box 647, Pietermaritzburg 3200, South Africa. (U.S. Support Office, Africa Enterprise, P.O. Box 988m Pasadena, CA 91102.



THE MUSTARD SEED FELLOWSHIP

...of New York state appears to be one of the most communicative and active of the Fellowships. In this communication, Dave Wilbur shares "where we are as a community in Upstate New York..."

There are between 5 and 20 of us, depending on how you define your count. We are scattered across a healthy-size state -- from Albany to Buffalo is something like 350 miles. There are no concentrations -- except for married couples, we are all from different counties.

We met four times in 1985 and hope to get a schedule of 5 meetings annually -- omitting winter -- plus whatever we can work out in terms of retreats and similar critters. However, a lot of our membership, counting the high value, cannot make it to meetings at a given time and central place.

We decided, for that reason, to launch a newsletter to keep in contact. This, like Tolkein's work, "grew in the telling," and we produced a philosophical apologia in a recent issue. What we are doing in a somewhat different way from the Canterbury round-robin group is to attempt a "fellowship meeting by mail." That is, just as a fellowship meeting includes something of study, common prayers, and time for personal sharing, so Seedling Tidings will contain sharings from members -- brief biographies that answer "who am I and how did I get involved with the Third Order?", and also insightful pieces from our life experiences and our common life as Tertiaries -- intercession requests and collects for use in our Daily Offices, as well as fellowship news and plans. We avoid controversy but not controversial issues, trying to take an editorial viewpoint, so far as is possible, of being comprehensive, reconciling and expressive of the Notes of the Order.

We met December 1 at Thornfield Conference Center, Central New York's facility for retreats, Cursillos, meetings of all kinds. Fr. Joe Byrne gave a talk that covered a broad range of expression of Franciscan spirituality in secular life. We had some time for sharing with Liz Davenport, who has become a postulant with CSF. We dealt with several issues of our life as a fellowship in business meeting. There was a "meeting by phone" January 2, to formalize authorizing a bank account for fellowship funds. We are meeting again at St. Mark's Church, Newark, NY (not New Jersey) on Palm Sunday, and then having a fellowship retreat at St. Margaret's House in New Hartford, outside Utica, on April 11-13.

In communications through the winter, there has been a strong sense of God's nurturing hand on all of us. We're looking expectantly to our second year as a fellowship. I'll close this letter as Jean Carr often does hers: "God is so good!"

Dave Wilbur

Their newsletter, "Seedling Tidings" is very attractive, and a good deal more elaborate than the Times. They must devote much time, energy, and caring on such a fine production. Their Christmas issue even had a real mustard seed attached!

The Fellowship is planning a retreat for April 11-13. Retreatmaster is Fr. Dan Jerzog, rector of Christ Church, Morristown, New York.

I wish I could print more of their good newsletter. It's a monthly mailing, and every issue has so much in it! This page, and the one following will have to suffice for now. If you're interested in receiving it, I should think that a donation to cover the cost and a request to Dave and Barb Wilbur, 208 West Lynde Street, Watertown, NY 13601, would bring it to you, for your inspiration and interest.

CONVENER'S CORNER

Of Times, Space, and Fig Trees

"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven." Eccl 3:1 (NKJV)

A few Sundays ago some things came together for me that gave me a much needed and renewed sense of the presence and power of God in my life, as well as a feeling that perhaps I ought to rethink some of my opinions and attitudes.

I was really shaken by the news of the exploding spacecraft late last month. I said my noonday office the day it happened on behalf of the crew and their survivors. I didn't realize how deeply it had affected me until the following Sunday. It was the feast of the Presentation in the Temple. The sermon made mention of the recent tragedy. One of the points made was that Jesus is Lord over life — and death. Whether our lives end quietly and peacefully as we suppose happened to Simeon of the presentation story, or death catches us unawares as it did the seven astronauts, God is very much in control. The loss of "Challenger" and its crew saddened many Americans. It brought us up sharply to a very real awareness of our smallness and helplessness. It has shown us that we're fools if we allow us to think even for an instant that we're safe from tragedy. We must not let ourselves become complacent and presume that death is far down the road yet. We never know what God has for us, but it's up to us to "be prepared."

As I listened to this, I'm not sure how, but I found myself thinking on the story of the fig tree — remember the story in Mark? Where Jesus comes to this fig tree and sees it all a-leaf and expects it to be laden with plump, juicy figs — and it turns out to be bare except for the leaves. So he curses it: "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." (Mark 11:14) The next day Jesus and the disciples pass that way again and Peter sees the dead fig tree. He points it out and Jesus proceeds to give them a lesson in faith. "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them." (Mark 11:24)

This passage has always confused me. I could not see what a dead fig tree had to do with faith. In a Bible study group I was in a year or so ago we drew the conclusion that perhaps it might refer to outward show but no real bearing of fruit. For instance if someone were to wear a profession cross without fail and then deny a helping hand to someone in need, he or

she would be very much like that fig tree. But that day a few weeks ago I saw something different — and began to make the connection between cursed fig trees and faith. It wasn't that Jesus cursed the fig tree — that actually had very little to do with it. What Jesus was trying to show is that what happens in the here and now is not important — but how we enter from life through death into Life. And that is where faith comes in. Jesus could just as easily have called forth figs from that tree. But he chose to kill it instead, to make a point. That fig tree's existence didn't matter then. What mattered was how the disciples would deal with the real issues of death and resurrection.

I have been much troubled lately by stress — from work, from a tendency to overcommit myself, and from general "burnout," and also by a feeling of abandonment by God and the world in general. This expressed itself in depression, rebellion, self-pity, fruitlessness in prayer, negative feelings toward almost everyone. I'm not free from these yet. But I think the sequence of events during the week that led up to that Sunday were sufficient to shake me out of myself and cause me to face what I was becoming and come to grips with it.

Of times: "There is a time for throwing all past stones away." This is a quote from a song by the Rev. Carey Landry. (©North American Liturgy Resources 1975) It's a paraphrase of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. It seems appropriate in the wake of the recent NASA tragedy. The song itself speaks to me as a warning to get my life in order: to get rid of resentments and recommit myself to Christ. I'm going to need your prayers on this because I've let myself backslide much too far. With your love and support I know I can make it.

Of space: God's love reaches out beyond ourselves to the very stars. He is in control and it's not for us to question but to believe. Of fig trees: What happens here on earth is of little account if God holds us in eternal life. In that we've got to believe.

Oh God our King, by the resurrection of Your Son Jesus Christ on the first day of the week, You conquered sin, put death to flight, and gave us the hope of everlasting life: Redeem all our days by this victory; forgive our sins, banish our fears. make us bold to praise You and to do Your will: and steel us to wait for the consummation of Your Kingdom on the last great Day; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Paul woman enters Anglican convent

by Kathleen Staggs

On September 30, Kathleen Staggs, a former parishioner of St. Paul's on the Hill, St. Paul, entered the Community of St. Clare at St. Mary's Convent in England. The convent is on a five-acre piece of land. If everything works out, Staggs will stay there, with rare forays outside, for the rest of her life. Following is an "interview," conducted by Staggs herself.

Q. What is a day like in the Community of St. Clare?

A. The rising bell rings at 5:00; the lights-out bell at 9:30. The daily schedule includes five offices (Matins, Lauds, Noonday, Vespers, Compline), the Eucharist, two hours of personal prayer, recreation, three meals (eaten while reading spiritual books on holders in front of each nun's plate), some free time, and, in between, many hours of work. The sisters do their own housework and cooking, maintain the guesthouse, raise most of their own food, and earn their living by making altar bread and religious cards and by operating a small printing shop.

Q. Are you allowed to speak in a cloistered convent?

A. Normally, talking is held to a minimum, with free social discussion only at the daily forty-five minute recreation periods. The human contact of discussion is valued; recreation is talking, not checkers or volleyball.

Fridays are totally silent, and, to celebrate, restrictions on silence are lifted on Sundays and feast days.

Q. Was joining an easy decision to make? Are you "called?"

A. No, it was not easy to decide, and yes, I guess I am called. I was raised in a nonreligious family. When I responded as a teenager to a strong religious impulse and tried to determine which church to join, I was fascinated with nuns and read many standard books on the subject. However, when at seventeen I was baptized in the Episcopal church, I had no idea there were Episcopal religious communities.



Kathleen Staggs

When I was twenty-five and in graduate school, I married one of my nicest fellow students. Before the wedding, I was obsessed for a couple of weeks with the idea of being a nun. By that time, I had discovered that there were Episcopal sisters.

I read extensively again and prayed, confiding my thoughts to only the closest of friends. One of these, a philosopher of religion, had been a Roman Catholic Poor Clare for five years. She told me she had left the community because her intellectual preoccupations were too strong and distracting.

I thought, "Well, I'm certainly an intellectual, too, so the same thing would happen to me." And so I pushed the thought out of my mind. At the same time, I imagine, I was greedy for all the "good things" life offered, and I was not secure enough to do something so radically out of the ordinary.

After five years, my husband and I were sadly but amicably divorced. I moved to Minnesota to teach religious studies at Macalester. After a satisfying first year, while I began to settle down and buy furniture, God came to shake me up and offer his invitation again.

Even this time around, the idea of becoming a nun was deeply disturbing and horrible. I didn't want to give up the ordered life and salary (modest but steady) that I had achieved. I didn't know if it were a genuine call or some weird product of my mind. After a long struggle, I grudgingly and desperately accepted it in obedience to God. Now, finally, I am

quite happy and serene about the decision. Still, I must confess, I occasionally wonder about my future should I find myself unsuitable for the convent.

Q. Why are you going to England?

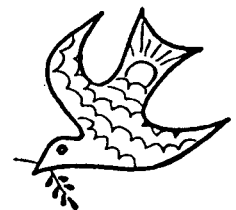
A. I don't feel I have a choice. After I determined that I should be a contemplative nun, I discovered that the only place for women in the U.S.—the Poor Clares in Mt. Sinai, New York—is unable to give me the training I need. I then spent many months coming to grips with the fact that I would have to go so far away from my family. I even seriously considered becoming a Roman Catholic, since there is a Carmelite monastery in Seattle, but eventually decided that the intellectual freedom of the Episcopal church is precious to me.

Q. How did you join?

A. I wrote to six or seven communities in England for information. All responded, but, since at the time I was a member of the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis, I wanted to remain in the Franciscan family. I wrote the Reverend Mother of the Community of St. Clare a long letter and spent a week visiting the community in March 1984. By the middle of that week, I felt no need to visit another community. This was the right place.

About three weeks after returning home, I wrote, saying I would like to join. To my relief, the Reverend Mother wrote back, "We are all delighted with your decision."

This article is borrowed from Soundings, the magazine of the Diocese of Minnesota. Kathy Staggs is a former tertiary.



In a February newsletter, Edward Medina of the Long Island Fellowship wrote about their January meeting..."It was a night in which we learned, laughed, and filled the house with songs of praise..." The groups has been invited by the New York City Fellowship to join them in a retreat experience at Little Portion Friary June 6-8.



THIS SEAL WAS INCLUDED in one newsletter from the Minnesota Fellowship of St. Francis. Their news includes:

January meeting at the Episcopal Church Home, with Gage Colby and Dorothea McCall sharing their apostolates with the group. In February, Judy Schmidt shared her apostolate. Stephen Neill's book, Anglicanism is being used by the group for study. They have a "traveling library," which is brought to meetings. A retreat is planned for May 30-June 1.

Their March newsletter contains a poem by Francis Raymond and Helen E. Line, from Man With A Song:

Good Relations

God's his Father,
Earth's his Mother,
The Moon's his Sister,
And Wind's his Brother.
For a man who never married,
St. Francis had quite a family!

THE WASHINGTON, DC Third Order Fellowship met on January 18 at St. John's, Norwood. Janet and Pam presented a program on Hunger. Tertiaries moving into the area are invited to become acquainted. Contact Caroline Moran (301) 530-8911 or Pam Moffat (202) 363-2192. In Baltimore, contact Helen Webb (301) 486-3507.

THE HAWAI'I FELLOWSHIP HAS SENT SOME WELCOME NEWS:

Our Hawai'i Fellowship is blessed, honored, and joyous that The Rev. Robert Goode was called to come to the island of Oahu.

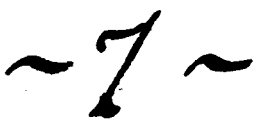
On December 5, 1985, the Feast of St. Clement of Alexandria, Rev. Goode (we all know him as Gooch) was installed as rector of St. Mark's at the hand of the Rt. Rev. Edmond L. Browning, Bishop of Hawai'i and now our Presiding Bishop.

Our fellowship which is a potluck affair meets once a month at various homes. In January we met at Rev. Goode's home. He cooked the main dish and served it on his cracked china, that's really Franciscan.



Work is love
made visible
Gibran

Edean Iwanaga
Hawai'i Fellowship



Nina Andrews, who was professed on December 15th, writes: "The prayer for occasional use" in the Devotional Companion have been very helpful to me; especially those on the last pages.

The very last prayer, "For the Unemployed," is one which I often use in my daily prayers. I do, however, insert (after the words "honest and decent work," these words, "and into the hearts of employees the will and the ability to do honest and decent work." Then I continue the prayer as written.

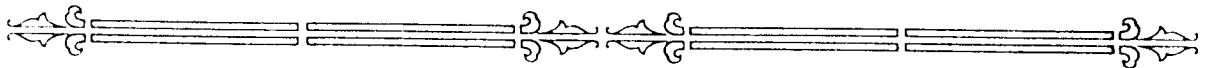
To me, this petition seems as necessary as the first; otherwise there is an imbalance which causes much sorrow and difficulty for all people. I am sure you will understand why I think this is so."



THE NEW UMBRIAN FELLOWSHIP IN San Francisco enjoyed a Franciscan Pageant on December 22. Members were asked to "sing, dance, carry an animal face, or just mingle with the crowd and sing when the mood hits you."

In February, the meeting began with a brown bag dinner, Louise Mangini providing the dessert and the meeting place. Members talked about their struggles, doubts, faith and/or lack of faith.

Their January meeting was an Epiphany party at MaryAnn Jackman's. People were asked to bring a dish "preferably one with food in it." A pragmatic group!



Tertiary Don Carlson reports that THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LIVING ROSARY now has fourteen members. He has worked out a system, whereby two rosaries are prayed each day, and suggested the meditations to be used. During Eastertide, their intention is to "pray with, for...and to support the intentions of our Provincial Ministers, Br. Robert Hugh, SSF and Sr. Cecilia, CSF.

PILGRIMAGE FELLOWSHIP

During the month of December, the three of us from Maine made a retreat at the Monastery of St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge, Mass. We had a great time. As an outcome of the retreat, it was decided to form a fellowship. Vince Mayo has been appointed as acting convenor. Due to the great travel distances between us, it was decided to meet quarterly, March, August, and a retreat in December. We chose the Name Pilgrimage because of our journey to God, and also because it means an overnight trip for one of our members. It was great getting together, and finally having a chance to meet each other. We had been writing and talking on the telephone for a year.

We centered our retreat around the book Living Parables by Kevin O'Sullivan, OFM published by Franciscan Herald Press. It is an excellent book. We enjoyed singing the offices with the brothers. It was an uplifting experience.

Each one of us is looking forward to our next meeting, which will be in March. A day long meeting has been planned, with time for worship, meditation, discussion, and a short business meeting. It is terrific being able to get together with other members, instead of being isolated. We found that we have much to share, and many common interests.

....and this is from THE SAINT BERNADINE FELLOWSHIP:

"On March 9, 1986, the Saint Bernadine Fellowship of the Third Order of Saint Francis met at the home of Gene and Joyce Marks in San Bernardino, CA. There were 10 present.

"After Eucharist, discussion on various subjects took place.

"Father Kim Soville and his wife were guests. Fr. Kim is an interim priest at the church of St. Francis in Highland, California. He reported on his European trip and especially of his visit to Assisi in Italy to the church where St. Francis had his vision and where the Poor Clares came into being. Another interesting fact was that Fr. Kim and his wife were perplexed about the time allotted for their trip and other places they had wanted to see, but after time spent in Assisi, longer than they had planned, a revelation came to them about what to do about their allotted time.

"The next meeting of the Fellowship will be on April 13, 2:30 p.m. at the home of Sylvia Broadbent in Riverside. At that meeting, Marie Webner, vice president of the Third Order, will be a guest and speaker."

-- Doris E. Diener

THE CHI-RHO FELLOWSHIP in Chicago calls their newsletter, as you probably remember, "The Voice of the Turtle." Here's the little fellow from their March newsletter, getting spruced up for spring -- and applying something from a can, which I can only surmise must be Turtle Wax.



Gerry Sevick has been selected to act as their new co-convenor, along with Kathy Klein. Their January meeting was at the Church of the Ascension and began with a Eucharist. Dede Wentworth provided the program; sharing her talents with voice and guitar in praising God with music.

Bill Mahan, husband to the secretary of the Fellowship, Claire, died of cancer on Saturday, January 25. A large number of Franciscan, cursillistas, parish, friends, and neighbors gathered on January 29 to celebrate his birth into eternal life.

Glen Ann Jicha presented a meditation on Love at the February meeting. Kay and Gerry Sevick are the parents of a baby girl, Sarah. Phil Weber made his profession vows at the March meeting, and Al Easterwood was received as a postulant.

AT THE MILWAUKEE FELLOWSHIP, Sharon Veenker was professed at the March meeting, which began with a morning Eucharist. Afterward, Sharon provided the soup for a luncheon (coffee too) (which being so expensive now rates a special mention of its own).

At their January meeting at Joan Powers's home, they discussed the first four chapters of "The Way of St. Francis" by Murray Bodo. They plan to continue this study.

Robert Durand was professed on December 6, St. Nicholas Day, in the St. Francis of Assisi Chapel at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington, Vermont. Another one of those isolated teriaries, he was fortunate to have his profession received by Br. John-Charles, SSF, who was in Vermont to conduct the Diocesan Advent Retreat. He celebrated the Eucharist and Fr. Addison C. Hall, Robert's spiritual director, preached.





THE SIXTH ANNUAL NORTHEAST CONFERENCE OF THE THIRD ORDER will be held September 12-14, 1986 at Graymoor Christian Unity Center, Garrison, NY. The announcement has been sent to some 175 tertiaries, from northern Virginia to Ontario and Quebec, and from Pennsylvania to Main. The theme has yet to be chosen. (Kathy Palmer, a member of the Third Order in Pennsylvania, did this drawing of St. Francis.)

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Tammy Sparks, a member of the New Umbrian Fellowship, has been approved for ordination to the diaconate. Her ordination is scheduled for June 7th. Please keep her in your prayers.

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"LILY PATTERN"

That's the name of the newsletter for the Lilies of the Field Fellowship in Colorado. Dearlie Moline is the convenor and the newsletter editor.

*At their December meeting, Dearlie spoke on the "Friendship" chapter of C.S. Lewis's The Four Loves.

*Way back in October, several members of the group went to Boulder for a Pot Providence get-together with Brother Robert. Among those present were Fr. Kale and Amory King from Wyoming, Fr. Allen and Mary Lou Hall, friends, spouses, and Sally Hicks's cats. Mary Lou and Sally renewed their vows during the Eucharist. Dearlie writes that after the meeting they saw a doe...and later on, an antlered stag lying on someone's lawn like a lawn ornament. Allen Hall was ordained to the priesthood on December 22.

*Last year, Dearlie won the Colorado Companion Diocese Poster Contest. The poster she designed was depicted in The Colorado Episcopalian recently. It shows a big heart, with maps showing the location of the Diocese of Colorado and their companion diocese, Southern Malawi. Around the edge of the heart is an inscription in Chichewa, "Let the prayer of our hearts daily be: God, make us your family." Praying hands are uplifted at the bottom of the poster.

ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS FELLOWSHIP, ARIZONA

Jonathan and Marnee were professed last November. "This mean Community with a capital 'C'." Andrew Wilkes wrote in their newsletter.

On March 14-16, a retreat was held at St. David's Monastery in Benson.

For May 17th, a combined fellowship meeting for the Phoenix and Tuscon groups is planned. It will be at the Chapel of the Resurrection in Tucson, with Bishop Frensdorff.



"IT IS ONE THING TO PRAISE DISCIPLINE; AND ANOTHER TO SUBMIT TO IT."

-- Don Quixote de La Mancha

THE SANTA BARBARA FELLOWSHIP

The life and witness of St. Elizabeth of Hungary was the theme of their meeting on her feast day, November 17th. They began the meeting with Eucharist at Trinity Church. Fr. John Dally preached a beautiful sermon, centering his thoughts on St. Elizabeth's concern for the poor, reflected in the homeless shelter program in Santa Barbara. Supper was at Vlach's, where they enjoyed a time of meaningful prayer and thanksgiving and learned from Lauren more about the life of St. Elizabeth.

Their December meeting was on the Feast of the Holy Innocents. Fr. George Woodward celebrated the Eucharist; then they met again at Vlach's for Evening Prayer and supper. Fr. Woodward exhorted the group to live lives characterized by reflection and forethought, rather than expediency.

They held a Franciscan Retreat at St. Mary's Retreat House in March.



So ends the stack of newsletters I've accumulated since the last Times. I need to add the note that some of us Montana Franciscans did at least get to see each other on the occasion of the consecration of C.I. Jones as eighth bishop of Montana on February 8th. I served as an usher in the south transept of St. Helena's (Roman Catholic) Cathedral, where the service was held. Chaplain Carl Andrews and his wife and children sat in the back row there, so we talked a bit before the service. He said he wanted to be near the door, in case the children got noisy. The confessional boxes were directly behind us, and I said that perhaps he could put them in there, and muffle the sound! Actually, the children were very good; and as a mother who shepherded seven children to church, I was very impressed! Ann Haggett and Jeri Lynn Miller were there also -- so brief greetings were exchanged.

During Lent, Carl was the speaker at a potluck dinner in my parish. He stayed over night, rather than returning to Malmstrom Air Force Base late at night. So this gave the two of us a chance to get together over breakfast at the No Sweat Cafe (my favorite!) and talk a bit about our lives and journeys.

A BOOK OF FRANCISCAN INTEREST

Reviewed by Brother John-Charles, SSF

God's Fool: The Life and Times of Francis of Assisi -- by Julian Green (translated by Peter Heinegg) pp 268, Harper and Row. \$16.95 (cloth) \$12.95 (paper)

Brilliant, enchanting, exquisite -- none of these words is overdone in describing this book. Green has an imaginative genius which clothes the facts of history and the speculations of legend with flesh and blood, pouring out the substance in short descriptive sentences of telling and unforgettable power and illumination.

Over and over turns of phrase shed new light and meaning on the life of Francis. There is a freshness which challenges, makes one laugh and cry, and leads to prayer. Francis comes to life here as seldom in modern biography. Indeed of all the non-technical biographies of the Poverello in modern times, this is the best. It towers over all the rest. This is a book written "from faith to faith," and by faith.

Julian Green is a most distinguished author who in this book, written in his eighty-sixth year, fulfills a life's desire. He is aware of modern researches

(continued page 12)

which he enriches with spiritual insight which rings true. He has a clear grasp of the context of the saint's life and times and uses this skilfully to make his subject live. All lovers of Francis will be grateful for this book and will feel that they know him better for having enjoyed his company with Green for guide.

Francis, he concludes, "was and still remains the man who transcends our sad theological barriers. He belongs to everyone, like the love that is unceasingly offered to us. You couldn't see him without loving him, they said in his day; and that love has stayed the course." (p.272) But did he fail? "Apparently...He was convinced that salvation would come through the Gospel. The Gospel was eternity, the Gospel had only just begun. What were twenty centuries in the eyes of God?" (p. 273)

Green's commentary on the Stigmata goes to the heart of the matter, and in one of his memorable phrases, he says, "the wounds were like mouths that said too much" and that was why Francis hid them.

With the wisdom born of age and a clear grasp of the medieval mind, Green moves beyond the petty questions of our proud intellects to address the spiritual truths at the heart of Francis. It is this which makes reading the book so enriching an experience.

He grasps the driving force in Francis, whose "secret undoubtedly lay in a joy that appeared to be inextinguishable, not just a joy in life, but another deeper joy whose nature he himself didn't properly understand any more than he grasped the immensity of the grace dwelling in him ever since his birth." (p.26)

Moving and convincing is his notable aside on the face of St. Francis and the interpretation of the various portraits of Francis.

This is a wonderful feast, and one of the two most beautifully written books I have read in years.

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Praise be to Thee,
my Lord

for Brother Wind,

and for air and clouds
and all weather -

for the seasons
by which Thou
supportest
all Thy creatures
in life

Ken Norian
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East Meadow NY 11554

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