

# Franciscan Times

SUMMER, 1987

Here is the most current news of the many Fellowships of the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis. Thank you to everyone who has the Times on their mailing list, and who let us know of your activities. All Fellowships -- and individual Tertiaries too -- are invited to share thoughts, poems, art work, as well as activities with the rest of us. Send to the editor, Joanne Maynard at 312 Clark St., Apt. A, Helena, MT 59601.

## Kansas Fellowship



The "sometimes regular" newsletter of the Kansas Fellowship is called The Smaller Portion. In their Easter issue, there's an article about Ruth Groves, who used to be a lobbyist with the Kansas Legislature, working for child welfare laws. She is now spending much of her time working against the death penalty with the Coalition to Keep Kansas Free for the Death Penalty.

Convenor David Ryniker volunteered to coordinate the South Central States Convocation of the Third Order in Tulsa, Oklahoma in April, after the original coordinator had to bow out.



## MINNESOTA FELLOWSHIP

The Minnesota Fellowship held a retreat in May at Villa Maria. The Rev. Masud Syedullah was retreat director. He is rector of a parish in Tulsa, OK, where he first became interested in the Society of St. Francis in 1977. He was professed in 1983, and his wife Jan was professed in 1986. He is chaplain for the Third Order. The topic of the retreat was The Way of St. Francis: The Way of Transformation.

Some notes from the retreat are included in the May newsletter:

"The Way: Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light upon my path. The Word became flesh. The Way is the path."

"Humility: A willingness to yield. Can only be learned in community. It is a dialogue with one another and God. We can learn through dialogue, it can change our perspective. Preconceived ideas are blocks, as is arrogance. We must be open to hear. We are all to be good earth within which the seed of God can grow. God sharing is dialogue. Humility is to listen and share."

"Love: A way of transforming. Love of God is learned in community. God accepts us where we are and who we are. In community we can be stripped of our illusions and still be accepted and received by God. Our restoration builds greater compassion, mutual love, respect and honor."

(more, next page)

(from page 1)

*"Joy: The gift of Joy is rooted in trust that all will be well, and is nurtured in thanksgiving. It activates memory and helps enable us to be open to God..."*

*"Transformation is renewal. Prayer is our response to God in deeds and thought, with or without words. The Word of God resounds in our heart."*

The June issue of their newsletter, The Messenger, contained the news that Fr. George Metcalf was in the hospital, trying some new medication to reduce his neck pain. By the time the newsletter was ready to be mailed out by Lois Keen, he had gone home from the hospital. We hope he is doing well.

The group met on July 7 at the Episcopal Church Home for Mass at 6 p.m., followed by a bag supper. Discussion topic was the debates on sexuality held in the Diocese of Newark between Bishops William Wantland of Eau Claire and John S. Spong of Newark.

## CHI-RHO

THE CHI-RHO COMMUNICATOR of the Chicago Fellowship notes that the program for the April meeting was led by Gerry Sevick: "Praying the Psalms." The meeting was opened with a Eucharist, and a brown bag lunch was shared. The Sevicks have moved to Texas, and so a new co-convenor was sought. Alice Young was announced as the new co-convenor in the June newsletter. The May meeting was a going away party for Gerry and Kay Sevick. Again, the Eucharist began the festivities. Joy Effer led a program on Joy, and a potluck lunch was shared. Joy led the program again for the June meeting, which was held at the Church of the Ascension.



I am with you to save you saith the Lord of hosts.

### MUSTARD SEED FELLOWSHIP

The second annual Spring Retreat for the Mustard Seed Fellowship was held at the end of April at Higley Hall, Thornfield Conference Center in Cazenovia, New York. Retreat-Master was The Rev. H. Alan Smith. The retreat was made up of a variety of activities: business meeting, silence, worship, teachings, conselling, healing, confession, and of course meals and Eucharist.

### THE MILWAUKEE FELLOWSHIP...

...joined Kenneth Castello at a Mass for his profession on May 27. This took place at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. Kenneth had wonderful invitations to this event, with flights on birds on the front.

They had to give up plans to do the Midwest Convocation, because they couldn't find an affordable place that was not booked. Sally Waller reports that the group isn't meeting in the summer, because they're so few and scattered. They'll be getting active again soon.

12 Merrill Street B 7  
Hartford, CT. 06106  
May 22, 1987

Dear Joanne,

Here are some more reflections, these coming specifically out of my ministry at the detention center. The first was written in response to my contact with a particular inmate.

Robert

Lord, it seemed as though I held his hand for an eternity. His skin was hot and dry, corroborating the feverish glaze in his eyes. His grasp was almost frantic in its intensity as if he were trying to squeeze out of my hand something to hang onto that would sustain him through his agony. His eyes were haunting, reflecting the intensity of his pain and his confusion. The tormented expression on his face, the bleeding sores on his body and the stream of verbalized anguish that was unleashed as he clung to my hand all attested to his suffering, a microcosm of the suffering of a wounded and broken world.

Lord, help him to find you. He so desperately needs your strength and your support to enable him to cope with the understanding of what is happening to him and to sustain him through the trials that lie ahead. Help him to receive the Good News of your salvation and to find in you the healing and restorative power of your limitless love. Help him to surrender his pain to you and to find in you the beauty of your perfect peace.

AMEN

The other two are my personal prayers as a person called to a ministry of pastoral care in the environment of a detention center:

Dear God, go with me into this place today. Send your Holy Spirit to work through the imperfect human vehicle that I am to bring the power of your perfect love to your suffering children behind these bars. Where I can help, help me to help. Where I cannot help, help me to do no harm. AMEN

Use me, Lord. You have made me as I am and I am yours to use as you will.

Use my eyes to see the fear and helplessness etched on my brother's face.

Use my ears to hear the hopelessness and isolation in his words.

Use my mind to understand what it is to be where he is in this desolate place.

Use my arms to hold him while he sobs out the agony of a broken life.

Use my hands to bring your healing power to this wounded child of yours.

Use my pain to open me to share in his suffering.

Use my mouth to proclaim to him the Good News of your salvation.

Use my heart as a vehicle for your all-embracing love.

Use me, Lord. Use all of me.

AMEN

~ 3 ~

Peace,  
Cyni Howe

# FRUITS of the LOOM

## LAND OF THE SKY



FRANCISCAN  
THIRD ORDER  
FELLOWSHIP

"A FAMILY OF WEAVERS"

THE LAND OF THE SKY FELLOWSHIP met in March at Grace Church, Asheville, North Carolina for a 11:00 a.m. Eucharist. Janet Chaudruc was welcomed as a Novice and John Tolbert as a Postulant. After the service, they shared a lunch and business meeting. They are looking forward to having Br. John Bankert with them for Convocation in September.

Their annual Fellowship retreat was held in May, with David Nard as leader

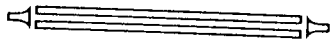
Their April meeting was held in conjunction with a program on "World Hunger held at All Souls Parish in Biltmore.



....AND HERE 'S A WELCOME REPORT FROM A NEWCOMER...

Here is the first report for the FRANCISCAN TIMES on the Northwest New Mexico Fellowship.

The Northwest New Mexico Fellowship was born about 10 months ago and is an offspring of the Rio Grande Fellowship of New Mexico and West Texas. In addition to meeting annually at the Southwest Convocation, and once around Francistide with our parent group, we meet every 6 weeks (give or take) for fellowship. Our greatest challenge is finding a way for a priest, a physician, a painter, and 2 postulants for Holy Orders to make their schedules mesh for a meeting date. Our group includes Jack Fowler, Jonathan Steinhart (formerly of Arizona), Les Lundquist, Carol Tookey - all professed, and Scott Setzer, a friend. During the weekend of 1-3 May we held our first annual (we hope) retreat at Jack's cabin in the midst of the beautiful San Juan mountains of Colorado. We used the tapes "Images of Francis" by Murry Bodo as subjects for reflection and discussion.



REMEMBER...

Third Order Franciscan "T" shirts are available from St. Louis Press at 539 Kapahulu Ave. Honolulu, HI 96815.

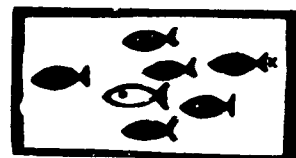
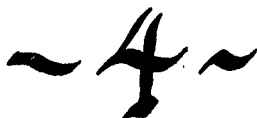
They are beige with the design in brown. \$7.95, plus \$1.00 for postage and handling. Two designs: (A) Dancing Francis (B) Crossed Hands. Sizes S,M,L,XL.

Please indicate design choice and size!

In Christ and Francis,

*Carol*

Carol Tookey TSF  
Convenor



## FELLOWSHIP OF THE LIVING ROSARY

Don Carlson wrote something in his newsletter that I'd like to share with a wider Franciscan audience...

"I regret that there so many miles separating all of us, but, as St. Paul wrote to the Colossians, we may be absent from one another in body, yet we are together in spirit. I never feel alone when saying the Offices, meditating, praying a common prayer, etc. I take literally the fact that we are 'one in Christ Jesus' and in the spirit, physical time and space are eliminated...We are 'gathered together in his name,' we make our 'common supplication,' and it matters not whether we are physically together 'NOW.'"

Don's newsletter also included a letter from Robert Francis Buys, describing his profession at St. Andrew's Church in Clearfield, PA on St. David's Day. His Fellowship (Canticle of the Cross) also had a retreat in March, with Br. Jon Bankert as director. (Is his name Jon or John..? On the previous page, copying from a newsletter, I wrote "John." I have a feeling... from using the Franciscan prayer list...that he has no "h" in his name...? Ed.)

## NEWS NOTES

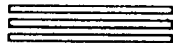
MUFFINS were a feature of a gathering of the Georgia Fellowship:

Ken and Madonna Brownlee, Gayle Roberts, Dorothy Adams, and Liz Peacock attended the Third Order gathering at St. Bartholomew's in Atlanta, on March 7th. Liz Peacock engaged us in meditations on Icons, using Henri Nouwen's new book, and it was a rich, beautiful experience! The day began with morning prayer and ended with brown bag lunches outside on the church steps; an unexpected delight of the morning was Gayle Roberts' offering of an assortment of muffins, shared during times of fellowship.

Their Fellowship Spring Retreat was held at the lake house of Liz Peacock's parents on Lake Nottely, near Blairsville. (Directions printed in the newsletter for getting to the place said, "If you come to the 'Grizzly Bear' corner store, you've gone too far!" As one who lives in the land of the grizzly bear, I know what happens to those who "go too far" with them! Ed) The retreat consisted of leisure time, personal reflection time, and the daily office.

On June 6, a Quiet Day was held at Holy Spirit Monastery in Conyers. Members brought books, poems, stories, etc. to share.

Their newsletter also contained an interesting item on the "Tau cross." Look for it on page 6.



A FRANCISCAN ART CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE from Franciscan Herald Press. It contains "all the necessary information for following the Franciscan feasts.." The cover has a painting of St. Francis, his peace prayer is featured. Texts from the words of St. Francis are on each monthly page. There is an inspirational painting on each page, and all special feasts and fasts are clearly indicated. Although this is a Roman Catholic calendar, it's special features make it of interest to all Franciscan. Prices are \$2.00 for a single copy, with special rates for more than one copy. Order from Franciscan Herald Press, 1434 West 51st St., Chicago, IL 60609. Christmas cards and calendar cards are also available.

# The TAU CROSS

As a new postulant I was very interested in anything Franciscan; but I was especially curious about the use of the Tau because I was unfamiliar with this cross. The following, taken from The Tau by Damien Vorreaux, O.F.M., Franciscan Herald Press, 1979, answered a lot of my questions about this ancient symbol. Although we will probably never know exactly why Francis came to see the Tau as a symbol of his ministry and life, Vorreaux does give a likely possibility in Francis' experience at the Fourth Lateran Council.

"Pope Innocent III opened the Council on November 11, 1215, with an admirable and eloquent sermon which immediately aroused universal interest....The pope makes his own the words of God to his prophet Ezekiel : 'Pass through the center of the city and mark with a Tau the foreheads of the men who weep and wail because of all the abominations which are committed there!' And he adds: 'The Tau is the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet and its form traces a cross like the one which was presented before attaching Pilate's placard. The Tau is the sign borne on the forehead if one is to manifest the radiance of the cross in all one's conduct; if, as the Apostle says, one crucifies one's flesh with its vices and sins; if one affirms: "I want to put my glory in nothing other than the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified for me and I to the world.... Therefore, be champions of the Tau and of the Cross!"'

"What was Francis' reaction? He took the discourse of Innocent III as a message addressed personally to him. The pope had said: 'mercy will be granted to those who bear the Tau, a mark of a life of penance and renewal in Christ.' And so Francis wanted to sign himself with the Tau, and his Brothers along with him; the Tau will become the sign of the Order's mission."



Lila T.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ANN HARRIS WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR NEW ADDRESS BEFORE YOU MOVE ! This can save money, because an address correction from the Postal Service is expensive. Send your address change to her at 555 Reed Drive, Davis, CA 95616.



THE LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY FELLOWSHIP held a Lenten Quiet Day, with talks by John Allen. They met in April for Mass, letter writing, and study. In May, they met to renew their vows. And in June, they again met for Mass, letter writing, study, and discussion.

## BOOK REVIEW

Johnathan You Left too Soon by David B. Biebel (Thomas Nelson Publishers \$4.95)

This moving book is a Christian pastor's attempt to deal with the untimely death of his three year old son. An honest disclosure of his struggle with his faith in the face of this tragedy and the travail which led to recovery makes this not only an encouragement to those who face similar situations. It is also a splendid tool for all engaged in counseling others. A wonderful gift for those who have lost a child.

~6

(c) Brother John-Charles SSF

REPORT

THIRD SOUTH CENTRAL STATES REGIONAL CONVOCATION, April 24-26, 1987

Thirty-three tertiaries and guests attended this year's South Central States Convocation in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma (just outside of Tulsa). The site was the Roman Catholic Convent of Our Lady of Sorrows, which is a community of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother, who are themselves Third Order Franciscans; so we were among family in more ways than one.

Fr. Masud Syedullah, our Provincial Chaplain, opened Convocation Friday evening with a prayer, followed by brief announcements and introductions, and then some joyful singing led by Chris Cloke of the Tulsa Fellowship. We then said Compline.

Compline was followed by the first of three meditations on "Instruments of Peace," given by Br. Robert Hugh, SSF. He opened with a song: "This is holy ground. God's given us holy ground . . ." and the whole group spontaneously joined in--it was beautiful! Br. Robert spoke about God's forgiveness being already present, waiting for us to accept it. He told us that this is an example of how God "lives dangerously." He also spoke about the open arms gesture of Christ, to embrace all the world, both good and bad, because bad can be redeemed. We ask in the Prayer of St. Francis not that we would replace hate, but that we would sow love where ever hate is, hate being a distortion of love. Br. Robert gave a total of three meditations, the last of which was as a homily at the Eucharist, Saturday morning.

After lunch on Saturday, Marie Webner, our Assistant Chaplain, gave a talk on the meaning of Community in the Third Order. She discussed the expressions we have of community, which include fellowships, convocations, and regular reporting. She also discussed the necessity of open, honest dialogue.

Following that talk, we divided into two groups: aspirants, postulants and novices had a question and answer session on formation with Mary Ann Jackman and Alden Whitney, our Women's and Men's Formation Directors respectively; life professed members met with Dee Dobson, our Minister Provincial, and Marie Webner to discuss several issues, which included the necessity of a "call" to be part of the Third Order, and the relationship between the Third Order and other kinds of organizations and movements in the Church. Following these meetings, the Formation Directors held a training session for novice counselors. Then there was free time until the evening, when we had a party and time for sharing and singing and enjoying and rejoicing 'til the wee hours.

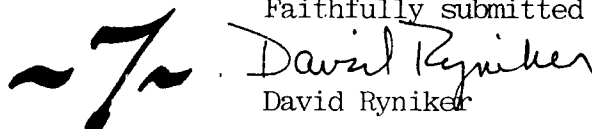
Sunday morning Dee Dobson gave a talk on the meaning of the House of Bishop's official recognition of the Third Order as a Christian Community, including the implications of the Church Canons involved (that were printed in a recent "Information Sheet"). She also spoke about the up-coming International Congress of the Society of St. Francis in England. Fr. Syedullah also participated in that presentation.

Following that we had a final business meeting, in which it was decided to meet again next year at the same facility (April 22-24, 1988 are the dates). We chose as our theme for the meditations "The Three Aims of the Society" as defined in The Principle and Rule. I was asked to serve as Convenor of the Convocation for next year again.

At Eucharist Sunday we had two novicings: Jeanie Campbell and Mary Miller. We also had one admission of a postulant: Mary Beth Alban. Fr. Syedullah celebrated and preached.

Special thanks are owed to Gail Smith for registrations and mailings, Kathy Gearhart for program and scheduling, Jan Syedullah for hospitality and local arrangements, Chris Cloke for music, song books and transportation to and from the airport, John and Betty Marinoni for music, Mary Lillian Wilkes for clean-up detail, John Wheeler for photography and transportation to and from the airport, the Tulsa Fellowship for Friday night's dinner, Fr. Jim Disbrow for arranging liturgy, Patronalia Hanley for name tags, Br. Robert for his delightful and moving meditations, and Dee Dobson, Marie Webner, Masud Syedullah, Alden Whitney and Mary Ann Jackman for their work on presentations.

Faithfully submitted

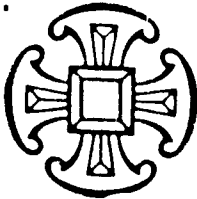
 David Ryniker  
David Ryniker

HENRY BIRD is a Missioner in the Diocese of the Rio Grande. He sent a recent newsletter, Urban Indian Ministry "Call." In it is an article of his, and though it has to do with Easter, it seems appropriate for any time:

- "HE WAS KNOWN TO THEM IN THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD" - (Lk. 24:35)

Following our Easter homily three members of the congregation offered their spiritual reflections on the meaning of our celebration.

One person reminded us that Easter really is an ancient celebration among Native American people and cultures and goes back to a time long before Europeans came to this land. Indian cultures and traditions throughout the ages have rejoiced in the return of life in the spring - with an understanding that the Creator brings new life out of death. The Christian's Easter faith affirms and rejoices in this truth as it celebrates the Resurrection.



Another sharer read a traditional prayer of her people reminding all that traditional Indian spirituality is not in conflict with the Christian Gospel, but, in today's world especially, may come closer to Biblical spirituality than does contemporary society.

Finally, we were reminded, too, that in participating in and sharing the Communion, we were sharing in each other and being strengthened for sharing in ministry in and for the world.

As on the road to Emmaus, in the familiar story in Luke 24, we also, today, come to know the Risen Lord in sharing - sharing where we come from, who we are, and what we are for.

The Lord is known to us, too, as we share "in the breaking of the Bread."  
(hb)

NINA ANDREWS sent a portfolio of her beautiful writings. Here is one:

Beside an old brown stump there used to be  
a pale pink peony:

Its beauty frail and brief; and when I knelt  
just as a rose it smelt.

Oh! now I thank you, God, for memories  
of pale pink peonies:

And, may I ever with humility  
Sing praise eternally

For all Thy lovely gifts: and that I still can see  
pale pink peonies.



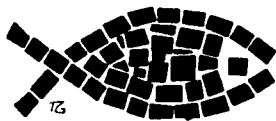


THE JULY NEWSLETTER of LAND OF THE SKY FELLOWSHIP in North Carolina reports that six were present at the June meeting when John Dotson was professed. At the service, David Nard preached the sermon and helped to provide music. Their Convocation will be in September.

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HELEN WEBB sent a packet of interesting items. One was a newspaper clipping with a wonderful photo of Nina Andrews, with this caption: "The Nursing Care Center of Bristol hosted a party...for members of the 10 Club (residents of the center for 10 or more years). Charter member of the group is Nina Andrews, who received a cap and corsage during the affair. She has called the center 'home' for the last 14 years." Helen also included this thought which Nina had shared with her..."

"Just called a friend today to ask for prayers for two who are ill. Did not specify physical healing, rather first for spiritual healing. Think it important to have a healthy horse first, then ask God to repair the cart. Little and slow progress home to God will be made if we mend the cart and neglect, ignore or omit the horse. Alas! sometimes the cart is strong and healthy but there is no good horse to pull it. God forbid that the strong cart be drawn by an evil horse rather than the horse of the Holy Spirit."



#### INTERNATIONAL SSF NEWS & VIEWS



For \$7.00 you could have a year's subscription to "The Franciscan", the international publication of the Society of St. Francis. Although it is mailed from England, there is a local address for subscriptions: Mrs. Edward Webb, 4008 Buckingham Road, Baltimore, MD 21207. Checks should be made out to "The Franciscan".



#### NAAMAN

My bibliography for this message consists of the church program from the sixth Sunday after Epiphany, and the tag from a tea bag.

The tag has a message on it . . . "Let me read with open eyes the book my days are writing, and learn."

The first lesson on that sixth Sunday after Epiphany was from II Kings 5:1-14, the story about Naaman, the leper. Naaman was angry when Elisha merely told him to wash in the Jordan to get rid of his leprosy. He said, "I thought he would surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand. . . ." Naaman just about missed being cured but his servants pointed out

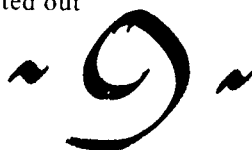
that if he had been told to do some "great thing" he would have done it, so why not just try washing in the river? and he did, and was cured.

When I read with open eyes the book my days are writing, I learn that I'm often like Naaman, expecting God to do some fancy thing . . . "wave his hand and cure the leper." Instead, he's just telling me to do these ordinary things, so that what he has in mind for me can come to pass.

Sometimes I get an idea of what I should be doing, what new activity I should take up, what person I should get acquainted with . . . and instead I get something completely different. When I'm able to look at it with open eyes and a sense of perspective, it does make sense, and I feel that God was waving his hand over the place after all.

--joanne maynard

from The Burning Mushroom, pub. by Forward Movement.



Helen Webb also sent this letter, along with a brochure of information about this tour. If you are interested, write to The Rev. Keith Ackerman, SSC -- St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 509 6th Street, Charleroi, PA 15022.



## ST. MARY'S CHURCH

SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALBINGHAM  
509 SIXTH STREET  
CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA  
15022

THE REV. KEITH L. ACKERMAN, S.S.C., RECTOR  
THE REV. KENNETH G. KOCHARHOOK, CURATE  
THE REV. JACK V. DOLAN, ASST.

PHONE 412 483-4073

March 13, 1987

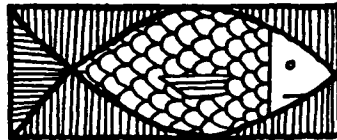
Dear fellow Franciscan,

I have just returned from a life-changing trip to the Holy Land! It is, indeed, the land of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is also Franciscan land, for the major Shrines are maintained by the Friars. The must have said "Pax et Bonum" one hundred times to Friars of various nationality backgrounds! The crossed arms of our father Francis, and our Blessed Lord, are to be found everywhere!

I am planning to return to the Holy Land in January with a priest who has been there 14 times! I thought perhaps you may, likewise, be interested in going with me. If so, please see the enclosed brochure. I would also ask that you get in touch with me if you are planning to go and/or if you have any questions.

What a blessing it would be to walk together in the ways of our Lord, as Franciscan brothers and sisters!

Pax et Bonum!



In Christ and  
St. Francis,  
*Fr. K.L. Ackerman*  
Fr. K.L. Ackerman, TSF



### BOOKSHELF

These books, THE BASICS, are available from Ann Harris, 555 Reed Drive, Davis, CA 95616:

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

### BOOK REVIEW

Living Alone: The Spiritual Dimension by Martin Israel (Crossroad, NY \$7.95) and Walking with Loneliness by Paula Ripple (F.S.P.A. (Ave Maria Press \$4.95))

Two proven contemporary guides on the spiritual way deal with an issue of great importance. Both lead us to discover the creative opportunities of loneliness and/or aloneness. Dr. Israel's book is a tonic and an inspiration for those who have to live alone. He understands and deals with the fears and the attempts to escape. He has sound advice for pastors and for religious. Sister Paula sees loneliness as "a demanding and ever-present companion." She shows how that companion, embraced, reveals unsuspected creative energy which can lift us out of the dolfrums and lead us on in a new and exciting journey. Both books live because of the richness of the personal disclosure by the authors. I am the better for having read them.

(c) Brother John-Charles SSF

"There is one kind of religion in which the more devoted a [person] is, the fewer proselytes he makes: the worship of himself."

--George Macdonald

## THE NEW UMBRIAN FELLOWSHIP

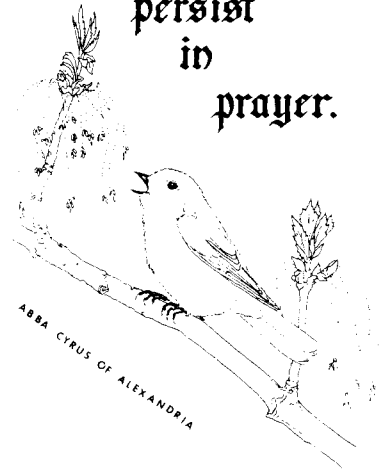
...is active in the San Francisco area. On March 20-22, ten members gathered at Cazadero for a refreshing, renewing time of silence, prayer, meditation, Eucharist, and fellowship. Marion Sessions was noviced at the Eucharist.

On April, a family meeting was held with Eucharist and potluck at St. Paul's in Walnut Creek. On the Feast of St. Philip and St. James, they met at the Church of St. John the Evangelist in San Francisco, and Mary Ann Jackman discussed the formation process with newcomers to the Order. John Fuller led a discussion on various aspects of the Franciscan rule.

The Western Convocation was July 31-August 2 at the Bishop's Ranch.

In June, the professed members met at Mary Ann's for Eucharist, "bag it" dinner, and sharing. They discussed "the challenges of building community in a group in which all of us already are so busy and have so many other commitments." Becky Goldberg, who does their newsletter, wrote "We hope to find ways to use some of our time at fellowship meetings to share our ups and downs, as well as our joys, on the Franciscan journey. In our order to strengthen our connections, we would like to start a prayer chain in the group, which besides lifting up the person prayed for, would help us keep in touch with those we only see once a month." Becky was professed on June 17.

**B**efore all things,  
persist  
in  
prayer.



## A REQUEST FOR HELP

Dear Brother SS.F.

The people of St. Barnabas Church, Beta Village are appealing our Third Order Brothers in American Province.

Purposefully to rebuild their existing chapel Building which they are struggling to attempt every efforts in every means to rebuild it at the moment.

I wish if you could kindly inform our Third Order Brothers in American Province about this request.

I shall be looking forward to see your assistance from our Third Order Brothers in American Province in the near future. Thank you. Yours in His Vineyard. STEPHEN WARIO.

FOR CHURCH OF ST. BARNABAS APPEAL.

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH

BETA VILLAGE

STAR HARBOR

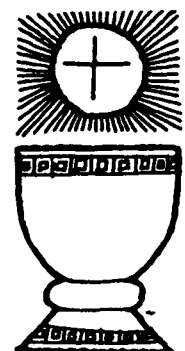
MAKIRA PROVINCE

SOLOMON ISLANDS.

This letter was received by the First Order, SSF, and was passed on to Ann Harris by Br. Jason Robert. She asked that it be included in our newsletter. If you would like to help, you may send a check to Dee Dobson,

4001 S.W. 5 Terrace  
Miami, FL 33134.

She will then send all contributions in one check.



## THE NEW UMBRIAN FELLOWSHIP

...is active in the San Francisco area. On March 20-22, ten members gathered at Cazadero for a refreshing, renewing time of silence, prayer, meditation, Eucharist, and fellowship. Marion Sessions was noviced at the Eucharist.

On April, a family meeting was held with Eucharist and potluck at St. Paul's in Walnut Creek. On the Feast of St. Philip and St. James, they met at the Church of St. John the Evangelist in San Francisco, and Mary Ann Jackman discussed the formation process with newcomers to the Order. John Fuller led a discussion on various aspects of the Franciscan rule.

The Western Convocation was July 31-August 2 at the Bishop's Ranch.

In June, the professed members met at Mary Ann's for Eucharist, "bag it" dinner, and sharing. They discussed "the challenges of building community in a group in which all of us already are so busy and have so many other commitments." Becky Goldberg, who does their newsletter, wrote "We hope to find ways to use some of our time at fellowship meetings to share our ups and downs, as well as our joys, on the Franciscan journey. In order to strengthen our connections, we would like to start a prayer chain in the group, which besides lifting up the person prayed for, would help us keep in touch with those we only see once a month." Becky was professed on June 17.

## A REQUEST FOR HELP

Dear Brother SSF:

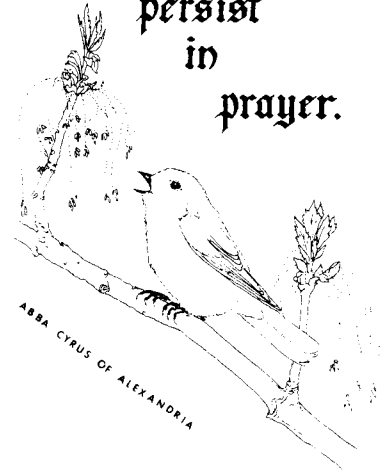
The people of St Barnabas Church, Geta village are appealing our Third Order Brothers in American Province.

Purposely to rebuild their existing chapel Building which they are struggling to attempt every efforts in every means to rebuild it at the moment. I wish if you could kindly inform our Third Order Brothers in American Province about this request.

I shall be looking forward to see your assistance from our future. Thank you. Yours in His Vine yard. STEPHEN WARIO.

FOR CHURCH OF ST. BARNABAS APPEAL.  
ST. BARNABAS CHURCH  
GETA VILLAGE,  
STAR HARBOUR,  
MAKIRA PROVINCE,  
SOLOMON ISLANDS.

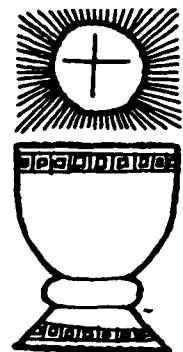
Before all things,  
persist  
in  
prayer.



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JUDITH GILLETTE, Convener of the Massachusetts Fellowship, wrote in their April newsletter update of the time she spent during Lent, sharing "this little Eucharistic chapel with so many, the old and the young; men and women..."

She concluded: "I have come away from these hours renewed in faith, for the people daily continue to come, continue to pray.

"Peace will not come because world leaders sign paper (though we must seek that, too). Peace comes through the finished work of Jesus on the cross, and the continued prayer and faithfulness of His little ones. May we be counted among these faithful!"

Their May newsletter began with a description of their April meeting:

"The day was gorgeous, sunny and warm -- our area chaplain, Bob Durand, drove with postulant Rik Fitch from Burlington, VT to join us. Steve Miles walked from Cambridge (as a pilgrimage to profession...). Adrienne missed her train in Boston, and my husband David took a fast trip into the museum of science to pick her up, with time to spare. Most others arrived mostly un-eventfully."

They discussed at that meeting the fact that, "As an order in this Diocese, we are hidden to the point of anonymity. Being hidden and humble is good -- appearing to be a 'phantom order' is ineffective, and, I think, was never Francis's intent." So they are planning to announce meetings and events in the diocesan paper and put up small posters in churches where tertiaries reside. They will also have a booth at Diocesan Convention. "We must let ourselves be found by those whose hearts are being touched by God in a Franciscan way."

Nancy Kangas will take photographs of Fellowship events. Adrienne Dillon will record past history of the group, talking with Mona Hull about the beginnings of the Fellowship many years ago. Judith will put information in the papers.

The newsletter also included a brief biography of one of their members.

The 7th Annual Northeast Conference, with the theme of Healing, will take place August 28-30 at Graymoor.

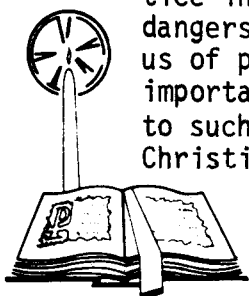
They plan a Francistide Renewal of Vows in October at Mona Hull's in Rockport. They will have a picnic by the sea.

### BOOK REVIEW

Sabbath Time: Understanding and Practice for Contemporary Christians  
by Tilden Edwards (Seabury Press. \$10.95)

The principle of the Sabbath rest is well known to Christians. Its practice in our day has been lost. At a time when we have learned so much of the dangers of "burn out" and when so many bemoan the pressures of life which rob us of peace, this book is a challenging recalling of us all to the spiritual importance and the re-creational power of a day of rest. Practical obstacles to such a habit are honestly examined, and a plan for the keeping of a Christian sabbath is set out. A timely, sensible, and down-to-earth book.

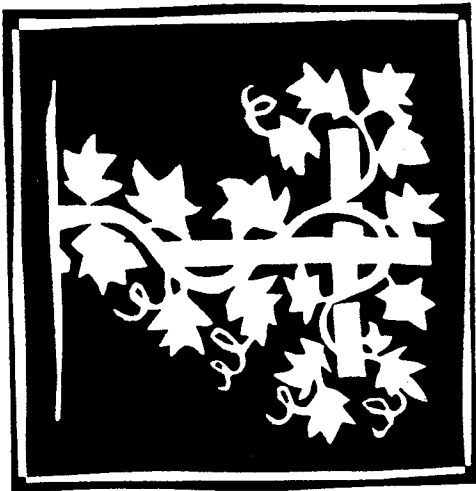
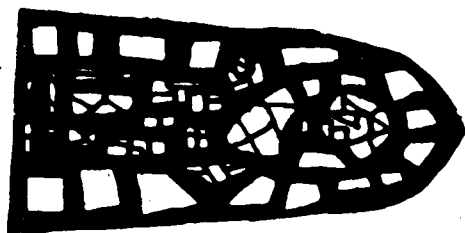
(c) Brother John-Charles SSF



DEWDROPS

Dewdrops strung on spider's threads  
 Beauty give to plain cobwebs.  
 Out of darkness are they born,  
 Swiftly vanish when 'tis morn.  
 Ere they go, the dawning day  
 with its rosy slanting rays,  
 Deep in each a rainbow bright  
 Forms from bended lines of light.  
 Tear drops strung on crystal strands  
 (Spun a web by sorrow's hands  
 Round a ruby bleeding heart)  
 Beauty to the net imparts.  
 Out of grief our tears are born  
 Like low tones of plainting horns.  
 There immortal hope abides;  
 There our rainbow's promise guides.

Nina L. Andrews



ADDRESS FOR SUBMISSIONS  
 TO THE FRANCISCAN TIMES:

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Address correction requested

Robert Durand  
 37 Orchard Terrace  
 Burlington VT 05401



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