

The Franciscan Times



PENTECOST/TRINITY SEASON, 1990

THE FRANCISCAN TIMES is an irregularly-published newsletter, aimed at helping members of the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis to keep in touch. To that end, we welcome newsletters of Fellowships -- or better yet, news of Fellowships, book reviews, poetry, meditations, stories of your personal spiritual journey...whatever you have.

IMPORTANT NOTICE -- CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Those of you who send material for the Franciscan Times, please send to me at my office, The Episcopal Diocese of Montana, 515 North Park Ave., Helena, MT 59601. I am moving at the end of August. -- Joanne Maynard, editor.

This time, we'll again begin with John Metcalfe's wonderful story of:

A VISIT TO ASSISI -- IV

A long, narrow, uphill street, bristling with shop showing every type of souvenir of Assisi, from religious goods to flamboyant Umbrian pottery, leads from the Basilica of St. Francis though the town square to the Basilica of St. Claire, about midway up the mountain -- and a pleasant walk for the able.

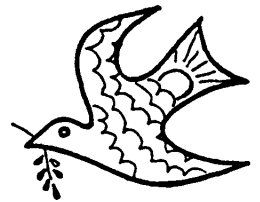
Here is another great church, built on the site where St. Francis professed his cousin Claire to the religious life, which eventuated in the founding of the Second Order of the Franciscans, "The Poor Claires."

This Basilica is notable for its side chapel of the Cross of St. Damiano. The actual cross, taken from the ruins of the Church of St. Damiano, which when St. Francis, one day, stopped in to pray, spoke to the Saint, saying "Francis, rebuild my church."

Some church historians point out that this command was not so much to rebuild the ruined church of St. Damiano, perched on the side of Assisi, now rebuilt with a duplicate of its transferred cross in its original place, staffed with a group of brown Franciscans, who, every time we went there to worship, seemed to partake copiously of strong Italian cigars -- as to emphasize the need to reform the Latin Church, which had become submerged in a quagmire of abuses.

It has been pointed out that Francis chose to show the Church the Way of Christ by a life of example, through self-effacing service, rather

(A Visit to Assisi - cont.)



than by a violent break.

The Chapel of the Talking Cross, as it is sometimes called, also contains a comprehensive exhibit of the garments worn by St. Francis and his followers. This exhibit is presided over by a group of nuns, who ask your nationality as you approach, then deliver an explanation of the relics in your own language, while presenting you with a card in your own speech, repeating the explanation -- for which a donation is expected, but not required. I am not sure if these nuns are Clairesses, but suspect they may be, because of their black garb, in contrast with the brown nuns who minister in the main church and the tiny "store" at the entrance of the Chapel of the Talking Cross.

A side entrance to the lower church leads to the Tomb of St. Claire, where the skeleton of the Saint, encased in a wax figure, clothed in her habit, reclines on a bed, as she might have appeared in death -- and protected by a "crystal" or glass enclosure. The room is temperature and humidity controlled to preserve the wax figure, as are the exhibits of the garments of Saint Francis in both Basilicas.

We had learned that "American nuns," or Maryknoll Sisters could be found by a pathway on the side of the Basilica plaza. The entrance turned out to be a crack in the solid wall of stores, which led us up a flight of stairs, around the walls of several houses to another road, then through an opening in a stone wall, up more steps to yet another road and complete puzzlement, as the path ended and none of the buildings facing us gave any hint of their occupants.

In our indecision, a grey-clad nun wearing a black veil came out of a rather dark driveway, who readily confessed to being a Maryknoller, and who then took us into the house and to a sitting room which overlooked the city, exposing a magnificent panorama of the purple-lighted olive groves of the Umbrian plain, to a low rack of hill which enclose the fertile valley.

Among the several guests of the house was an Anglican priest who told us that our English Franciscans had been given the Church of St. Gregory by the Cardinal Patriarch of Assisi, and that they would begin to say the Eucharist there some days hence, and that he would post the schedule in the Maryknoll House and in the Post Office for the use of the English-speaking visitors, an intelligence we happily used when our English Brothers arrived the following week.

We then made our way to the campsite which was located higher on the mountain, and was our home for the extent of our visit.

(There is one more installment in this fascinating tale, and we will print it in the next issue of The Times.)

REMEMBER, THE BASICS are available from the Secretary, Jacqui Belcher, at:

2220 E. Victory Dr. #24
Savannah, GA 31404



Basics

Suggested Prices are:

Devotional Companion...	\$4.00
Way of St. Francis.....	2.50
Source Book.....	2.50
Directory.....	1.00
Statutes.....	1.00
order/Admission.....	1.00

A Message from Rosie McFerran:

To all my brothers and sisters: Thanks to all of you who have been praying the last year for my sister Dianne, and for me and the rest of Dianne's family. Dianne died April 19, after fighting lung cancer for almost exactly a year. All but the last three days of that she was at home with her husband and two sons, coping to some degree with her normal life. Your prayers and love helped make that possible, and you certainly sustained us all during the last difficult time. While my "birth family" was being torn apart, I felt very definitely lifted up and sustained by my Third Order family.

Thank you all.



Rosie

FOR MYSELF

RENEWED STRUGGLE

Dependent on others for my happiness,
Staking my ego on their responses,
Too much giving in order to get.

So hard to feel Your Love,
Appreciate Your Grace,
Believe You are for me,
When I have again fallen so low.

Brief foretaste of glory divine,
Moments of uplighting,
Sudden breakthroughs.

Bitterness from my constant loneliness,
Despair at the tentativeness of my victories.

As best I can,
I lay my pain, my sin, my self
Before You.
I wait for my rage to subside,
For silence to come,
For Your answer.

Kirby D. Lewis

When others are not there for me,
When I cannot get the love I want,
Be here for myself.
Be Love for myself,
Your precious child,
Your very image.
Light, not to find another,
But as an end in itself
For me,
And to share.

KDL
6-20-90



NEW UMBRIAN FELLOWSHIP

Joan Kidd, in the newsletter of the New Umbrian Fellowship, asks -- "What is the purpose of fellowship meetings?" and cites Provincial Statutes (Rev. 10/89): "The tertiaries should take every opportunity and make every effort to meet together for worship, study, and fellowship, because such common activity expresses their life as an Order, rather than individuals living under rule."

ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS

St. Mary of the Angels Fellowship celebrated the Feast of St. Clare one week early, and in a wonderful way. They began with Eucharist and a sermon by Marie Webner, Chaplain. They were asked to prepare for a discussion by reading about St. Clare and studying her Rule, seeing how it can be applied to our lives. Themes common to all Franciscans were discovered. Members were asked to read about St. Clare and to come to the meeting ready to share insights.

Brother Robert Hugh will be in Phoenix November 13-18 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, conducting a workshop on the relationship between Christian spirituality and evangelism. Tucson tertiaries are planning to attend.

A LETTER FROM FATHER JOHN HODGINS IN PUERTO LIMON, COSTA RICA:



Dear Jacqui,

I received the Info. Sheet yesterday (March 19, 1990) and thank you for mention of our request for prayer. At present we are now under way with work in San Marcos Parish, Puerto Limon. I have charge of two new mission -- San Jose Obrero (St. Joseph the Worker) in a very poor area of the city, and San Francisco de Asis (St. Francis of Assisi) the new mission in Corales, the newest barrio of Limon City. Limon is a port city of about 70,000 with many Anglican of Afro-Caribbean descent.

San Francisco was the name chosen by the Mission Committee in the community after I mentioned my participation in the 3rd Order. A vote was taken after several suggestions as to name, and the people selected San Francisco on March 2. At present we have about 50 people meeting for mass on Sundays in the local school cafeteria.

The diocese has purchased land and we hope to clear it and erect a roof there by October 4, 1990. Bishop Wilson plans to visit that day to bless the site (he is Diocesan).

The committee plans to raise funds by selling blocks for about \$5 (U.S.) per block, as well as doors and windows (amounts not yet decided). If anyone would like to support the building of Mission San Francisco in Corales, donations may be sent, made out to "San Marcos":

c/o San Francisco Mission, Corales
Aptdo. "M" San Marcos Parish,
7.300 Puerto Limon, Costa Rica

Att: Fr. J. Hodgins

Pax et Bonum,

John Hodgins +



Note from the editor: I don't know how many years I've been editor of The Franciscan Times, but it's been a long while. I've asked that Chapter appoint someone new to carry on this ministry. Until that is all in place, however, you may continue to send material to me.* I'm sure the new editor's name will appear after Chapter in the Information Sheet.

* But note my new address!

BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

WE NEED TO ADDRESS THIS SUBJECT SERIOUSLY AND PRAYERFULLY: "ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS". EACH OF US ALREADY IS AWARE OF THE PART OF OUR CONSTITUTION WHICH STIPULATES THAT WE ARE TO ATTEND MONTHLY MEETINGS AND MEET WITH FELLOW TERTIARIES WHENEVER POSSIBLE, ETC.. THIS IS ALSO INCORPORATED IN OUR PERSONAL RULES AS ONE OF OUR REQUIREMENTS TO BE LIVED UP TO. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WILL BE TIMES WHEN IT IS PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO COMPLY WITH THIS ARTICLE. BUT WE ARE NOT ADDRESSING THE EXCEPTIONS. WHAT WE WANT TO CONSIDER ARE THE REASONS(EXCUSES) BY WHICH WE EXEMPT OURSELVES WITHOUT SUFFICIENT CAUSE FROM BEING PRESENT AT FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS.

DURING POSTULANCY AND NOVITIATE, WE SEEM TO BE VERY EXACTING ABOUT ATTENDANCE. AT THAT POINT IN OUR PREPARATION FOR PROFESSION WE ARE INTENT UPON LIVING OUR RULE TO THE LETTER(?) - OR AT LEAST OF MAINTAINING IT DILIGENTLY IN THE FOREGROUND. WE ALSO TEND TO MAKE ITS OBSERVANCE A PRIORITY IN THE SCHEDULING OF OUR TIME. WE LOOK FORWARD TO BEING WITH OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS AND SHARING OUR EXPERIENCES WITH THEM. EVERYTHING IS NEW AND EXCITING. WE ARE IN THE "FIRST FERVOR" PHASE. WONDERFUL!

WE LOOK FORWARD WITH ENTHUSIASM TO THE TIME OF OUR PROFESSION WHEN WE WILL IN FACT "BE" FRANCISCANS. (SOMETIMES FORGETTING THAT WE "ARE" FRANCISCANS BY VOCATION AND NOT BY PROFESSION ALONE). FOR SOME OF US, AT LEAST, IT SEEMS THAT THE SACRED MOMENT OF PROFESSION IS THE CULMINATION OF A PROCESS - A PROCESS WHICH ACTUALLY HAS NO CULMINATION THIS SIDE OF ETERNITY.

SO WHAT HAPPENS? SUDDENLY THE NEWNESS AND EXCITEMENT OF IT ALL BECOMES COMMONPLACE. AS IF GOD IN OUR LIVES CAN EVER BECOME COMMONPLACE! THE ROMANCE OF IT ALL IS OVER AND THE 'GETTING TO KNOW YOU" BECOMES THE SAD MONOTONY INTO WHICH MARRIAGE SOMETIMES DEGENERATES. WHY? HAVE WE NOT VOLUNTARILY TAKEN UPON OURSELVES THESE ADDED OBLIGATIONS? WERE WE COERCED, PRESSURED, FORCED INTO ASSUMING THEM? NOT LIKELY.

FIRST FERVOR IS MARVELOUS TO OBSERVE; HOWEVER, IT MUST BE PROVEN - AND TESTED BY PERSEVERANCE AND THE PASSING OF TIME. THIS IS THE REASON FOR A TWO YEAR NOVITIATE. IT IS ASSUMED THAT DURING THIS PERIOD CERTAIN HABITS WILL BE ELIMINATED AND SUPPLANTED BY OTHER MORE UP-BUILDING HABITS, SUCH AS, FOR EXAMPLE, ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS. THE PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO GIVE STRENGTH AND HOPEFULLY, INSPIRATION, TO ASSIST US IN LIVING OF OUR RULES IN THE MIDST OF SO MUCH MATERIALISM.

PROFESSION, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, IS NOT THE END OF A PROCESS. PROFESSION IS THE REAL BEGINNING OF A NEW WAY OF BEING. WHAT LEADS UP TO IT IS PURELY PREPARATORY.

HOW FORTUNATE SOME OF US ARE TO HAVE MEETINGS AVAILABLE TO ATTEND! MANY TERTIARIES ARE ISOLATED GEOGRAPHICALLY AND CANNOT SHARE THIS BLESSING. COMMUNITY IMPLIES THE COMING TOGETHER AS A FELLOWSHIP. ASSUREDLY WE CANNOT LIVE "IN" COMMUNITY AS THE FIRST AND SECOND ORDERS ARE REQUIRED TO DO. NEVERTHELESS, WE DO NEED THE BOND THAT CONSTITUTES OUR MONTHLY GATHERINGS, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN TO ASSURE US THAT THERE ARE OTHERS "OUT THERE" TRYING TO LIVE SANE LIVES AND PURSUING THE SAME GOALS AND IDEALS. THIS IS NOT PRIMARILY FRANCISCAN. IT IS ESSENTIALLY CHRISTIAN.

WE ALL NEED TO DO A LITTLE "EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE" IN THIS MATTER. WE NEED TO SET OUR PRIORITIES IN ORDER. EXCEPTIONS WILL OCCUR, CERTAINLY. BUT LET US NOT MAKE ANY EXCUSE AN EXCEPTION. AND, IF WE CHOOSE TO ALLEGE THAT THE MEETINGS ARE NOT INSPIRATIONAL OR INTERESTING, LET'S PUT SOME OF THE BLAME FOR THAT UPON OURSELVES! OUR PRESENCE CAN AND DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE. FRANCIS SAID IN ONE OF HIS RULES: "HE WHO PERSEVERES TO THE END WILL BE SAVED." WELL, FIRST WE MUST PERSEVERE!

LET US BEGIN TO SERVE THE LORD.

MARK DRISH
CHI-RHO FELLOWSHIP



LOCATION 1920 JUNE 1, 2, & 3 ST. FRANCIS RETREAT HOUSE, OAK BROOK, ILLINOIS

DAY JUNE 1ST INVOLVED THE USUAL CONFUSION OF GETTING EVERYONE SETTLED IN. EXCEPT A FEW MINOR INCONVENIENCES WITH AIRLINE SCHEDULES AND LATE ARRIVALS, THE EVENING WAS UNEVENTFUL.

THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 2ND, BEGAN WITH MORNING PRAYER AT 7:30 A.M. IN ATTENDANCE WERE: BROTHER DONALD SULLIVAN, SSF, FR. ALDEN WHITNEY, SR. ELIZABETH ANNE, DEE DOBSON, ANNE HARRIS, ANITA CATRON, JULIA BERGSTROM, ALAN VLACH, GLEN-ANN JICHA, AL EASTERWOOD, SUE PETERSON, JIM CAMPBELL, LYN CAMPBELL, GWEN DILLON, HATTIE COCKSHOOR, CATHERINE DAVIDSON, YVONNE KOYZIS, AND MARK DRISH. WE WERE JOINED LATER IN THE DAY BY THREE ARRIVALS FROM THE CHICAGO AREA: MARK EARL, SEMINARIAN AT SEABURY WESTERN, AND TWO INQUIRER/ASPIRANTS: ALLAN WILLET AND ERNEST BUCHANAN.

MID-MORNING, 10:00 A.M., BRO. AL EASTERWOOD GAVE A PRESENTATION ON "THE PEACE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS". AL INFORMED US AT THE BEGINNING THAT THIS PRAYER WAS MERELY ATTRIBUTED TO ST. FRANCIS, AND IS REALLY OF QUITE RECENT HISTORY. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF ITS CONTENT, THIS IS A PRAYER THAT ST. FRANCIS ASSUREDLY COULD HAVE PRAYED. THEN, PETITION BY PETITION, AL EXPOUNDED UPON THE CONTENT AND SUPPORTED EACH ONE WITH CONCRETE EXAMPLES, SOME OF WHICH ARE FROM HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCES. IF AS FRANCISCANS WE TEND TO TAKE THIS PRAYER FOR GRANTED, EACH OF US PRESENT WENT AWAY FROM THAT CONFERENCE WITH MUCH TO PONDER. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR BROTHER AL EASTERWOOD FOR HIS IN-DEPTH PERCEPTION AND WILLINGNESS TO SHARE IT WITH US.

WE HAD AN UNEXPECTED BUT PLEASANT SURPRISE! ALAN VLACH, A DOCTORAL CANDIDATE AT NOTRE DAME, SOUTH BEND, INDIANA, ARRIVED CARRYING HIS GUITAR AND ASSORTED MUSIC. THIS HIDDEN TALENT OF ALAN'S WAS A MOST ENJOYABLE COMPLEMENT TO THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE. A SORT OF "HYMNAL" HAD BEEN PREPARED WITH SOME 15 HYMNS XEROXED SO THAT WE COULD DO SOME SINGING. WELL, ALAN WAS ABLE TO ACCOMPANY ALL THE HYMNS AND ENHANCED THE PLEASURE OF THE MUSICAL RENDITIONS. WE MUST ADD, ALSO, THAT IN OUR GROUP, YVONNE KOYZIS HAS A REMARKABLE VOICE (COLORATURA SOPRANO) AND IS TAKING A MASTERS DEGREE IN MUSIC AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY. WELL, FOR MUSIC LOVERS, WHAT MORE COULD WE POSSIBLY ASK?

MUCH TIME WAS UNSTRUCTURED PURPOSELY. THIS ENABLED PEOPLE TO GET ACQUAINTED AS WELL AS TO ENJOY THE BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS OF THE RETREAT HOUSE. ESPECIALLY ADVANTAGEOUS FOR SEVERAL OF OUR POSTULANT/ASPIRANTS WHO HAD IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO ANNE HARRIS AND ALDEN WHITNEY TO HELP "SMOOTH OUT" SOME OF THE DETAILS OF THEIR RULES, ETC. BECAUSE OF THE GENEROSITY OF ANNE AND FR. ALDEN, WE ANTICIPATE HAVING A NEW CLASS OF NOVICES TO PREPARE FOR PROFESSION.

COMPLINE AT 5:00 P.M. BEGAN WITH THE SINGING OF "O GRACIOUS LIGHT" AS REHEARSED EARLIER, UNACCOMPANIED AS A TWO PART CANON. FOLLOWING COMPLINE, PRE-DINNER FELLOWSHIP WITH WINE AND CHEESE. DINNER WAS AT 6:00 P.M. WITH EUCHARIST AND PROFESSION SCHEDULED FOR 7:00 P.M.

WE WERE PRIVILEGED TO CELEBRATE THE VIGIL OF PENTECOST IN THE LOVELY REPLICA OF THE CHAPEL OF THE PORCIUNCULA, A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE RETREAT HOUSE. BROTHER DONALD CELEBRATED IN HABIT AND STOLE - AND BARE FEET! DEE DOBSON WAS MANDATED TO RECEIVE THE VOWS OF JIM CAMPBELL, LYN CAMPBELL, GWEN DILLON AND MARK DRISH. ALAN VLACH ACCOMPANIED SEVERAL HYMNS DURING MASS, ADDING MUCH JOY TO THE OCCASION.

THERE WAS A CHAMPAIGN PARTY FOLLOWING THE PROFESSION. IT WAS A VERY JOYOUS CELEBRATION!

SUNDAY, JUNE 3RD, PENTECOST, FR. ALDEN WHITNEY CELEBRATED MASS AT 10:00 A.M. AND BROTHER DONALD PREACHED. SOME GUESTS HAD EARLY FLIGHTS AND HAD TO LEAVE THE RETREAT HOUSE BEFORE LUNCH - WHICH WAS AT 12:30 P.M. BY 2:30 P.M. ALL ATTENDANTS WERE EN ROUTE TO THEIR HOMES, AND THE RETREAT HOUSE MUST HAVE SEEMED VERY, VERY QUIET!

CHI RHO FELLOWSHIP ACKNOWLEDGES ITS INDEBTEDNESS TO GLEN-ANN JICHA FOR HER DILIGENCE AND CONCERN IN PREPARING OUR NOVICES FOR PROFESSION. WE THANK ALL WHO ATTENDED AND HOPE THEY TOOK AWAY SOME WORTHWHILE MOMENTS TO REMEMBER.

TIME TO PREPARE FOR NEXT YEAR!

MARK DRISH, CONVENOR
CHI RHO FELLOWSHIP





BOOK REVIEW

Brother John-Charles, SSF

GOOD NEWS SERIES (Michael Glazier Inc., Wilmington, Delaware)

- No. 1 Call to Discipleship: A Literary Study of Mark's Gospel by Augustine Stock OSB, pp 208, \$7.95
- No. 2 Becoming Human Together: The Pastoral Anthropology of St. Paul by Jerome Murphy-O'Connor OP. 22 224, \$6.95 (revised edition)
- No. 4 Palestinian Judaism and the New Testament by Martin McNamara MSC. pp 279. \$10.95
- No. 6 St. Paul's Corinth: Texts and Archaeology by Jerome Murphy-O'Connor OP pp 192. \$7.95
- No. 7 A New Look at Preaching by John Burke OP (ed) pp 163. \$6.95

A group of distinguished Roman Catholic Scholars is responsible for the books in this admirable series.

Fr. Stock takes Mark's Gospel as a literary whole and, without ignoring the results of form criticism, etc., reveals a unified purpose as the evangelist's aim. He unfolds the pattern as one which follows the basic structures of Greek dramatic art and in the process underscores Mark's message as highly relevant for our times. Mark's Christology, set in the context of the Passion, is the heart of his understanding of Jesus' call to discipleship. This new approach makes Mark live.

Father Murphy-O'Connor's book on Paul gives us a perceptive discussion of the apostle's understanding of human nature as the basis of his theology. This is followed by an examination of "inauthentic existence" in Paul's thinking which lays bare a situation not unlike ours. On these bases the third part of the book presents Paul's understanding of "authentic existence in the Body of Christ," and does so with the confidence that what "worked" for Paul can do so for us. This is not only an exciting contribution to New Testament theology. It is, equally, an addition to the literature of Christian spirituality.

Fr. McNamara's work provides us with an excellent introduction to the diversity of Judaism in the time of our Lord. Readily understandable by the non-specialist reader, this book takes account of recent discussion and theories. It sheds considerable light on, and illuminates our understanding of, the New Testament. As anti-Semitism once more rears its ugly and shameful head, this study should re-awaken in Christians an abiding sense of our great indebtedness to the Judaism from which our Lord sprang and into which he was born.

Fr. Murphy-O'Connor's Corinth is the first book of its kind. It makes available to the ordinary reader all the major facts about Corinth which are to be found in, often, obscure places. As a guide to better understanding of Paul's Corinthian correspondence and mission, it is invaluable. All important references to Corinth in Greek and Latin literature from the first century B.C. to the second century A.D. have been assembled here and they are accompanied by illuminating commentary. Documentary and archaeological evidence is expertly marshalled. The latter is all the more important since much of it has not been given due weight in many New Testament studies. Our understanding of Paul's ministry to Corinth is broadened by consideration of these matters. This is more than a merely informative book. It is enjoyable and exciting reading.

The final book in this list brings together the papers and the responses delivered at the First National Ecumenical Scriptural-Theological Symposium

on Preaching. It offers to a wider audience insights from several ecclesial traditions. At a time when the media's attractive powers make communication through preaching more difficult and increase the need to rethink the methods and the purposes of preaching, here is a lively attempt to help. All called to preach will find this a challenging and helpful book. If the presentations collected here are approached with openness and humility, the wisdom which they enshrine will have a powerful effect.

Michael Glazier is to be congratulated for making this exciting series possible.



THE EAST TENNESSEE FELLOWSHIP

On May 19, John Tolbert made his Life Profession in the Third Order. Fr. Boulet was the Celebrant for the Celebration Eucharist. John Dotson, Fellowship Convenor, performed the Order for Admission. Following the service, a reception was held. During the reception, Fr. Kale King and Fr. Boulet entertained the group with reminiscences of the earlier days of the Third Order.

In late May, the Fellowship gathered at Nazareth House, a small retreat center located in Snowflake, Virginia. Sister Margaret of the Sisters of Mercy of Nazareth conducted the retreat, which focused on the spirituality of St. Francis as expressed in his prayer life.

A REPLY TO NINA ANDREWS

In the last Franciscan Times, Nina Andrews asked for help in praying the Confession in Morning Prayer...She wrote, "In my private devotions I pray it like this: 'we have not loved our neighbors -- or ourselves -- as you love them and us.'..."

Jane Ellen Traugott sent this reply:

"Dear Nina -- In response to your letter in the Franciscan Times: Of course there's nothing wrong with any prayer that has God as its center. But if we take the prayer as a whole, it makes a bit more sense. It's based on the two-fold commendment that Jesus gave us. I have a bad enough time with perfectionism, that I don't need to set up standards any higher than the one Jesus gave us.

"A deeper look at the question took me back to the first and great commandment -- to love God with my whole heart and mind and soul and strength. If I'm doing that, I'll be a whole person who is filled with God's love, and is showing it forth in humility and with great joy. In other words, we'll be loving the way Jesus loves us -- with that love which God is."

-- and Jane Ellen added a note to the Times: "...I was on Chapter when we started the Franciscan Times, and it was the sort of give and take that her letter will engender that we had in mind..." So if you have thoughts on this, or on anything else -- do write to the Times and share them. jm

LONG ISLAND FELLOWSHIP

Jeff Holloway, of Port Washington, NY reported on their picnic in a recent newsletter:

Despite the effort's of Cuttchoque village to thwart us by blockading the Moore's street with an Antiques Show, 13 of us found our way around, through twisty country roads, to arrive at the annual Long Island Fellowship picnic at Frank & Janet Moore's house. The day was sunny, clear, warm and breezy. Frank and Janet have a very attractive house and a beautiful piece of property. It was all perfect.

Without program or business, we were able to concentrate on the fellowship and food, which were warm and tasty, respectively. (Food wise, I especially call attention to the "Friendship bread" and that extraordinary potato salad!) And although we had no organized games or feats of daring, I think David Garvin rated first prize and highest honors in the unofficial, Folding-Chair-Sleeping-Event. "How did he do it?!"

On a more serious -- even Lenten -- note, here is a report of a program presented to the group by Jane Ellen Traugott last spring:

CRADLE, CROSS, & CUP

Continuing our series "Cradle, Cross, & Cup," Jane Ellen led us in a very moving meditation on the crucifixion. She gave each of us a spike, representing those used to nail our Lord to the cross. She explained about crucifixion, that the nails were probably driven between the bones of the wrist because the bones of the hand are not strong enough. The cause of death was suffocation, but because this method of execution was intended as torture, the feet were nailed as well, allowing the victim to raise up from time to time and prolong the process, which could take as long as 24 hours. We meditated silently for 10 minutes then Jane Ellen read us a short dialogue in which Jesus returns to the Father and they discuss the distressing nature of His voluntary mission. In the end God says, "Well, Son, I warned you it would be terrible." And Jesus replies, "Yes, Dad, but it wasn't the nails. It was the kiss." Silence again. Holding our spikes. And finally we closed with the "Asorbe-at" prayer of St. Francis (Devotional Companion, p.17).

We were all stirred very deeply, and as we slowly came out of our meditations we found ourselves without words for awhile. Then, very quietly, almost incidently, people began focussing on particular words to describe what they had experienced. Some had felt the power of the crucifixion, some had felt their responsibility, some the love, some were aware of hypocrisy.

The words turned into an animated discussion and we found we had been plunged into the heart of the spirit of Lent. We discussed "dirty Christianity" and hypocrisy; the lost concept of responsibility for our sins and the rationalization of situational ethics; the difficulty of identifying and confronting sin without losing sight of God's love and with out flagellating ourselves or others; the blessedness of "hitting bottom" because when all appears well, we lose sight of our need for the Savior; and we even got into a disagreement about the propriety of celebration on Good Friday.

As if it had been planned into the program, Bob Smith had come with a story about raising the spiritual quality of life by internalizing the understanding that "the Messiah is among us." We know He is here, but we don't know where or who, and consequently we treat everyone as if they were the Christ. Then God's Kingdom has begun on earth. In the end we agreed that, despite its penitential, solemn nature, Lent has a certain quality of an engagement. There is the preparation, the concerns about worthiness, the heartfelt commitment, and most of all the anticipation of a joyous new beginning.

THE DALLAS FELLOWSHIP

...has begun praying for each member daily. In this way, they feel community, even though they aren't able to meet often. They attended the Sixth Annual Third Order Convocation in Oklahoma City in April. Father Ray Ball is a novice in this group, and Allen Stone has begun his postulancy.



"The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us."

- Psalm 67:6

AN ACCOUNT OF A PILGRIMAGE

...It was a beautiful, loving, sharing experience -- sobering and awesome, walking and praying where St. Francis had been. As if all this were not enough, Assisi is beautiful.

There were forty-two of us and we each brought a special gift of self.

The two hotels where we stayed, Casa Tra Noe in Rome and Casa Papa Giavoce, Assisi, were Franciscan run. The one in Rome owned by German Franciscans. Each had a large, beautiful chapel. Each had San Damiano crucifixes in all the rooms.

We were fortunate to have Brother Robert (Hugh). He had been planning our pilgrimage for two years. Brother Jason (Robert) was his able assistant.

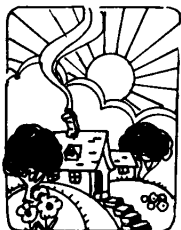
Rome was interesting and Florence was highlighted by seeing Michelangelo's David. But it is hard to take in all I saw at once -- all the places I read and studied about as history, and there I was in the middle of it all.

"In St. Francis' steps" all the towns I have read about, you too of course, I walked in. It was awesome, and as time goes on and I begin to fully absorb and assimilate my pilgrimage, I understand more the qualities of humility, love, joy.

I am thankful my Profession occurred at the end of the pilgrimage. I was spiritually better prepared and ready.

Pax et Bonum.

Love,
Frances



A LETTER FROM A FRIEND

Jane Hodgins, wife of John Hodgins, novice in the Third Order and Mission Appointee of the Anglican Church of Canada to the Diocese of Costa Rica, wrote a newsletter in June, which was sent to Partners in Mission, Nova Scotia, Canada. (See page 7 for a note from John.) If you'd like a copy of his long and interesting letter, write to me: Joanne Maynard, 515 North Park Ave., Helena, MT 59601. Here's the opening paragraph of the letter:

"We are finally writing to you from our new "home" here in Limon, having moved in almost a year after we left Antigonish. The living out of suitcases has been wearing and difficult and so we are especially grateful to be getting settled. Unpacking our things, Anne exclaimed, 'This is just like Christmas!' as she and Kathryn re-discovered old and familiar toys and books. For my part (Jane), I am enjoying cooking out of my own kitchen pots which have handles -- what a luxury!..."

THE GEORGIA FELLOWSHIP

Their beautiful magazine, The Singer continues to be a delight. The Pentecost issue contains this night time prayer, which the editor, John La Boone and his wife Fran sometimes use:

Darkness has fallen, Day has come to a close.
We give ourselves into God's loving care.

Thanks be to God for His blessing of rest,
for the stillness of the night and the end
of our daily tasks.

Thanks be to God for bringing us to this
point in safety, for giving us food and
other earthly necessities for our wellbeing
and comfort.

Thanks be to God for the gift of goodwill,
for those whose help and partnership bring
us through our daily cycle.

Thanks be to God for the joys of creation
that we experienced this day, for the ani-
mals and plants, for the sun and air, for
the earth beneath us.

Thanks be to God for sleep that comes to
meet us like a gentle friend with a soft em-
brace.

Let us grow closer to The Source of all these
and other good things.

His faithfulness never ends.

(Intercessions)

"May the words of my mouth, and the medita-
tions of my heart, be acceptable to You,
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer."

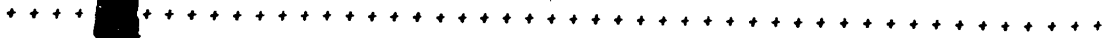
Amen and amen.





Third Order, Society of St. Francis

Fruits of the Loom
Land of the Sky Fellowship



June 1990

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS AND OUR BROTHER FRANCIS!

The Land of the Sky fellowship retreat took place at the lovely Snail's Pace in Saluda, NC, on 25-27 May. Thirteen of us were there to enjoy the wooded surroundings and visitations by many varieties of our brothers and sisters the birds, as we meditated on the earth and its creatures. On Friday night LARRY HARDY spoke of the need to remythologise and revitalise our faith - much as Francis of Assisi did in his time - to learn afresh how to relate to our fellow creatures and to the earth, especially given the environmental crises with which we are faced. ALICE WRIGHT led the group on Saturday morning in a "Prayer to the Seven Directions" - a meditation which she learned of from Jose Hobday, a native American franciscan sister, but composed and beautifully rendered by Alice.

THE COUNCIL OF ALL BEINGS took place during Eucharist, Heber Peacock celebrating, late Saturday afternoon, in which the participants served as spokespersons for other, non-human, creatures; we found ourselves being "chosen" by a wide variety of beings: river, lynx, fern, wildflower, cat, and even mosquito and tick, and telling our fellow creatures the humans the ways in which we have been wronged and what we may offer as a gift of reconciliation. Also at eucharist, FLEMING BELL was received as a Novice and JOAN FOUTS renewed her vows of profession. DAVIS HORNER led the group in a discussion Saturday night on our responsibility toward the environment, and on the "Wilderness Myth" of North America, citing Chief Joseph Raincrow, Matthew Fox, and Thomas Berry, all of whom have recently visited this area.

We were bappy to have non-fellowship retreatants June Peacock and Andrea Sheedy join us for the weekend. Several fellowship members were missed in their absence, but especially Convenor Betty Bell and Ray Daly, both of whom were coming but had to cancel due to illness. We pray that each was given some special gift of God during this time, though they couldn't attend.

Retreatants enjoyed the setting at Snail's Pace so much, and the hospitality of Betty and Connie, and the aviary on the back deck, that we have tentatively decided to do it again next year.

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA FELLOWSHIP

On 13 January we had our meeting at the lovely home of the Rev. Louise Baker at North Miami Beach. Louise hosted the following: Elaine Scofield, Betty Melpha, Anna Pruett, Bob Glendenning, Dee Dobson and Diane Darrah (the writer of this report). Phyllis Kissel joined us later for High Tea. We began our meeting with Evening Prayer and we discussed How? our rule of life is working out -- good or not so good -- ! Dee read Sr. Catherine Joy's meditations (3) and we all were touched and inspired. At 5:00 p.m., we had a delightful High Tea with many surprises and goodies, after which we adjourned our meeting.

Southeast Florida Fellowship (continued)

On 22 February, we had our meeting at Dee Dobson's in Miami at 6:00 p.m. Br. Robert Hugh celebrated Holy Eucharist for us, including: Anna Pruett, Bob Glendenning, Rev. Louise Baker, Betty Melpha, Diane Darrah, and Anna's son Andrew, Adrian Pruett and Bill Dobson.

Dinner at 7:00 included champagne, stew, breads, salad and pie, followed by an enlightened talk by Br. Robert on many subjects: evangelism, Belize, A.C.T.S. (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication), forgiveness and penitence -- and his words of wisdom are always appreciated.

-- Cheerfully submitted by Diane Darrah

THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD -- by Dearlie B. Moline

One day, not too long ago, I watched as someone I know made fun of the mentally disabled. And, like everyone else present, I started to laugh. Suddenly, a still, small voice said, "That's NOT funny !" I stopped laughing, cold.

Later, during meditation, the following Bible passages were brought to my attention.

"Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness."

"Treat others the way you would have them treat you."

"I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me." (New American Bible)

I have always known that when God made man in his image, he gave man something of himself. We pay lip service to the idea that we should see Jesus in every person we meet. But, when it come down to reality, the only Jesus we usually see is the corpus on a crucifix, the statue at the church entrance, or a picture in a Bible.

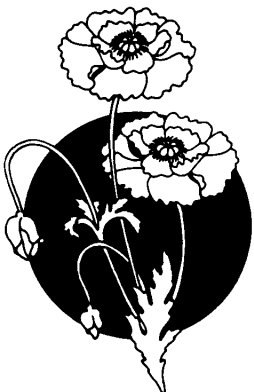
To state it simply: Jesus is God and we are made in his image. Therefore, whatever we do to each other, we do to God.

Make fund of someone and you make fun of God. Hate, and you hate God. Love, and you love God, for God is love and when you love you are like him.

Hark! Is that a knock I hear at your door?

It's only the mail carrier?

Are you SURE?



LILLIES OF THE FIELD FELLOWSHIP

Dearlie also writes the newsletter for this Fellowship, and reports that at their June meeting, Sally Hicks gave a "guided tour" of her recent trip to Assisi. Sally gave each of the members a plaque with a replica of the crucifix that spoke to Francis and the Giotto mural of Francis preaching to the birds.

Nick Pijoan told of his recent experiences at a retreat, which inspired him to begin writing a book called The Contemplative Commuter.

The Tenth Annual Northeast Conference of the Third Order took place August 24 - 26 at Greymoor Christian Unity Center in Garrison, New York.

THE SANTA BARBARA FELLOWSHIP

A letter from Barbara Kelly indicates that their Fellowship just "squeaks by with the right number of persons." She continues:

"Saturday, the 7th of April, Barbara Baumgarten of Santa Paula arranged for a meeting of the Santa Barbara Fellowship at her grandmother's Rincon home, half-way between Santa Paula and Santa Barbara. Facing the ever surging waves of the Pacific Ocean, we considered the root meaning of "Simplicity" and its call to us in our busy lives. Barbara B. is working on an advanced degree, Marylee Prince works full time for the environment, and Barbara Kelly has the care of her sister-in-law as she has chemotherapy. Each has different outer needs for simplicity, yet the final guide for all is the will of God. We must meet God in silence and wait upon his will.

"Our Vespers as the sun slanted westward clarified our discussions while it spotlighted the utter simplicity of sea, sand and sky.

HELEN WEBB is the person in charge of subscriptions to The Franciscan (not to be confused with Franciscan Times. This publication comes from England and is interesting. Subscriptions (surface mail) are \$7.25 a year. Air mail, \$9.50. Send your order to:



Mrs. Edward Webb
American Subscription Secretary
Fairhave C-092
7200 Third Ave.
Sykesville, MD 21784

Helen also writes that on June 30, the D.C. Fellowship visited Fr. Bill Hull, an isolated Tertiary, in Sharpsburg, Maryland.

A MESSAGE FROM THE REV. EMMANUEL ADDY:

Fr. Addy's address is P.O. Box 0307 -- Osu, Accra -- Ghana, West Africa

"We had our first Chapter meeting in Ghana last month (July) and was presided over by Bro. Geoffrey. The attendance was just around 15. It's the beginning. We are in fact not much concerned with number, but with spiritual development as exemplified by S. Francis.

"I have now moved from St. Francis of Assisi, Mamprobi, to St. Barnabas, Osu, my mother parish. This came about a week before Christmas...We are putting up a second residence for an assistant, but our funds are just enough to finish the first floor of the building and hopefully we could put in doors and windows. Pray for us, that we be able to mobilize enough funds to complete the project..."



NOTICE: NEW ADDRESS FOR THE EDITOR OF THE FRANCISCAN TIMES:

Joanne Maynard
Episcopal Diocese of Montana
515 North Park Ave.
Helena, MT 59601

A BRUISED HEART

A bruised heart does a greater pain
Within itself contain;
Than one sorrow's silver dart
Half-tore, or broke apart.
Each red drop slowly dripping down,
Or in quick flood release,
Gives heartache its sole ruby crown
Bedewed with tears of peace.

-- Nina L. Andrews

MY SOUL

My soul lies melting in a pot
Which sets amidst fire on an hearth.
But what fire?
and what the hearth?
And why a soul that is growing hot?
My mind is burning; blue-white flame.
Now licks the clay crucible fast.
This pot, my body dying fast
The fire a mind that is partly lame.
Two angels are watching, sent by God
To tend the smelting of my soul.

-- Nina L. Andrews