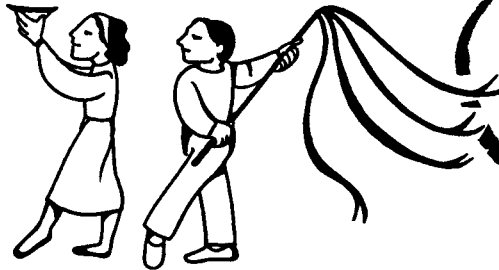


The Franciscan Times



SUMMER, 1989

Dear friends,

Here is a round-up of news from your recent newsletters, along with some thoughts and poetry for your summer-time reading.

It seems odd, writing "summer-time, because right now (May 28) in Helena, Montana, as I write this, it is snowing! But summer will be here, even in Montana, eventually.

Thanks to everyone who sends news of their Fellowships. And Thanks to all who have sent poems and other things for The Franciscan Times. As a reminder, here is my address:

Joanne Maynard
312 Clark, Apt. A
Helena, MT 59601



I look forward to hearing from you, as we share the news of The Third Order, Society of St. Francis.



HEART OF TEXAS FELLOWSHIP

'Way back in January (when I bet they didn't have snow), this group enjoyed an overnight visit to the "country cottage" of Caroline Benjamin, where they enjoyed the peace and quiet. Sheila Fling made her life profession in the Third Order at their meeting on February 18.

And even further back, in November, four members from Austin journeyed to the lovely new home of Darla Bretz in Corpus Christi for an over-night stay and meeting the next day. These were Jeannie Campbell and Caroline Benjamin and their daughters.

A mention of "what was in those brown bags" was found in their March newsletter. Tuna fish sandwiches were provided for members who got together at Jeanie Campbell's for a hike.

Their retreat, along with the Dallas Fellowship, will be held September 29-October 1 at Wellspring. And in May, their program was a discussion of "New Age" theology, led by The Rev. Rich Pedersen.

TEXAS-LOUISIANA FELLOWSHIP

Elsewhere in Texas, Gerry and Kay Sevick made their professions in January. The group met for a viewing of "Brother Sun-Sister Moon" in February at Evelyn Mackie's home in Plano, Texas.

In March, they met in Fort Worth and went to the Kimbell Museum to see the icon exhibit.

(continued next page)

In April, Fr. John Goliath presented a program on the state of South Africa. He is a South African, and so is knowledgeable on that country. Paul Ledwitz was noviced and Jim Bomberger was received as a postulant at that meeting.

Paul, Evelyn Mackie and Gail Smith attended the Convocation in Broken Arrow in April. A reflection on that Convocation, written by The Rev. Lloyd Morris, follows:

REGIONAL CONVOCATION

This is the first Convocation I have attended...Brother Justus and Sister Catherine Joy (CJ) represented the First Order. Dee Dobson, our Minister Provincial, spoke to the group on some methods during the formation process that will help with the "burn-out" situations; we are all human.

From C.J.'s report, it sounds like the sisters are right on schedule in their development process. A new house will open this summer in Bethel, PA and be staffed with three sisters. The brothers, from what it sounded like to me, need to be in our prayers for growth in their group. Please pray for the sisters' new venture.

The Convocation was attended by 24-26 people from Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, Florida, New York and California. We had the pleasure of a life profession, John Wheeler.

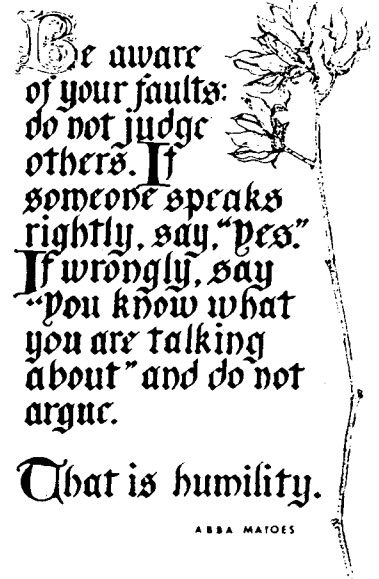
This experience for me was one of growth and understanding about several things. First of all, the First Order structure, i.e., women in the First Order, and the ordination of female priests. Secondly, that the Order is alive and well throughout the American Province and there is a need in South Africa for books on religion and theology. Thirdly, I now know faces and names of fellow brothers and sisters in the Third Order. Overall, this has been a meeting I will not forget. Lord willing, I hope to go again next year.

UPPER- EAST TENNESSEE FELLOWSHIP

This group enjoyed a Christmas Party at the home of Fr. Boulet in Lenoir City. They were joined by several members and guests of The Land of The Sky Fellowship from Western North Carolina. They had dinner and played "Franciscan Pictionary."

Edith Peacock, wife of Heber Peacock of the Land of the Sky Fellowship, died of a heart attack on Holy Saturday. The Third Order extends their sympathy and offers their prayers.

Fr. Clifford McWhorter in Millington, TN lives too far away to attend Fellowship meetings, but is the Third Order presence in that area of the state.



RIO GRANDE AREA

Deacon Nan Collins was Gospeller and served as deacon at the consecration of The Rt. Rev. Terrance Kelshaw as Bishop of the Rio Grande.



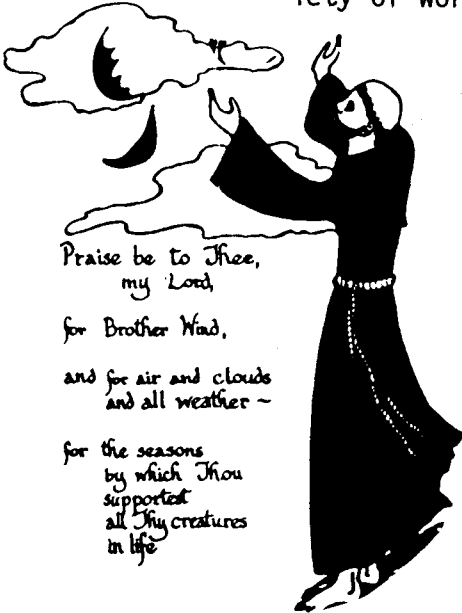
LAND OF THE SKY FELLOWSHIP

The January meeting of this Fellowship welcomed John Hale of Charlotte, as a postulant. Zermiah Holland of Easley, SC came as an inquirer. Alice Wright, a second year novice, was welcomed into the Fellowship, having moved to Mars Hill, NC. They also gave thanks for the life profession of Joan Fouts in Chapel Hill, NC.

They made their Spring Retreat at Maggie Valley, NC, The Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, in April. Karen Pace of Georgetown, SC traveled many miles with novice Kathryn Wilkerson. Ray Daly was also with them, having moved to Asheville from San Diego. Brother Heber Peacock led the group in several meditations which were centered around the search for God and his search for us.

Fleming Bell is a new postulant. Mike Szymanowski is a novice. Davis Horner has completed his novitiate. Amory King has recently moved to Towgap, NC from Wyoming.

Their Convocation featured a seminar by Fleming Bell on Quaker spirituality; a film on St. Francis; "High Tea" complete with watercress sandwiches, scones, string quartet music, and formal attire; and a variety of worship settings.



Praise be to Thee,
my Lord,
for Brother Wind,
and for air and clouds
and all weather -
for the seasons
by which Thou
supported
all Thy creatures
in life

BROTHER WIND FELLOWSHIP

Amid peals of joyous laughter, Brother Wind Fellowship talked about how we can become more visible in order to let those who may have a call to the Third Order know of our presence here in Oklahoma. It all started with a discussion on how we can let others know we are here. One of our members said, "Why don't we declare a year of evangelization?" After a good laugh, someone else said, "Why do we laugh? We're all movers and shakers in our own churches and other organizations, why not for the Third Order? We finally decided (informally, of course) that we could begin by visiting each tertiary in our group's home church on Saturday afternoon (maybe starting at noon with lunch) and then those able to do so would spend the night in town and worship together in that church as a group....

LONG ISLAND FELLOWSHIP

In February, Marrietta Dinnella attended the meeting as an aspirant. The program at the meeting allowed each member to respond to some meditations written by Ilene Smith in Forward Day by Day, Winter, 1987. She wrote of her life in her family farmhouse in upstate New York. John Apmann continues as convener.

In May, their guest speaker was Kathy Tonjes, a missionary-in-training with the South American Missionary Society. In June they will meet for a pot-luck supper at the Friary, sharing with the Brothers. And in July, they will have a picnic in Cutchogue at the Moores'.



"PLAYING TAG WITH GOD"

by Dixie Mosier-Greene, novice
Stillwater, Oklahoma

Did you ever play Tag with God?
It starts out quite simply:
He's "It" and you're "you."
He chases and you run.
There are dangers in thorny rose hedges
And half-hidden flagstones
But you are young and fleet of feet.
Sometimes He was so close that his fingers warmed mine.
"Pull away--pull away fast !"
Always behind, never out of sight
If you threw a glance over your shoulder.
After a while--minutes, years--
The garden path became steeper
And breathe would barely come.
Then, finally, it is over.
You turn and accept his victory.



Then with a shout, he is off,
Feet pounding, great gasps of air.
As fast as you had run before,
You must run faster now.
The path widens and becomes a road.
You run on past unseen vistas,
Eyes focused on your goal.
You turn a corner and run into twilight.
Eyes now straining as the lungs,
He seems to be pulling ahead.
A spurt of speed, a stumble
And He has vanished.
Frantically peering, hand held to the aching side,
You call out his name.
The crickets seem louder; he doesn't answer.
If you don't find him soon, darkness will come,
And you'll have to stay "It" forever.



SAINT MARY OF THE ANGELS -- ARIZONA FELLOWSHIP

A Lenten retreat was held at Picture Rocks Retreat Center, north of Tucson. Retreat Director was Brother Dereck, Novice Master of the First Order of the Society of St. Francis.

The theme for the Convocation was Evangelism. Brother Jon Bankert of the First Order brought his thought-provoking talents to Convocation.

SAN BERNADINE FELLOWSHIP met this spring at the home of Fr. and Donna Woodfield in Seal Beach, CA. After Eucharist, Prof. Sylvia Broadbent related some of her experiences on a recent trip to England. One was an attendance at the Quaker Meeting. Her remembrance of it brought up the subject of meditation. She spoke about a book, "Questions and Answers from the Religious Society of Friends," which she found to be informative.



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At their June meeting, Michael DePetrillo will lead a discussion on "Poverty of Spirit/Gentleness of Heart." Mask Janssen, a friend of the Fellowship will assist in this program.

In October, Peter Miller, SFO, will introduce the group to "Franciscans Committed to Peace and Justice." Peter has become interested in the number of Franciscan, both Anglican and Roman, First and Third Orders, who have found their way into jails for their commitment to peace and social justice.



THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN LAY APOSTOLATE

--"(Secular Franciscans) should seek to deepen the true foundations of universal brotherhood. . . They firmly commit themselves against every form of exploitation, discrimination and exclusion and against every attitude of indifference toward others."

--"They should work together with movements which promote brotherhood among peoples. They should be committed to creating conditions of a dignified life for all and to working for the freedom of all people."

--"In the spirit of minority, they choose a special relationship toward the poor and those on the edge of society whether these be individuals or particular kinds of persons or a whole nation."

--"Secular Franciscans should be present in the field of public life. They should work together, as much as possible, for the passage of just laws and ordinances."

--"In the field of promoting human values and justice, the Fraternities ought to proceed with courageous initiatives consistent with their Franciscan vocation and the directives of the Church."

--"They take clear positions whenever the dignity of the human person is attacked by any form of oppression. They offer their fraternal service to the victims of injustice."

--"They should work together with movements and institutions which promote peace."

(Excerpts from, THE PROVISIONAL GENERAL CONSTITUTIONS OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER).
Submitted by Helen Webb



Ward off the pride that comes
with worldly wealth and power
Give us the courage to open
ourselves in love to the service
of all your people

THE TORONTO, CANADA, FELLOWSHIP OF THE LITTLE SPARROWS

"Thought you might be interested in our December Christmas Party meetings. At Mary's suggestion, those of us who could arrive early met with the St. Thomas congregation (all two of them!) for Eucharist at 5:30 upstairs at the side altar. As we assembled downstairs afterwards, we were confronted by the sexton who solemnly announced that we were supposed to be there the previous week and the space was booked for A.A. We had about 1½ hours before we had to be out.

"So we scrambled fast to eat our party food. Mary plugged in the kettle. Sybil wrapped sausage rolls in serviettes to heat them on the kettle. Bernice discovered that our eggnog was frozen, so our coffee came out a little queerly, as the bumps thawed. We chattered freely in hasty disorder, packed up the leftovers and the garbage, and left the room in good order for A.A.

"As we moved off down the sidewalk, we met Rolf and Carol arriving at the usual time of 7:30, bringing Rolf's violin to provide music so we could sing carols. They were astonished to meet us leaving, but we were greatly relieved to have caught them in time. We all spoke at once, asking and explaining.

"Rolf used his violin case as a table as we shared the leftovers with them, and Carol shared her yummy nuts-plus mixture with us. We started to feel the wet chill creeping into our bones as we stood around eating and chatting, when Mary received divine inspiration. 'For Heaven's sake,' she said, 'Why don't you all come up to my apartment?'

So we did, and the carol sing came off after all!"

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The Source Book.....\$2.50
The Religious Life.....\$2.00

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Davis, CA 95616

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THE MESSENGER

....IS THE TITLE OF THE NEWS SHEET OF THE MINNESOTA FELLOWSHIP.

A draw-back is that there is little information given in this sheet, beyond time and place of their meeting and the topic to be discussed. Topics have been, The Meaning of Simplicity in the Franciscan Rule, What is Salvation? Why Friday is Good, The Power of God's Silence, and The Religious Life in the Anglican Communion. At the June meeting, which is planned for D-Day, June 6, Fr. George Metcalf will speak on "A Chaplain's Remembrance of the Normandy Invasion." The Annual Third Order Fellowship Retreat took place at Mt. Olivet Retreat Center in Farmington, MN in early June.

THERE IS A SPIRIT CRYING

BY Nina Andrews

There is a spirit crying in the depths of me;
A ruby bird trailing hurt wings
Through the grey dust that gathers deep in me,
Dust which smothers with an awful quiet
certainty.
Storms rage within, then still;
And all is grey again;
Just one red bird fluttering,
Only a voice crying in the wilderness,
A flaming tongue singing its song
Through the storm's din or the dead emptiness.

WITHIN

by Nina Andrews

A silver flute
unused,
a broken harp
standing mute;
the music caught
within.

Another soul
desires
a vestal bowl
to hold
flaming coal;
for love can't burn
within.

THE CHI RHO FELLOWSHIP

According to their newsletter, Chrysalis, They were led in a Quiet Day Retreat by Bishop Griswold in February. Their newsletter notes:

"We have a wonderful diversity in our Fellowship here in Chicago -- people from all walks of life, work and on different stages of their spiritual journeys. We have much to share with each other, and in sharing we find we have a great deal in common. This centers in our love for St. Francis and our desire to follow his example of living the lives Christ would have us live."

Tertiaries of the Diocese of Chicago sponsored Convocation in early June at the Saint Francis Retreat Center in Oak Brook, Illinois.

The Maine Fellowship would like to welcome any visiting TSSFers this summer. We may plan a fellowship gathering if we knew when summer visitors would be here -- and how we could get in touch with them...

-- The Rev. Henry Bird
RR 1, Box 163
Penobscot, ME 04476



LAKESIDE REFLECTION

by Betty Louise Jones

I rejoiced at the sight
of the naked tree,
White, bare limbs
Stretching heavenward in prayer,
Rooted to the sandy lake shore,
Like me,
Standing mute, before God
As only He can see,
Our utter nothingness,
Our poverty,
Awaiting His divine providence,
To give, to bless,
To clothe our nudity.

NOTICE:

The second issue of Pax et Bonum will be issued when more material comes in. The editors are looking for essays, poetry, short stories, meditations, personal reflections, etc. on topics that relate in some way to our Franciscan vocation. So please let us hear from you writers out there! Send contributions to: Terry Rogers,
54 E. 1st St. #2A
NY, NY 10003

SOUTH-EAST FLORIDA FELLOWSHIP

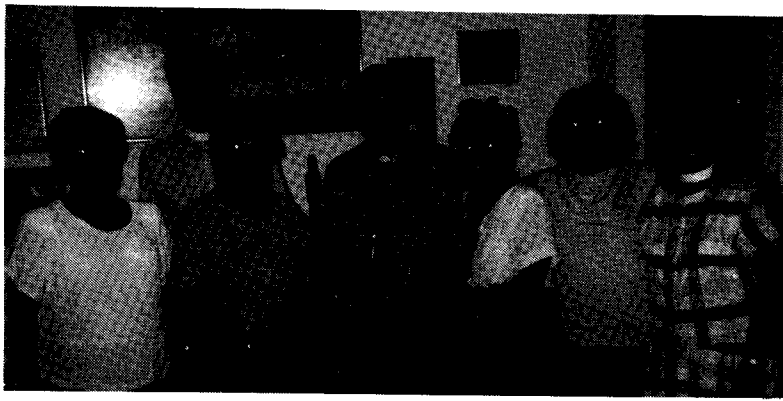
...HAS HAD SEVERAL MEETINGS :

On the 16th of January, we had a delightful meeting at the home of Fr. Sam Hale and his lovely wife Jessie. We had a large group in attendance, including Rev. Pat Schumacher, Anna Pruett, Dee Dobson, Betty Melpha, our honored guest Br. Robert Hugh, and the children in attendance included Heidi, Hope and Sean Schumacher, and Adrian and Andrew Pruett, and of course our hosts and Bill Dobson. We gathered at noon for a lovely meal prepared by Jessie. At 2:00 p.m. we had our meeting, at which Betty Melpha was professed. The setting was one of nature at its finest: palm trees, the waterfront setting, and the beautiful weather all made it a lovely place for Betty to receive her Third Order Cross. Also Pat renewed her vows of profession. The children were happy to be fishing from the dock, and a few even got a boat ride. It was truly inspirational to have Br. Robert in our midst and as usual we benefitted from his words of wisdom.



Here are Dee Dobson, Betty Melpha, Anna Pruett, Fr. Sam Hale, Diane Darrah, Br. Robert Hugh, and The Rev. Pat Schumacher.

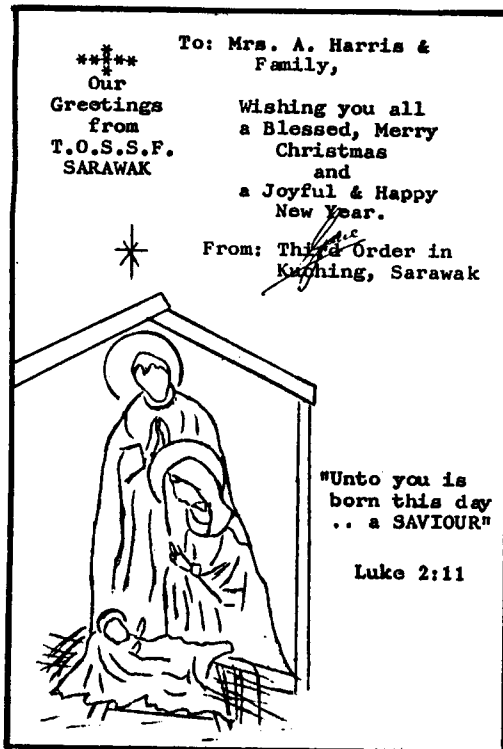
(More from the Sunshine State on page 10.)



More from Florida:

This group met in Ash Wednesday -- (Left to right) Dee Dobson, Fr. Sam Hale, Jessie Hale, Fr. Michael (Minister General), Betty Melpha, Dianne Darrah and The Rev. Pat Schumacher. Bill Dobson was the photographer.

We met again in April at the Dobson's house. We had a large group in attendance, including The Rev. Louise Baker, who brought her friend Phyllis Kissel, Fr. Sam Hal and his wife Jessie, Anna Pruett, Betty Melpha, The Rev. Pat Schumacher, Elaine Schofield, Diane DArrah and Bill Dobson. This was a very meaningful meeting for Anna as she became noviced, and this meant so very much to her. We all missed Dee, but she was unable to be there, having been called out of town. We were graciously hosted by her husband Bill.



This card was sent to secretary Ann Harris from the Third Order in Sarawak.

LITTLE PORTION FRIARY

is offering several retreats and workshops in the coming months. Topics include Spiritual Direction, Mutual Ministry, Pre-Advent Retreat, and workshops for Adult Children of Alcoholics. If you are interested in learning more about these offerings, or about other opportunities at the Friary, write to them at:

P.O. Box 399
Mt. Sinai, NY 11766



*On high I dwell, and in holiness,
and with the crushed and
dejected in spirit, to revive the
spirits of the dejected, to revive
the hearts of the crushed.*

A VISIT TO ASSISI

by John Metcalfe, Tampa Bay Fellowship

Our first visit to Assisi in 1972 was made in a Volkswagen camper, which we had picked up in Germany, then aimed directly at the Brenner Pass and the Autostrada to Rome.

After this first of many visits to Rome, my wife Dorothy and I

A Visit to Assisi, continued...

directed our camper to Assisi, and its lovely campsite atop the mountain, overlooking the tiny city; built as few Italian cities are, on the side of a mountain, rather than on top for protection against the hordes of invaders, who regularly visited Italy for centuries. From the campsite, the two Forts, built in the middle ages to protect the city, but now in ruins, as well as the Great Basilicas of St. Francis and St. Clare, and in the distance across the Umbrian plain, the Basilica of Santa Maria della Angella (Saint Mary and the Angels) can be seen.

Luckily, we entered Assisi by way of the Basilica of Saint Mary, guilded by the great golden statue of the Blessed Virgin surmounting the church, wding through the solid wall of merchants' booths, each displaying much the same religious goods, plus the aprons, blouses, skirts and caps embroidered with the delicate cross-stitching practiced in that part of Umbria, we made our way into the enormous stone and tile edifice where the eye is magnetically centered on a tiny stone hut in the center of the great church, its outside alight with bank of blazing votive candles. The tiny stone hut, or "Little Portion" given to St. Francis by the Benedictines to found his order(s) and where he and his followers lived and prayed so long ago is now a church, where the Mass or Eucharist is celebrated many times daily.

As my wife and I stood in awe of the great humility the simple building expressed to us, a priest, preceded by a tiny altar-boy, entered to the tinkling of a bell, and we found ourselves the only ones present to hear the Mass, which was said in Italian. When the time came to receive, my wife and I remained in the small benches provided. The priest looked at us rather sternly, then turning to place the chalice on the altar, he came down to us and said, "Eh, Senor, Catholico?" In English, my wife replied, "No, Father." "Oh," he said in English, "American?" "Yes," we replied. "Then what is your church?" "Episcopalian." "Do you know how to make a Spiritual Communion?" "Yes," we said.

Then returning to the altar and holding the chalice and the Host above, in resonant English he hed us in "May the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, be given to us, and to those we love, and to those in need of Christ's love, this day, to preserve our bodies and souls unto everlasting life. Amen."

(John promises that his visit will be continued in The Times.)

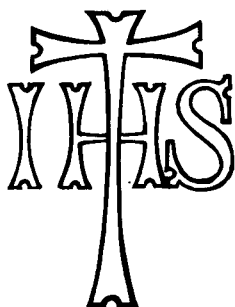
THE NEW UMBRIAN FELLOWSHIP -- CALIFORNIA

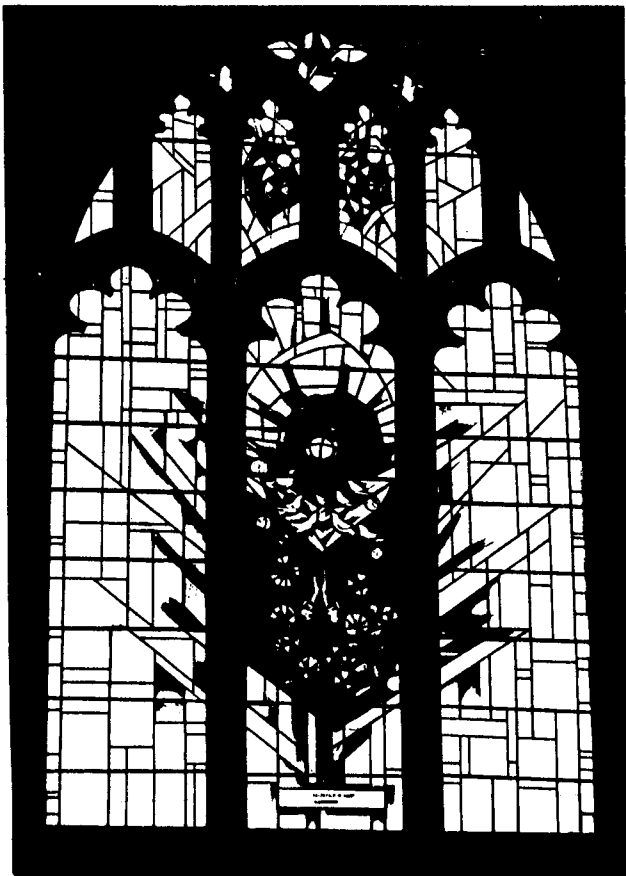
They met in January for Eucharist and fellowship with The Rev. Paul Clasper as guest celebrant. His words on the Epistle of the Day, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 were especially meaningful: "I am a member of the Body of Christ. I have my own work to do."

In May, they held a Family Meeting with the Sisters of the Community of St. Francis in San Francisco, where they shared Euchrist, supper and Taize prayer.

They enjoyed a retreat at St. Michael's Wagon Tree Ranch in April, and are planning for the Western Regional Convocation at the Bishop's Ranch in August.

Founding member of the New Umbrian Fellowship, Don Carlson, died on Good Friday. He was the first Tertiary on the West Coast.





THIS PICTURE OF THE BETTON MEMORIAL WINDOW was sent by Mary Mobert of Gualala, CA. She received it in a Christmas letter from Marjorie Betton, whose husband John was pastor at St. Mary's Church in Hadleigh for many years and was very active in the Franciscan Third Order in England. He visited the U.S. in 1988 and attended the International meeting at the Bishop's Ranch that summer. He died of a heart attack last year.

Mary Mobert encourages tertiaries to write to Mary Betton at: Corner House, Chattisham, Ipswich -- Suffolk, IP8 3PY, England.

Mary Betton writes: "...the highlight of the year for me was in February when the very lovely window in memory of John and Peter was dedicated in Hadleigh church. John O'Connor designed it with great sympathy and understanding and its joyous colours are just what John wanted to give to St. Mary's. It reminds you of his love and devotion every time you go in."

THE SACRAMENTO AREA FELLOWSHIP



Rosie McFerran reports: The group met in small but select mode in February at the home of Ann Harris. Present were John Brownfield, Ann, Deane Kennedy, Rosie, and John Wedgwood-Greenhow. Fr. Kennedy presented a meditation on St. Francis' "Canticle to Brother Sun," and read some selections from the book St. Francis and the Song of Brotherhood by Eric Doyle. The Canticle offers infinite possibilities for meditations, and Fr. Kennedy shared with us some of the ways in which he uses it.

Following the program, we turned our attention to tea, coffee, cookies and business. A Quiet Day was held in March, with Sr. Pamela. And the group bade goodbye to Fr. Kennedy in May, when he moved to Oregon.

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