

# Franciscan Times

NOVEMBER, 1986

Dear Franciscan friends:

Finally, I get a chance to begin on The Franciscan Times, which I would have hoped to have completed in the summer time. The trouble was that I spent most of the summer being sick; June in the hospital and July on my couch. Then I got back to the office, with a lot of catching up to do, compounded by the fact that the mailing list for our diocesan newspaper got erased from our computer (not my fault!) and I had a lot of work to try to get it in order by mid-September. Then I had to visit the hospital once more in late September, recuperate, catch up on work, and finally I've done it, and have the time and energy to make a beginning on our newsletter.

Thank you to so many people who heard I was ill, who prayed for me, and wrote to me. And thank you to everyone who didn't write to me and say "Where is the Times?"

Here it is, in time for Advent; news of the various Fellowships around the country, news of individual tertiaries, contributions of poetry, thoughts, book reviews. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this pot-pourri of Third Order Franciscan reading. Seems to me that many Fellowships aren't included here. I hope that people will send me news of your meetings, retreats, or whatever.

My address is: 2020 Hauser Blvd., Helena, Montana 59601.



Joanne  
Joanne Maynard

Becky Goldberg, who sends the news of THE NEW UMBRIAN FELLOWSHIP, lives on Celestial Lane. Doesn't that sound Heavenly? Her newsletters show that a Third Order member, Tammy Sparks, was ordained to the diaconate on June 7. After the ordination, there was a "family" picnic and meeting, and later on, a reception honoring Tammy.

On August 24, our new Minister General preached at Grace Cathedral for Evensong. (This Fellowship is in San Francisco, in case you didn't guess.) Dinner followed for the Franciscan family.

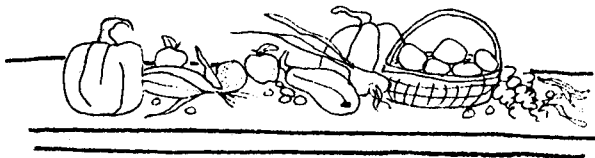
They met on October 3 at St. Francis House for Transitus, Eucharist, and a potluck supper. Friends were invited to this open meeting.

The weekend of August 8-10, about 40 Franciscans gathered at the Bishop's Ranch for Convocation.

On September 12, a Eucharist was held to celebrate the election of Sister Cecilia as Mother of all the Anglican Sisters of the First Order Community of St. Francis.

## NEW UMBRIAN FELLOWSHIP (Continued)

Then Becky writes something that's a surprise to me: "...we rejoice in the upcoming ordination of Kathy Cooper to the priesthood. The ordination will take place on the feast of St. Michael and All Angels in Columbia Falls, Montana." Of course, I knew that Kathy Cooper was ordained, and will serve as vicar in Columbia Falls and Eureka, Montana. But I didn't know that she is part of the Franciscan family. That makes one more of us in Montana!



Also in California, Doris Diener, corresponding secretary, sent news of the SAINT BERNADINE FELLOWSHIP: The Fellowship met at the home of Dr. Sylvia Broadbent in Riverside, California on Saturday afternoon, September 27th. There were eight present, and the meeting opened with a Eucharist. The Rev. Gene Wallace, new priest at St. George's church in Riverside, was a guest.

Election of officers took place. Fr. Woodfield was elected as convenor and Ruth Floyd as recording secretary. A lengthy and rewarding discussion on simplicity took place.

The next meeting was planned for November 8 with Ruth Floyd and Joyce Marks as hostesses.

A supper was served and social time was enjoyed. The meeting was closed with corporal prayers and a benediction by Fr. Woodfield.

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### A MEDITATION FOR PENTECOST

*(This meditation was sent to me last spring. Though Pentecost is long past, it is still as timely as ever.)*

*by Mary Mobert*

*"Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high."  
Luke 24:49*

*It had been a tumultuous week. Jesus, welcomed into Jerusalem with shouts and praise, had been promptly crucified. The apostles, who had entered the city as celebrities, dared not be seen by day for fear of suffering the same fate.*

*Then Jesus had arisen from death and appeared to them at supper. "Stay in the city." These were His last words, then He was gone. Most of the apostles had packed and were ready to leave by night, intending to go home, away from the whirlwind of Jerusalem.*

*Stay, that was a hard command to obey. Stay in the eye of the storm, the center of danger, the middle of controversy. They had yet to realize this was to be their life from here on.*

*Few Christians today lead lives of danger like the Apostles. Staying where God puts us is toilsome. Heaven is not supposed to be mundane. We wish to be out fighting the good fight, not doing dishes or office work, changing diapers or mowing the lawn.*

*What we want is usually not what God wants. Moses was a shy, lisping man who was appalled at the thought of public speaking. Peter would rather have been fishing. Francis of Assisi sought solitude while his mentor Clare*

MEDITATION (continued from pg 2)

wanted to go on Crusades. Detrich Bonnhoffer wished to stay in England. None of that was to be.

We forget that our hands are God's hands. Their witness is His witness; their work, His work. None of it is small or lies worthless at His feet. Most people hardly ever get the chance to do really big things for God, and we can waste our whole life just waiting for that chance.



Ann Harris, Provincial Secretary, at 555 Reed Drive, Davis, CA 95616, has copies of the BASICS. If you have never received them, or have lost your copy, you may order from her:

- The Devotional Companion \$4.00
- The Way of St. Francis \$2.50
- The Source Book \$2.50
- The Religious Life \$2.00

The following three booklets have been revised and are being sent to everyone:

- The Principles & Rule, The Office of Admissions,
- The Statutes



The Third Order WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE was held at the Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg, California August 8-10. The Theme was "Prayer in a Franciscan Rule of Life."

The Sixth Annual NORTHEAST CONFERENCE of the Third Order S.S.F. was held at Graymoor, and was pronounced "simply great and more!"

THE MILWAUKEE FELLOWSHIP

The only communication received from the Milwaukee Fellowship was back in April. At that time, they were planning a meeting at Stephen and Sally Waller's, with Eucharist, lunch, and a discussion of Murray Bodo's book, The Way of St. Francis. Sharon Weenker was professed on March 15 at St. Michael's church, Barrington, Illinois, her home parish. The Rev. William McLean III was celebrant. \* *More news, page 11.*

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THE AUSTIN FELLOWSHIP

...held a retreat at the Bishop Mason Retreat Center in Grapevine, Texas October 24-26. Brother Patrick Damian, SSF was speaker and retreat master. It was held with the Dallas Fellowship and all interested people were invited. Dick Lillard is acting convener for the Austin Fellowship, and we were pleased to get this communication from them.

## BLESSINGS AND NEWS FROM THE ST. CLARE FELLOWSHIP, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON:

In August of 1988 we had the pleasure of sponsoring an open, quiet retreat led by Sr. Cecilia, OCF. We chose St. Andrew's House which is beautifully situated on the Hood Canal, southwest of Seattle. Sr. Cecilia's warmth and love permeated her meditations on being still and knowing God. She shared that only in letting go can we be totally in God and see his creating. Only in being at the still center of the turning world can we be with Him; we do not need to search for Him. It is enough simply to see God and to be with Him, to love Him as He loves us. Sr. Cecilia summarized the retreat very well when she pointed to her heart and said, "Be still and know that I am God."

We had our last year's Christmas party at Gloria Goller's house on Bainbridge Island. Everyone enjoyed the sharing of poems personal experiences related to their Franciscan callings. Gloria showed two films, one on the life of St. Francis depicted by famous artists and the other on the shroud of Turin and the lost years of Jesus' life.

In August of this year I attended the Northwest Convocation at the Bishop's Ranch at Healdsburg, California. Each time it is a treat for me to be with fellow Franciscans. The emphasis was on prayer and the community of prayer. There was much on which to meditate but for me the heart of the meditations was the question posed by Sr. Cecilia, "Do you do what you do?"

Gloria Goller and several persons informally meet once a month as an associate group at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church on Bainbridge Island. At Poulsbo nearby, a group of Roman Catholic Third Order Franciscans also meet monthly and sometimes join the groups at St. Barnabas and at St. Mark's in Seattle.

On October 4th. two of the Roman TO Franciscans and Nicole Herron, an Associate living in Tacoma, attended our Francistide blessing of the animals. Gloria told those who gathered with their animals the story of Francis and the wolf at Gubbio and, with a fellow member of her church, led the singing of Franciscan hymns. Following the outdoor service we went into the church for the Holy Eucharist Service during which Gloria received Rose as a novice and Mark and I renewed our novice pledges. Following the Service we all went to Gloria's house and had a pot luck lunch of sandwiches and pastries. While we celebrated Francistide at St. Barnabas Ella Maria Mora and her husband, Dale Hawley, joined the TO Franciscans and Anglican Companions of St. Francis in Nanaimo, B.C., Canada, where they celebrated Francistide.

Nicole has introduced us to the activities of The Little Portion Associates at Delaware Water Gap in Pennsylvania. She attends their retreats and shares their life with us.

Nancy Dillon is trying a First Order vocation with the Community of St. Francis in San Francisco. She tells us that she has never been happier.

In Christ and Francis,

*Carole*



### BELFAST'S BLEAK HOUSE:

*Faith Behind Bars in the Crumlin Road Jail. David Jardine, S.S.F., Marshall Pickering, Basingstoke, U.K., pp 124, paperback.*

This important little book is available in the U.S.A. from Seabury Bookstore, 815 Second Ave., New York, N.Y., \$3.50.

David Jardine is a life professed friar of the Society of Saint Francis and a priest of The Church of Ireland (Anglican), who for ten troubled years was chaplain to the Crumlin Road Jail, one of Belfast's toughest security prisons.

In these pages, based on his experiences and illustrated by true encounters, he gives us a picture of faith in action under very difficult circumstances. In the process he provides us with pastoral and spiritual insights which have a wider application than his prison ministry.

A love for Northern Ireland breathes through these pages and he has wise words about how peace and unity might be furthered through ecumenical cooperation.

His insights on prayer, healing, and fasting should be a help to many who engage in intercessory prayer and who feel a vague sense of guilt about our current neglect of the discipline of fasting.

All who have a concern for the troubles in Ireland will benefit from this wise, moving, and challenging book.

—John-Charles S.S.F.

This book is also available from St. Elizabeth's Friary, 1474 Bushwick Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11207 In either case, postage is 75¢.



FRANCISCAN AUTHOR. Br. David Jardine makes a point from his new book to Br. Patrick Damian.

*Fellowships News*

*Canticle of the Cross*

"Canticle of the Cross" is the name chosen by the Charleroi, Pennsylvania area tertiaries at their meeting May 24, 1986 at Christ Church, Greensburg. It has a special meaning for us members as it reflects praise to God and suffering with

Christ as we try to live the Gospel life as Franciscans.

The morning began with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Father Karl Ruttan of Greensburg, followed by a hearty breakfast served by the Men's Group. A sharing ensued on how we were called to the Third Order. Plans were made for a fellowship retreat in March, 1987 at St. Fidelis Retreat House in Butler.

*Kathy Palmer*

"The bliss of the animals lies in this, that, on their lower level, they shadow the bliss of those -- few at any moment on the earth -- who do not 'look before and after, and pine for what is not' but live in the holy carelessness of the eternal NOW."

George MacDonald, Sir Gibbie

FRUITS OF THE LOOM -- from Land of the Sky Third Order Franciscan Fellowship, Western North Carolina.

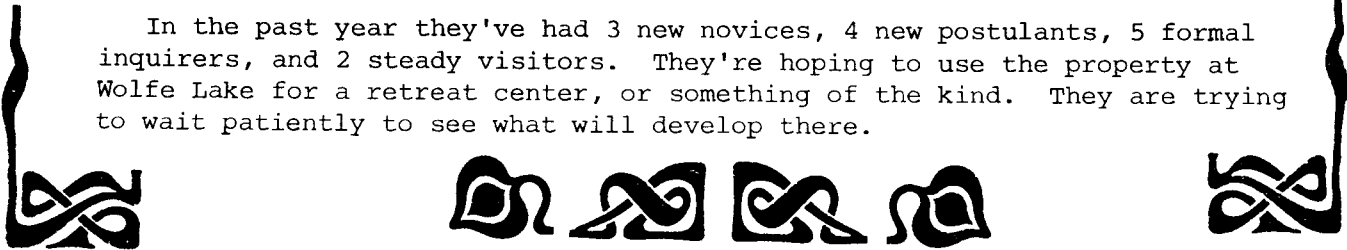
## "a family of weavers"

This active group held their annual retreat the first weekend in May. It was well attended, with a very special sharing time. Fr. Edward Wahl from the Oratory in Rock Hill, South Carolina was the leader, and the theme was "Dreams." Everyone came away with a new understanding of dreams and their significance. The sisters and staff at Living Waters Reflection Center "spoiled" the group with wonderful food and accommodations, and the weather was "picture post card perfect." The next weekend, some of them went to Wolfe Lake to freshen up for the season at the lake house.

Their June meeting began with Morning Prayer, followed by coffee and sandwiches in the sunny garden. The topic of the day was Poverty of Spirit. They shared their struggles to live in the Franciscan mode in a world that's driven by other forces, and gained much strength from each other.

Many of them attended the Regional Convocation in Toccoa, Georgia. Br. Robert Hugh gave two thought provoking meditations on "Enjoying God's Grace" on Saturday morning. Eucharist and renewal of vows followed. Then there was lunch. A Fellowship meeting was held on the Saturday, and Heber Peacock was elected Convener, assisted by Betty Bell. Carole Turner and Davis Horner will do secretary/treasurer duties and also the newsletter.

In the past year they've had 3 new novices, 4 new postulants, 5 formal inquirers, and 2 steady visitors. They're hoping to use the property at Wolfe Lake for a retreat center, or something of the kind. They are trying to wait patiently to see what will develop there.



On the weekend of March 14, the Arizona Fellowship made its annual retreat at Holy Trinity Monastery, southwest of Tucson. "The weather was gorgeous, the physical setting of the monastery sublime..." said their newsletter. Sister Catherine Joy was with them for this occasion.

Their July newsletter contained news of the Southwestern Regional Convocation in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the end of June. "There was a full house, with 10 states represented. The theme was 'prayer.' Brother Robert Hugh gave three meditations during the retreat phase of the weekend. Barbara Cooper and Bill Bellais gave a talk on Myers-Briggs type indicator and our prayer life. Marnee Sell emceed the Serendipity Night. Marie Webner told the story of Cordie [could the writer mean Curdie] and the Princess as the basis of an active-community meditation; and Brother Robert talked about the Companion Program of the First Order."

Their July newsletter notes that Muriel Adey was to become the first woman deacon in the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia later in July.

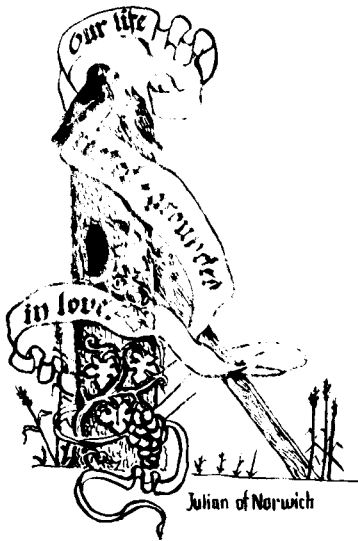
The group held a Blessing of Animals on St. Francis Day in Coolidge, with home made ice cream for the congregation. A Mass with renewal of vows followed the blessing and treats. They plan to have a booth at Diocesan Convention.

They are planning a retreat for March 20-22, 1987, and have voted unanimously for a silent retreat, though there will be a "Whisper Room" for those who wish to talk.

"Our crosses are hewn from different trees, but we all must have our Calvaries."

--F.L. Knowles

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LIVING ROSARY continues under the direction of the Carlsons. They have been praying for and with the brothers of Little Portion, using the Franciscan Rosary and meditating on the Seven Joys of our Lady. Their address is: Shadow Mountain Park #81, HC 36 Box 250, Prescott, AZ 86301. They would welcome your correspondence.



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PERHAPS THE PRIZE for the most regular and consistent newsletter publication should go to THE MESSENGER, of the Minnesota Fellowship of St. Francis. Here's what they've been doing:

A Mass and Bag Supper took place on May 6. They've finished their study of Anglicanism by Stephen Neill, led by Father Metcalfe. Their annual retreat was held May 30-June 1 at Mount Olivet Retreat Center. Conductor was Sr. Mary Andrew from Villa Maria. This was a silent retreat, except for meals. Julia Bergstrom made arrangements. Sr. Mary Andrew spoke of grace as a waterfall from which we fill our empty cups. We must be receptive and alert -- open and waiting. St. Francis saw the world with a fresh eye. Look beneath the surface to the real world. St. Francis had an "attitude of gratitude."

The subject at their August meeting was Poverty. Members were asked to think about: What have you discovered about St. Francis and poverty as you read books and materials about Franciscans? How does poverty relate to your life and your Rule? What is your interpretation? How does it apply to living today?

In September, they discussed Obedience. How did St. Francis relate to obedience? What does obedience mean to you? How do you apply it to your Rule?

On October 4, they met at the Oratory of St. Mary for Mass and renewal of vows. Then they enjoyed lunch. Lois Kern was re-elected convenor for the coming year.

They plan for an annual retreat May 14-16, 1987, with Fr. Masud Syedullah, Provincial Chaplain as director. This will be at Villa Maria, Frontenac.

In November, their meeting topic was Personal Prayer, as stated in the Principles and Rule: Tertiaries should plan on setting a minimum time daily for intercession, thanksgiving, prayer for personal needs, as well as meditation." People were invited to share ways, means, ideas, and problems.

#### LILIES OF THE FIELD FELLOWSHIP, COLORADO

In the April issue of their newsletter, "Lily Patter," Convenor Dearthie Moline write about her ministry, providing music at a nursing home. She had previously felt that hospital or nursing home ministry was not for her, because she had spent a great deal of time in the hospital when she was younger. But this turned out to be a good experience. She also wrote of an interesting Fellowship meeting, where those attending had all forgotten to bring their study books, so they discussed two topics which were on their minds, one being how to heal a family split, and the other about a disturbing dream about death. They found this alternative program to be helpful.

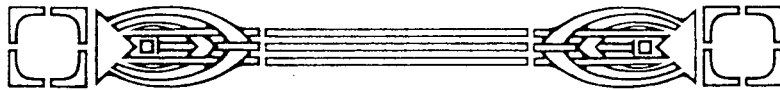
Dearthie resigned as Convenor and newsletter Editor in August. Sally Hicks and Mary Lou Hall are now Co-convenors.

(more next page)

(Lilies of the Field, cont.)

The Rev. Carl Andrews, Air Force Chaplain at Malmstrom AFB in Montana, was in Colorado with his wife Lynne and two daughters for the Clergy and Wives Conference in May. Fr. Andrews is a tertiary, and Dearnie attended a potluck meal in his honor and talked to him. He expects to go overseas in a year or so, perhaps to Australia.

On October 5, the Fellowship met for renewal of vows and evensong, with potluck dinner following. Fr. Kale and Amory King joined Fr. Al and Mary Lou Hall in presenting a program, "Fellowships we have known" and "On being a Franciscan." Amory has been hospitalized lately, and it was hoped that she would be well enough to attend.



THE PRIZE for the most ambitious Franciscan newsletter that I receive would no doubt go to "Seedling Tidings" of the Mustard Seed Fellowship, Upstate New York. Activities reported therein include:

March 23, meeting of prayer and praise, sharing, planning, and business, followed by bag lunches and Stations of the Cross. June meeting at Thornfield Conference Center, Cazenovia. They held a retreat at St. Margaret's House in New Hartford, led by The Rev. Daniel Herzog, whose secular vocation is Personnel Director at St. Lawrence State Hospital for the Insane. He began by saying "You may have made a mistake in asking to lead your retreat someone who spends most of his waking hours locked in a mental hospital." The writer reported that the retreat was "emphatically a call to sanity in an irrational world."

In July, they met with Brother Justus in Syracuse for an informal program. On October 3, they met at the Church of the Epiphany, Trumansburg, NY. Barbara Wilbur was reelected convener. They decided to meet perhaps just two times a year, with informal fellowshiping in between. They decided to have a retreat in the spring of 1987, with Fr. Alan Smith as retreat master. It will be at Thornfield. A tentative theme is "How can we be instruments of peace?"



LEXINGTON (KENTUCKY) AREA FRANCISCANS held a retreat in June. A van was lined up for those who had no cars. Friends who are not Franciscans were invited. Brother Chad was leader. It was a silent retreat: "The hardest commodity of all to find in our blaring culture," their newsletter said.

Ed Newbury was ordained deacon at St. Augustine's chapel on October 5, and Franciscan gathered after the ordination for a meeting.



THE GEORGIA FELLOWSHIP met back in April. Fr. Stan McGraw celebrated the Eucharist and they spent the meeting time discussing what the Third Order meant to each of them, and airing some frustrations.

THE SOUTHEASTERN CONVOCATION met at Camp Mikell September 19-21. This beautiful camp is in the North Georgia Mountains, northeast of Atlanta. The theme was Enjoying God's Grace.

"Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life; Such a Way as gives us breath,  
Such a Truth as ends all strife; Such a Life as killeth death!  
Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart; Such a Joy as none can move,  
Such a Love as none can part; Such a Heart as joys in love!"

-- George Herbert



Although it seems like a long time ago (May 1986) that the Second South Central Regional Convocation met in Tulsa, the loving message from Sister Cecilia's (CSF) spiritual exercises lives on--and well it should. Sister Cecilia is herself a study in gentleness and joy, good humor and love. Fellowships from Austin, Dallas, Colorado, OK, Kansas and Louisiana are a part of this region.

In developing her theme on "Work, study and prayer," she reminded us that these are pillars of both the first and third orders. She immediately enfolded us into her "work" images of God creating the world, Jesus as a manual worker as well as a teacher, preacher, and healer, and finally Jesus glorifying the Lord on earth, the completion of God's work by Jesus.

Study, the second way of service, is offered as an invitation to us by God into his stillness to share our joy or our anguish. Study aides include, but are not limited to, Scriptural studies, the intellect, feelings, and imagination. Sister Cecilia stated that "silence is a stillness of the fullness of life, holy activity, and the "isness" of God."

Prayer without ceasing, not a new concept to Franciscans, should be ever working in our lives. Sister Cecilia reminded us of some of the times that Jesus prayed--in grief and sorrow, calling us too to do the will of God and not our own, as when He prayed, "Abba Father." We are exhorted to call on the Holy Spirit to teach us to pray and to gain that close relationship with God and, indeed, the Trinity.

In addition to Sister Cecilia's sharing, the Tulsa group was fortunate to have among its numbers Brother Robert Hugh, SSF, Visitor to the Third Order, Dee Dobson, the Guardian/Minister Provincial of the Third Order, Fr. Masud Syedullah, our Chaplain, Marie Webner, the Fellowship Coordinator and Assistant Chaplain, and MaryAnn Jackman, Director of Women's Formation. Each team member either led a discussion relating to the work, study, prayer theme or updated us on formation, fellowship and First Order matters. Br. Robert Hugh described the Companion with Francis in Evangelism Program, instituted by the First Order, and urged us to bring it to the attention of our home parishes.

Three people were professed, Fr. Jim Disbrow, Jan Syedullah and Evelyn Mackie (OK Fellowship), one noviced, Kathleen Gearhart (KS fellowship), and one received as a postulant, Sheila Fling (Austin Fellowship). The Eucharist, healing service, daily offices and lots of good old fashioned singing (courtesy of Chris Cloke, OK) and eating (ALL OF US) rounded out the weekend on Mother's Day, another reason to rejoice!

Next year's Tulsa Convocation will be held April 25-27, 1987 at Our Lady of Sorrows Convent in Broken Arrow, with Sharon Sandow Edwards as Coordinator. See you there!

If you have questions about fellowships or convocations, how to plan and where to get a retreat leader, contact Anita Catron, 3280 Bernada Dr., Salt Lake City, UT 84124 or call 801-277-2614.

**"Nuts, Squirrels, and Instruments of Peace"**

Well, another Northeast Conference is behind us. And what I got out of it is in keeping with where my journey toward Christ had led me lately. I did not go to Graymoor expecting much to 'happen' in the sense of profound religious experiences or revelations. I did go, looking forward to the program Robert had planned. During a quiet moment early Friday evening, I decided that this weekend would be one of my being present to Graymoor and allowing it to be present to me. That seems to be what happened.

Saturday morning during the grounds tour I got a chance to really look around. It seemed like I noticed the more 'mundane' things: the animals, grass, weeds — and nuts. Nuts. I bent down to look at some of them more closely. Just plain ordinary acorns. I didn't experience any divine revelations that the entirety of God's creation was in that nut, such as the Lady Julian of Norwich did, but in inspecting those nuts, I did realize a profound truth of my own: those nuts lay on the ground, in various stages of their lives: some very green with no chance to mature, some wrinkled and dried up, some half eaten by animals, some broken or squashed from having been stepped on. And I thought how it was okay for those nuts to be that way. God loved them just as they were, whatever stage of their lives they were in. And if God so cares for the seeds fallen from the trees, won't he care just as much for me? That's the way it is in our lives, too. The little ones among us, the old and infirm, the cracked and broken, the trampled and downtrodden: It's okay — we belong here too — and God loves us all!

Later on, we were treated to a view from a rooftop observation deck. The view was spectacular — and gorgeously clothed in the brilliance of early autumn's splendor. Then Father Peter pointed out the domes of a nuclear power plant in the distance. Before we left that spot, we prayed the "Instrument of Peace" prayer. I found it very difficult to deal emotionally with the irony of nuclear power plants and being an instrument of peace, and quietly gave way to tears, while deep inside me, a small voice whispered something comforting like, nuclear power plants are not yours to be concerned about; just be present to those who need you and be a healing force to those whom I give you.

Yes Lord.

The theme for the weekend was "Simplicity," and one of the songs we sang was "Simple Gifts," quoted here for those of you who don't quite remember the words:

'Tis a gift to be simple;  
'Tis a gift to be free;  
'Tis a gift to come down where you ought to be,  
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,  
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.  
When true simplicity is gained,  
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed.  
To turn, turn will be our delight,  
Till by turning, turning, we come out right.

It took me back a couple of years to a time when Dave and I went to a sound and light show at the Watkins Glen Gorge. It was a beautiful display of light images on the wall of the gorge and a symphony of electronic sounds providing appropriate accompaniment. It was a display recounting the 4½-billion-year history of the earth and showing how Man occupied only a tiny fraction of that history. The finale was a concert of electronic music that rose and fell in intensity and volume, then came to a quiet conclusion with an instrumental version of "Simple Gifts." The whole audience was moved to quietness by this. I was busy trying to sort out some very confused thoughts. "Simple Gifts" said a lot about where the producers of this show were at in their own journey. I somehow felt that it was God telling me not to worry, that these things had their place in His creation too. So if God has no problem with our technology, why should we? I came to the conclusion that "simplicity" consists in accepting what we are given or making the best use of what we have. It's okay for machines to "be", too.

Then came the ceremony of "Passing on the Coffee Can." During the time the Mustard Seed Fellowship had it, it became quite full. Its contents were not all happiness, with some sadness mixed in, but they were rich. Our fellowship grew in grace and closeness as a result of experiences we shared during the past year. Now it's time to pass the Coffee Can on. In a simple little ceremony at the party Saturday night it was presented to Helen Webb, who is officer of a brand-new fellowship starting up in Baltimore. We wish you well!

-- Barbara Wilbur

From Seedling Tidings.

THE FIRST ISSUE of the newsletter of the Kansas Fellowship was sent out in April by David Hilary, Convenor. The name of it is The Smaller Portion. A motto has been chosen for the Fellowship: "A way of life both stimulating and troubling" -- from the back cover of Murray Bodo's The Way of St. Francis.

They held a retreat 'way back in November of 1985, with Bishop John Ashby as leader. He gave meditations on Heaven, Hell, Death, and Judgment.

Bobbie Johnson was noviced soon after that retreat. And Kathy Gearhart was noviced on April. Kathy is serving as secretary of the Fellowship.

Nancy Schenck was noviced in August, during a weekend of fellowship at Bethany Place in Topeka. A discussion group, Eucharist, and business meeting were also part of the weekend.

They had a picnic in July at "Big Well" -- the largest hand-dug well in the world. The occasion was a visit by Fr. Clare, CSF on sabbatical from England. After the picnic, they decided to go to Dodge City and show St. Clare "Boot Hill." And after that, they said Evening Prayer in a park. They had a marvelous time, it was reported, in spite of 102° temp!

They enjoyed another retreat in early November this year, with Sr. Catherine Joy as leader. She spoke on Jacob's struggle with the angel. The retreatants did their own cooking, in order to save money.

#### LATE BREAKING NEWS OF THE MILWAUKEE FELLOWSHIP:

Their October newsletter told of their October 4th meeting at Nashotah House. Joan Powers shared highlights of the Midwestern Convocation; the theme was God's Grace, with meditations by Br. Robert Hugh and Br. John George. Then those at the meeting shared experiences with God's Grace received, especially through other people. On November 8, they met for renewal of vows, election of a new convener, choice of a new name, and study of "The Way of St. Francis."

#### The fountain sprang up and the bird sang down

This isn't just a quotation from T. S. Eliot. It's pure prayer, all my own, spontaneous as a heart-beat.

I got up early one morning and skipped breakfast, fed my family and saw them off, didn't read the newspaper, got dressed and drove to church, on the theory that I really ought to start doing something about a midweek communion. All the time thinking, What am I doing? What on earth for?

All during the mass I kept wondering. What am I doing here? What have I to do with this? Words swooped heavily over my head and up there at the altar a fantastically draped man waved his arms about like a bat. Mumbo jumbo. What a hypocrite I am.

The bell rang for communion. Oh well, obedience or something. I went up to the rail like an embarrassed participant in an unsuccessful Happening. And came back to my place, knocked to my kness by a load of meaninglessness.

But then I heard the birds, and the fountain sprang up, and the birds sang down.

A treeful of birds outside, just then, awoke, rushed, broke into a glittering burst of song, as if God himself had dropped down on a branch among them, all feathered and singing. A jet of purest delight tossed my heart to the sky.

Often, since then, I've heard them so. God drops down and is here among us and, just then, the birds begin to sing. And joy again springs up and the words sing themselves in my heart: The fountain sprang up and the bird sang down.

Pure prayer, all my own, spontaneous as a heart-beat. A simple lifting of the heart to God in praise.

- Fae Malania

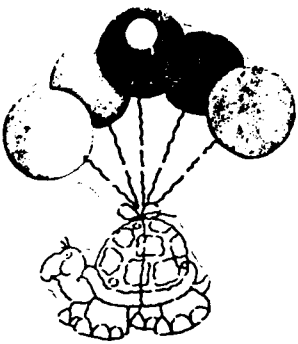
Borrowed from Seedling Tidings

*This morning, walking to work,  
I heard a meadow lark sing.  
(most unusual in Montana in  
November!) I thought of this  
meditation of Fae. So often, God  
seems far away. Is that because  
I expect him to be different  
than he is?*

J.M.

## SOUTH CENTRAL STATES CONVOCATION

Four members of the Kansas Fellowship attended the Convocation in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, April 25-27, 1986, at Our Lady of Sorrows R.C. Convent: Kathy, Tami, David and Nancy. Sr. Cecilia, CSF, presented three meditations on the Ways of Service: Work, Study, and Prayer. There were a total of 31 participants in the Convocation. As noted earlier, Kathy Gearhart was noviced on Sunday morning. Also in attendance were Br. Robert Hugh, SSF Minister Provincial, Dee Dobson, TSF Guardian, Masud Syedullah, TSF Chaplain, Mary Ann Jackman, TSF Women's Formation Director, and Marie Webner, TSF Assistant Chaplain. Br. Robert gave a talk on the new First Order program, Companions With Francis in Evangelism, and encouraged tertiaries to get involved with this effort. Workshops were presented on Fellowships and Formation. Plans were begun for 1987 Convocation. David agreed to be program chairman, Nancy agreed to be in charge of mailings, and Kathy volunteered to help with liturgy. So, it looks like our Fellowship is going to be more involved next year in the actual organizing of the Convocation.



## The Voice of the Turtle~

The Chi-Rho Fellowship --  
Chicago Area:

met at the Church of the  
Atonement in March for the

Profession of Phil Weber, and to receive  
Al Easterwood as a Postulant.

Phil was chairman of the Midwestern Convocation, held August  
8-10 at Techny Retreat Center in Techny, Illinois. Brother

Robert Hugh and Brother John George celebrated with them.

A Quiet Day was held on June 14, with Brother John Carles leading the meditations.

During the Convocation, Dede Wentworth was Noviced and Joy Effer was received as  
a postulant.

Claire Mahan continues as secretary. Phil Weber and Gerry Sevick are the new  
co-convenors.

--oo00oo--

### A PRAYER FOR SIMPLICITY:

Lord God, you made your church rich  
through the poverty of the blessed  
Francis: Help us, like him, not to  
trust in earthly things but to seek  
your heavenly gifts; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord, who lives and  
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. AMEN.

(from A Franciscan Devotional,  
Little Portion Friary.)

### LONE WOLF



## A REPORT FROM ROBERT DURAND - THE NORTHEAST CONFERENCE

Simplicity was the theme as 54 tertiaries gathered at the Graymoor Christian Unity Center in Garrison, New York, on September 12-13-14 for the Sixth Annual Northeast Conference this year (1986).

Participants included Guardian Dee Dobson (from Miami), Assistant Chaplain and outgoing Fellowship Coordinator Marie Webner (from Tucson), Woman's Assistant Formation Director Dorothy Adams (from Georgia), and Men's Formation Director Alden Whitney (from Connecticut; all of 45 minutes drive away). Other tertiaries came from as far away as Toronto, Ontario; Burlington, Vermont; Charleroi, Pennsylvania; and Washington, D.C.

Two meditations on the theme were delivered with care and humor by Br. John-Charles SSF ("Simply pray what you can and not what you can't!"). Fr. Peter Taran S.A., one of the host friars, offered a meditation on "Ecumenical Simplicity in Nature" which included a silent guided tour of the lovely Graymoor grounds, concluding at the hilltop Stations of the Cross where Marie conducted the Everyman's Way of the Cross.

Conference liturgies were meaningful, and they included a celebration of the Holy Eucharist at the St. Francis Chapel, which contains one of the three original death-masks of our patron and an altar which was originally situated at Mt. Alverno in Italy. At the Sunday Sung Eucharist, celebrated by Br. John-Charles, Michael Brolly was noviced and 14 other tertiaries renewed their vows.

"Br. Juniper's Simple Party" on Saturday night was said to be a smashing success, with the assembled community having good opportunities to relax and share lots of Franciscan fellowship.

Convenor was Robert Durand, and at the closing he announced the good possibility of a new convocation next year (Tri-State for western Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, etc.) in addition to the dates for the Seventh Northeast Convocation, to be held once again at Graymoor on August 28-29-30, 1987. The co-convenors will be Helen Webb and Pamela Moffat.

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### A NOTE TO POSTULANTS AND NOVICES

Have you heard that there is an international magazine of the Society of St. Francis?

Published and mailed from England three times a year, it includes articles for study and inspiration, a message from the Minister General, book reviews, etc.

For an annual subscription of \$7.00 (or \$11.50 air mail) checks made out to "The Franciscan" should be mailed to the American Subscription Secretary - Mrs. Edward Webb, 4008 Buckingham Road, Baltimore, MD 21207.



## A CHILD TO LOVE

I wrote a poem around 1960 called, "A Child To Love," which was published in THE TELESCOPE MESSENGER, an Evangelical magazine which is no longer in existence. At the first Franciscan gathering I attended at The Bishop's Ranch I showed it to Ken Cox, whose son was retarded. He said, "I have seen this before. It is being used all over as an inspirational piece for families of retarded citizens, only it is being attributed to 'anonymous.'" I believe Mr. Anonymous has had credit for my poem long enough. I am planning to write an article for a national magazine, telling why I wrote it, and how and where it has been and still is being used.

The problem is finding out. If anyone can help me, by writing to let me know of any place you have heard of it being used, I would greatly appreciate your help. Any personal stories of how it may have helped individuals would also be useful to me (not only for the article, but for my own satisfaction). You can be certain that, even though I only received 20 cents a line for it when it was published, I do not intend to ask anyone for any kind of remuneration or put any restrictions on its use now or ever. I have never tried to protect my copyright to it and its use has put it in the public domain by now. That is fine with me. The satisfaction of knowing it has helped others is all I want. Naturally, selling an article about it will help me pay my recently enormous medical bills, but it may also bring it to the attention of others who may find it helpful. That is far more important.

You may contact me, Pat Mahon, at Agate Ridge Observatory, Wilson Creek Road, Ashwood, OR 97711-0027, or phone Ashwood, [503] 489-3244, or Portland, [503] 231-9289.



raise be to Thee,  
my Lord,

for all Thy  
creatures,

Especially Brother Sun,  
who brightens the day,  
through whom Thou givest us  
light.

Fair is he, and shining  
with a very great splendor~

he speaks to us of Thee,

O Most High!

## EUCCHARIST

No sudden, blinding flash of light,  
No dazzling vision, shining bright,  
No choirs of angels chanting psalms,  
Nor even still, small voice of calm -  
To me in waves of joy, in surge of love,  
Your Presence overwhelms me from above.  
I see You, hear You, feel You. You are here;  
Your loving arms support me, hold me near.  
I kneel, sedate, with downcast eyes:  
My soul is pirouetting in the skies.

Rosemond McFerran

Stephen Blaine Stine, Postulant in the Third Order, was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on the Feast of St. Bartholomew, August 24, 1986, by The Rt. Rev. Richard M. Trelease, Jr. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, LaUnion, New Mexico.

Once upon a time,  
 On a dreary winter's night,  
 A dying soul was drawn  
 Back home to God's own Light.  
 It's way led through a land  
 Empty of all life:  
 Nothing but rock and sand,  
 Desolate and bare!

Evil tried to tempt.  
 With a shudder, the soul sped on.  
 It had but one desire!  
 All thirst for sin was gone.  
 Alas! There was a crack,  
 Bottomless and wide.  
 Could it jump across?  
 "Jesus! help," it cried.

Fearfully the soul  
 At the edge in terror stood!  
 The way was straight across.  
 It must go on! if it could.  
 A vision strange appeared!  
 Rainbow bridge of prayer;  
 People, far and near,  
 Joined in prayer for it.

Awestruck, shamed, and stunned!  
 So the soul in wonder stared,  
 In humble gratitude,  
 To see how many cared  
 Enough to pray for it.  
 Friends - and enemies?  
 All revealed and lit;  
 Then suddenly 'twas gone!

And the soul was now  
 In a place of wordless peace  
 To suffer being washed;  
 Made fit for Heaven's feast;  
 But Jesus sent it back!  
 Why? It does not know.  
 It simply trusts this fact,  
 Jesus is the way.

Nina Andrews

PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS

St Elizabeth's Friary,  
 1474 Bushwick Avenue,  
 Brooklyn,  
 N.Y., 11207.



A CHAPLAIN DURING WARTIME

(This article was borrowed from Minuteman, the newspaper of Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana, and describes the ministry of The Rev. Carl Andrews, Episcopal Chaplain at the Base, and member of the Third Order, Society of St. Francis.)

by A1C Bill Horn  
 Public Affairs Division

"Halt! Who goes there?"  
 "Chaplain Andrews, plus one."  
 "Proceed and be recognized."

This conversation was repeated time after time, at each checkpoint and foxhole dotting the hillside and encampment at the Army National Guard training complex near Townsend, Mont., where a joint Army and Air Force training exercise, Marauder 86, was progressing.

Chaplain (Capt.) Carl Andrews was making his nightly rounds, delivering coffee and checking on the conditions of troops waiting for aggressive guerilla forces to attack at any time. This night I accompanied him.

"How goes it, guys?" he asked at each location.

"Fine, sir. Sure appreciate the coffee. It must be 30 degrees out here, and the wind isn't helping the situation," a security policeman replied, his head sheltered by sandbags and the rest of his body buried deep in a foxhole.

"Seen any action tonight?" asked the chaplain.

"None yet, sir, but I expect some anytime," came the reply.

The chaplain pulled a chocolate bar out of his pocket. "Share this between yourselves, guys. Press on, dawn will be here soon."

The chaplain and I continued our rounds throughout the night. When I finally got to rest for a while, I wondered why he trudged through the cold dark night, when he really didn't have to, to help the morale of someone in training. Then I remembered something he had said.

"My presence out there in the middle of the night gives the people a sense of the Holy One, and personifies the image of him being there with them at any time.

"That in turn opens them up and allows me to minister to their needs in a way I might not get to otherwise. That means all the world to me, and that's why I'm here."

HERE IS THE BEGINNING OF A LETTER I GOT LAST JUNE:

Dear Joanne,

It will surprise you to be receiving this letter from me. This should not bother you much for I have got to know you from two sources. First as a Tertiary of which I am one, and secondly hearing about you in the Anglican Digest (TAD) as the Editor of the Episcopal Evangel of the Diocese of Montana.

This letter was from The Rev. Emmanuel Kojo Addy, P.O. Box 0307, Osu, Acera, Ghana, West Africa.

He also writes: "I became a Franciscan (Third Order) Novice in Britain (Southampton) in October 1981. On my return to Ghana I was able to gather one or two people and with the yearly visits of Bro. Geoffrey our membership now stands at 2 Tertiaries, 4 Novices, 14 Postulants..."

He would like to correspond with other Tertiaries, and I'm sure there are many who would like to share in this way.



ELSIE AMOS of Indiatlantic, Florida was noviced on May 25. "Drew" Perry came over to St. Sebastian by the Sea, Melbourne Beach, to help with the service. He has accepted the Youth Leadership at St. Mary of the Angels in Orlando. Elsie wrote that she is having difficulty finding books she would like to buy. Anyone with suggestions might write to her at 90 Miami Ave, Indiatlantic, FL 32903.

Remember too, Elsie and everyone -- Pat Mahon has the Third Order Library, where books may be borrowed. He address is Agate Ridge Observatory, Wilson Creek Road, Ashwood, OR 97711-0027.

Pat wrote a long letter (and interesting). She had been in two auto accidents and is still recovering from the effects. In spite of her ill health, she had been doing some writing. Two examples she sent were an article in Sharing titled "God Expects me to Help my Healing," and an amusing poem called "The Ballad of the Tax Collector," published in "Old Stuff" magazine. She is active in church work, and was elected president of St. Mark's church ECW, Communications Chairman, Vestryman, ECCO (Episcopal Coalition of Central Oregon) Representative, and CSSCO (ecumenical effort to coordinate all Christian human services in Central Oregon) Representative.

She is considering a call to the ordained ministry. She and her husband have begun building a house.

This is a busy person!



# A NEWSLETTER FROM LAURA AND ZANE ZEEMAN BEGINS:



Dear Friends in Christ,

"Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country." Proverbs 25:25

We do indeed wish to send you some 'good news' of God's faithfulness as we seek to serve Him here with Africa Enterprise. Our mandate and purpose with A.E.'s "Unreached Peoples Project" is three-fold: we're to help **MOBILIZE** a new generation of South African Christians of all cultural and racial groups, for missionary service. We're to **FACILITATE** the growing numbers of those interested by means of helping them gain insight and experience beyond their initial exposure to missions. Thirdly, we're to **HELP TRAIN** those who come to us for assistance.

Dr. Ralph Winter, of the U.S. Center for World Mission, has said that the young people he sees moving successfully from initial interest in missionary service to actual careers as cross-cultural missionaries get there by means of a pathway. Simply put: our calling here with A.E. is to **HELP PROVIDE THAT PATHWAY**.

Field Address:  
c/o Africa Enterprise  
P.O. Box 647  
Pietermaritzburg 3200  
Rep. of South Africa

POR ESPANA AMIGOS...(No habla Espanol)

Jim

## LA TERCERA ORDEN FRANCISCANA.

Una Orden religiosa fundada por San Francisco para los que viven en el mundo: solteros, casados; clérigos o laicos; con o sin familia, que deseen vivir y practicar los ideales franciscanos y dar testimonio de Cristo en el mundo.

Nuestros objetivos son:

1. Hacer que conozcan y amen a nuestro Señor.
2. Difundir el espíritu de fraternidad, y
3. Vivir con sencillez.

Somos una familia centrada en Cristo en una unión de gozo, amor, libertad y alegría.



¡V E N, Canta una Nueva Canción con nosotros!

## BOOK REVIEW

The Wolf In Winter: A Story of Francis of Assisi by John Sack; (Paulist Press. Illustrations and Cover by Gloria Ortiz. \$4.95)

This is a charming account of the early days of St. Francis's attempt to discover his vocation. A fictionalised version, it is set in the broad context of the times. Not always strictly historically accurate, it nevertheless captures the spirit of Francis and is an admirable gift for the young of all ages. Here is something which makes plain the charism of the Poverello and at the same time raises for readers the question of vocation. To read this book is a joyful experience. The details of medieval life come alive through Sack's skilful pen and imaginative skill. The descriptions of Francis's encounters with lepers and with the wolf of Gubbio are especially well done.

Brother John-Charles, SSF

## A MORNING PRAYER (Written by Rik Fitch & Robert Durand)

Thank you, Lord, for this life which is always such a surprise to us. And thank you for this new day, which is so full of discoveries yet to be, so full of opportunities to be, to become, and to be born anew. We are born into this life to consume; but help us, Lord, to remember that we should consumer with gentleness and simplicity. Let us taste and sip of this life around us, savoring each moment, and allowing it to become part of us. For by God's Grace, life is a gift, each new day.  
Thank you, Lord. AMEN.

BOOK REVIEW

Prayer: An Adventure in Living by Bishop B.C. Butler (\$4.95-paper. \$8.95-cloth)  
The Holy Mountain: Approaches to the Mystery of Prayer by Noel Dermot O'Donoghue, ODC  
(\$6.95-paper \$9.95-cloth) Both published by Michael Glazier, Inc.

These two superbly written books are part of Michael Glazier's timely series, Ways of Prayer. Felicity of style, practical advice, common sense coupled with spiritual insight, and a descriptive skill which can become lyrical without becoming "so heavenly-minded as to be of no earthly use," are the characteristics of both authors.

Bishop Butler, after the flurry of novelty which has so characterised recent years, recalls us to the great Tradition. He does so without gainsaying the positive advances which have been made since Vatican II. His book is a fine example of English spiritual writing: felicitous in its language without "gobbledeygook."

He shows us how form and freedom can belong together. With ample awareness of individual needs, he stresses the place of structures, of well-tried patterns and models in the Christian's life of prayer.

The theme of the book is summed up in the chapter, "Life as Prayer," which is a concise distillation of the heart of true religion.

Father O'Donoghue's work is some of the most creative writing I have ever read. It is spiritual writing in the great classical tradition; something seldom seen these days.

It is quite impossible to do justice to the depth with which a variety of topics is compassed in the eleven chapters. The theme is prayer; what it is and what can enrich and enable it. There are wise comments on contemplation and sounds understandings of prayer in the priestly and religious vocations.

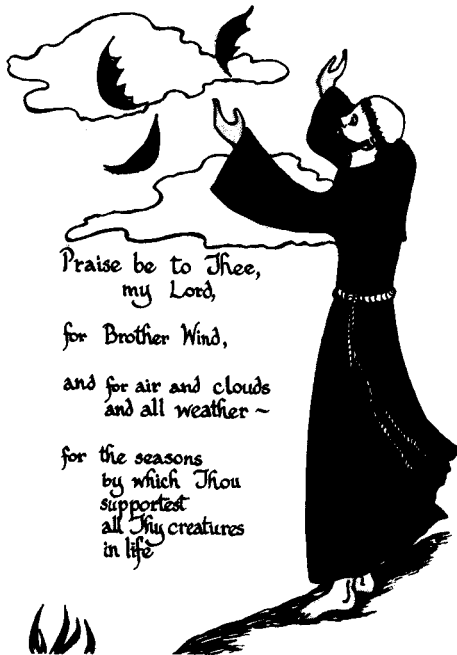
This is one of the finest books I have ever read.

+John-Charles, SSF

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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

Robert Durand  
37 Orchard Terrace  
Burlington VT 05401

SHARING THE NEWS OF OUR THIRD ORDER COMMUNITY