



the Franciscan Times

Lord, Make Me an Instrument of thy Peace

A quarterly newsletter, whose purpose is helping members of the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis share a common journey through news from fellowships and individuals, reviews of books and tapes, poetry, and whatever the Holy Spirit might blow our way.

Advent, 1992

from the editor:

"I was knocking on the Pearly Gates, but St. Peter did not know my name." Those were virtually the first words that the Third Order (American Province) Chapter heard from TSSF Bursar CAROLE WATSON when members assembled in October.

Calling herself the "downed bicyclist," Carole related an awesome and almost incredible journey through levels of consciousness, medical treatment, therapy, and prayerful support as she recovered from a near-fatal accident over a year ago.

The journey still continues, and she spent frequent periods during the business of Chapter lying on the floor and performing a variety of exercises to strengthen her body and restore her muscle tone.

Carole's story is permeated with inspiration, courage, humor, and faith. It is worthy of sharing, and perhaps she will do this through the written word in the near future.

In the meantime, she conveys her indebtedness to all who have supported her through the ordeal with their intercessory prayers and to DEE DOBSON for taking over the duties of Bursar during the interim.

Carole is now back at her post, and we rejoice and give thanks for her return. Please greet her (and send along the payment for your annual pledge, if you have not already done so) to Carole J. Watson TSSF, 962 W. Acadia Drive, Tucson, AZ 85706.

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CHANGES OF NOTE

RIK FITCH has relinquished his position as co-editor of The Franciscan Times but will continue as art editor, consultant, and contributor. His life continues very busy as an emerging artist in Hawaii and as a clergy spouse. Among his recent commissions is a lobby wall mural at St. Francis Hospital in Honolulu.

His drawing on this page will be used for a Christmas greeting card by St. Francis Hospital.

By the time you read these words, JACQUI BELCHER will no longer be your Provincial Secretary, having opted not to take on another three-year term. Her attention to detail, perceptive insights, and gentle reassurances will be missed. We wish her well as she re-directs her energies to deserving local outreach projects in Savannah.

JOHN DOTSON will have stepped into Jacqui's position, bringing with him a wealth of administrative and organizational skills. Please give him your prayers and support as he begins his duties as the "information switchboard" for tertiaries in the American Province.

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The next issue of The Franciscan Times will have a Lenten theme. Stories, news, reviews, and other contributions are welcome. The deadline will be February 15, 1993.

In the meantime, may each of you, your families and communities, be blessed with a joy-filled celebration of our Savior's Birth and a light-filled Epiphany.

Pax et Bonum.

Robert Durand TSSF



The Chaplain's Journal

I try to imagine sometimes how hard it must have been for St. Mary to cope with the job of being the human mother of a divine son. The Gospels give us only a few hints, one of them in the story told by St. John of the wedding feast in Cana of Galilee.

It's clear in the Gospel account that Mary knew better than to try to boss her grown son. Instead, she dropped a hint: "They've run out of wine!" Jesus, like most sons, understood from long experience his mother's hidden message. "Lady!" he remonstrated. "What's that to do with me? My time hasn't yet come." Mary turned away, probably with a grin, and said to the servants, "Do whatever he says."

While she was giving her instructions, we can imagine a swifter than light consultation in the conference room of the Godhead:

"Father, I know I can do it, but isn't it a terribly trivial use of our divine power?"

"Well, Son, remember how much I love your mother. She'd be pleased."

"My will is yours, and yours is mine. Whatever you want, we want. But won't Mary get the wrong idea about who's boss?"

"No. She's my daughter," chuckled the Father.

"No. She's my spouse," chuckled the Spirit.

"And she's my mother," chuckled the Son.

And so it happened, amid the chuckles of the Godhead, that water was turned into wine and a wedding feast was rescued from disaster.

The first miracle of Jesus was an answer to a mother's prayer, a sign of joy, a blessing, and a promise of abundant life.

It's just possible, if we Franciscans had hearts as pure as Blessed Mary's, that we could serve almond cakes for breakfast. I think so.

Marie, TSSF

Deacon Marie L. Webner
Chaplain, American Province



Report of the Minister Provincial (continued from page 3)

I attended the Minister General's Awards after Chapter in 1991, and I foresee being present when the Rev. Muriel Adey TSSF of Victoria, B.C. will be honored at the Awards in San Francisco this November.

Marie Webner and I are still working on a plan to travel to the Yukon and the Northwest Territories for the purpose of meeting with tertiaries there during 1993, probably at a central location such as Yellowknife.

My thanks to all the officers, other Chapter members, and all of those in the Society who have helped me during this past year.

Pax et Bonum, brothers and sisters.

Alden Whitney TSSF, Minister Provincial

Alden Whitney

Report of the Minister Provincial

Sunday, Oct. 4, 1992, The Feast of St. Francis

This past year has been one of considerable travel for me, not only around the American Province, but to England for the meeting of all the Ministers Provincial. The Third Order around the world is a dynamic community, and all the provinces share much of the vision of St. Francis in common.

Africa is new as a province, and its problems — created by the immense size of the continent and attendant difficulties in travel and communication — are relatively small compared to its enthusiasm and vital spirituality.

Australia has made some fundamental changes in its formation program, eliminating the postulancy phase altogether. The changes are reflected in their statutes, and they hope the Constitution will be changed to reflect their path.

Brian Hamilton has resigned as Minister Provincial of New Zealand, but he remains as Minister General. In his place, the province has elected the Rev. Michael Watson, formerly area chaplain for Wellington.

During the past year, Marie Webner and I sent the pastoral letter to all in the Province, with a copy of the "Rule" for reading over a month. The responses to the letter which I received were not many, although there was much good verbal feedback.

The spectrum of convictions and feelings of professed and novices around the province sometimes reflects the Episcopal Church. Yet it's not enough to say that, because all of us need to share with and understand better the thoughts and feelings and convictions of tertiaries within the Anglican Church in Canada and in Trinidad and Tobago.

We've heard little from the Third Order in Guyana and Venezuela of late. In a recent telephone conversation with José Valenzuela, I learned there is no one in active formation. José noted that he has been helping a Methodist and a Presbyterian person in Franciscan formation and that he will put them in touch with the Order of Ecumenical Franciscans (OEF) in the U.S.

This year, we have published the new Formation Letters with a generally excellent response from both professed and noviced. Two more letters need to be added for a truly complete set. Also sent out was a wonderful new Convener's Handbook, prepared by Anita Catron.

In planning is the inclusion of a collection of Franciscan songs in a new Devotional Companion. David Nard is doing the search for material not readily available in the many songbooks which fellowships and convocations already utilize. To be included as well is an expanded Calendar with lives of the Franciscan Saints.

Ann Harris will present the draft of a proposed Novice Counselor's Handbook at Chapter. She and her formation team spent much time this past year preparing this very welcome material. After review by the Trinidad and Tobago formation team, it will be prepared in loose-leaf format and distributed to counselors in 1993.

During the year, I attended four regional convocations and two First Order Chapter meetings. I went to Dallas for the profession of Paul Ledwitz and to Tucson to visit with the Arizona Fellowship and to see how soon Carole Watson could resume her role as bursar. Dee Dobson did a splendid service for us by acting as bursar while Carole was healing from her terrible accident.

My week's journey to Trinidad and Tobago was delightful and informative. I met with tertiaries and SSF associates at a fine fellowship meeting in Princes Town and then went to Tobago where I met with other tertiaries at a Lenten Noonday Service at St. Andrew's. We all owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Jacqueline Richards for her integral role in the birth and development of the Third Order Community there. And I am pleased to announce the nomination of Peter Patrick as the new Formation Director for the West Indies.

(continued on page 2)

PALESTINIAN POSTSCRIPT

by TERRY ROGERS TSSF

(Editor's Note: Terry, whose "Reflections from Palestine" were chronicled in the two previous issues of *The Franciscan Times*, spoke to a combined gathering of tertiaries (the Long Island Fellowship and the American Provincial Chapter) at Little Portion Friary on Thursday, Oct. 8. Following are excerpts and highlights from her presentation.)

I would like to share with everyone some of the spiritual insights which came to me and some of the spiritual growth I encountered during my experiences.

These words, written by Patriarch Ignatius IV of the Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch and All East, became very important to me:

"Understanding the Trinity, or rather the One in Three, is for Christians the best way of understanding the encounter of religions and cultures and of serving the unification of the planet, whilst respecting its diversity. The Trinity frees us from idols: the human being is not just part of a people, a culture, a religion. The people, the culture, the religion are dimensions of the human being; they are part of personal existence. But the person, as such, transcends everything. God's locus is divine space, the Trinitarian space, love's space."

We are born into a culture, but we are not all the same. The Doctrine of the Trinity holds up a way for us to understand the diversity of cultures.

We need to remember that Jews, Muslims, and Christians all have in common:

- canonical texts from Abraham.

- the revelation of God.
- a revolutionary history.
- the supremacy of ethics over culture.
- a belief that God is the judge of the final days.
- a perspective of the beginning of the end to history.

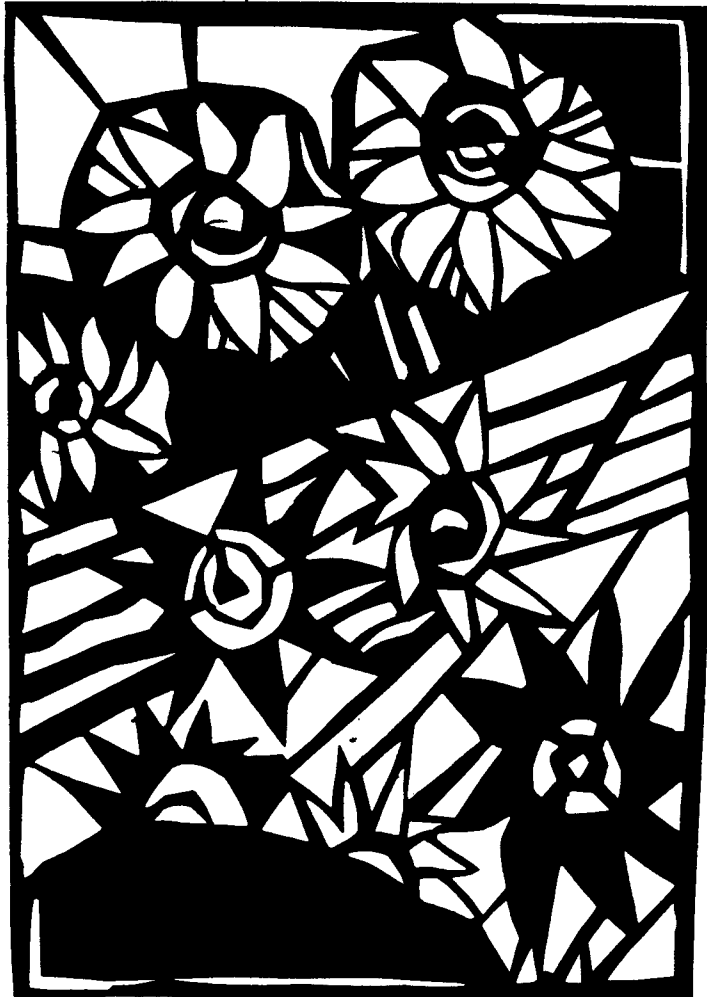
The simplicity of our relationship with God is equal to being with a woman in childbirth labor. It becomes very important to breathe together and to be nonverbal.

Being in Jerusalem during Holy Week made me aware of the importance of the liturgical Jerusalem. But the reality of today's city led me to this revelation:

The past is over and gone and is not acceptable any more. You can not hang onto the past. Change is happening; there is a new sense of the present. Living this change is a wonderful experience of time.

During the adventures of my year in Jerusalem and Palestine, the one place which most showed forth the Spirit of the Messianic Kingdom, surprisingly, was the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

It was there that I experienced Jews and Palestians using and sharing the same space peacefully. I clipped an olive branch from a tree at the hotel to bring home as a reminder that anything can happen.



News Briefs from Chapter

DEVOTIONAL COMPANION

A new edition of the Devotional Companion is being prepared. Errors will be corrected, language will become inclusive, and some new material (specifically, a song section and a lives of the Franciscan Saints section) will be added.

The help of all tertiaries is solicited in this project:

- Prayers and collects may be submitted for consideration. Please send the complete versions, along with source information.

- Anyone having information on the availability of Prayer Book offices or specific Franciscan prayer material in Native American (Indian), Spanish, French, Hawaiian, or other languages used in the American Province should send full particulars for possible inclusion.

The deadline is January 1, 1993. Submissions should be addressed to Marie L. Webner, 7671 East Tanque Verde, #515, Tucson, AZ 85715.

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IPTOC SCHEDULED

The Inter-Provincial Third Order Chapter (IPTOC) will take place at Little Portion Friary on Long Island from October 26 to 29, 1993. Tertiary delegates will be coming from all the provinces throughout the world.

Delegates traditionally travel through the host country to and from the meeting. Fellowships interested in hosting these tertiary travelers should contact Alden Whitney at 67 Long Ridge Road, Danbury, CT 06810, telephone (203) 790-6123.

American province delegates to IPTOC will be ALDEN WHITNEY, MARIE WEBNER, and GLORIA WALDRON.

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FRANCISCAN STUDY GUIDE

Sr. Catherine Joy CSF has produced a study guide and chart to assist in reaching a 20th Century understanding of Francis. It is hoped that this will be used at IPTOC in 1993 and for discussion and reflection by fellowships. Copies will be available and distributed soon.

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TSSF OUTREACH

At the American Province Chapter in October, the Outreach Committee recommended, and Chapter approved, the following distribution:

- \$100 to Habitat for Humanity (Florida) to assist with hurricane repair work.

- \$1,000 to purchase a chain saw and parts for use by the Rev. DAVID BOYAN TSSF in Guyana to build St. Chad's, St. Joseph's, and St. Mary's Churches in the deep country of the Lower Pomeroon River. The goods will be purchased in the U.S. and delivered by Gloria Waldron TSSF and Peter Patrick TSSF on their visit to the Bishop of Guyana in January.

- \$400 to Neighborhood Action, a basic needs program in the inner city of Boston.

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REGARDING YOUR PLEDGE. . .

Bursar CAROLE WATSON reported at Chapter that the proportion of TSSF members making pledges has not kept up with the overall growth in numbers.

In keeping with a growing general practice within the Church, the Chapter approved a motion to send out statements of contributions to the membership only once a year, in the third quarter.

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TSSF MERCHANDISE

Requests to sell items with "TSSF" on them have been made to Chapter. As a result, the following motion was passed: "Any merchandise containing the initials TSSF may not be reproduced or sold for profit except by the authority of the Third Order, Society of St. Francis."

The Franciscan Times was authorized to provide contact information for other sources of Franciscan items. A list of these sources will be published in the Lenten issue.

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USE OF SUFFIX 'TSSF'

The following motion was passed by Chapter: "As an acknowledgement of our profession in the Third Order, Society of St. Francis, American Province, the use of the letters "TSSF" after our name is permissible. Likewise, novices may use the suffix "n/TSSF". This (suffix) is not to be used as an accreditation for counselling or spiritual direction or the like, but a visible sign of our life in communion with the Order."

EDITOR'S DILEMMA

On page seven of the TSSF "Handbook for Conveners" (3rd Ed., 1991), a simple organizational chart lists "Convenors" under "Fellowship Coordinator," and refers to the directory for a list of people holding those offices.

The 1992 Directory (and previous editions going back at least to 1988) do provide a list of "Fellowship Convenors." The Franciscan Times in its current format (since summer of 1991) has presented Fellowship News and Convocation Notes, asking "Convenors" to send in their information.

When is a "Convener" a "Convenor" (or vice versa)? Noah Webster, in his New Riverside University Dictionary, says never. He makes it clear that one who "convenes" a gathering is a "convener."

Unless any readers have information or precedent to the contrary, your editor proposes that the word "convenor" be left behind in the archives.

Isolated Tertiary 'fellowship'

by Donna Fuller TSSF

This past summer, I experienced a wonderful blessing here in this remote state of South Dakota.

I had the privilege to meet Ligia Spicer, a Quaker woman who is the director of the South Dakota Peace & Justice Center in Watertown. She learned that I was a tertiary, and one week later she learned that her sister-in-law, Dorothy McCarty of Middlebury, Vermont, also a tertiary, was coming for a visit and wanted to meet me (being the only Third Order Franciscan in that area).

One week earlier, Ligia would have had no idea in the world who I was, so God continues to work in mysterious ways!

The three of us arranged to meet at Blue Cloud Abbey (Benedictine), about half-way between our two towns. We took the time to browse through the Abbey's native American Cultural Center — a small museum of many treasures, much history, and lots of books. Then we meandered through the Brothers' greenhouse, which even included flowers from my home state of Hawaii.

The Brothers gave us free rein to roam the land, and we walked through the pastures, around a couple of lakes, up and over a stile to cross a fence (how many can remember ever doing that?), and then sat and talked on a secluded bench. Oh how good it was to talk with another Franciscan!

We went inside for Vespers in the Abbey's beautiful chapel, surrounded by beautiful voices which must have caused even the angels to hush their own singing and listen.

During a period of open fellowship and conversation with the Brothers, we were asked by Br. Paul — noticing the tau crosses worn by Dorothy and myself — if we were all Franciscans. Ligia answered that she was not, to which Br. Paul told her that she should become a Benedictine Oblate before the Franciscans got a hold of her. Everyone laughed, including Ligia in her charming Quaker style.

We shared supper, in silence except for the customary reading, with the Brothers in their refectory and as their guests. Afterwards, we bid our farewells to the Brothers and to each other, then going our separate ways.

What a blessing of peace and rejuvenation this time had been for me. I felt as though I had been on a full retreat in just a half a day.

We do not have a Fellowship (capital "F") nearby, but we do have fellowship (little "f") whenever the opportunity arises. During our Diocesan Convention, the three South Dakota tertiaries (Norma Schmidt, the Rev. Stephen Smith, and myself) managed a short visit together.

I would like to offer a suggestion to those of you fortunate enough to have the opportunity to travel into areas with remote, scattered towns and beautiful scenery.

Please consider your fellow tertiaries who may live in those areas and have very little contact with another Franciscan all year, not to mention the support of a Fellowship. Try to visit them, but at least give them a telephone call and your encouragement. We need that!

Pax et Bonum.

(Editor's Note: Donna Fuller TSSF is a novice living and working in Sisseton, SD, as a church missionary.)

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TSSF BASICS

available from

JOHN DOTSON, Secretary

4036 Lakota Place

Kingsport, TN 37664

suggested prices are:

Devotional Companion (\$4)

Way of St. Francis (\$2.50)

Source Book (\$2.50)

Directory (\$3)

Statutes (\$1)

Order/Admission (\$1)

Notes from a Quiet Day

(Editor's Note: The following words by Brother Brian SSF were jotted down during the Quiet Day at Little Portion on Oct. 6, 1992 for members of Chapter. You may wish to use them for your own meditations or to share them with others in an informal quiet day.)

Meditation One. Contrary to some current trends, the Church is not about meetings. However, Christianity is about meeting to focus our attention on the Will of God . . . as in "Your Will be Done."

If we have the desire to do God's Will, then it is usually done.

We must discern God's Will through Scripture, the teachings of the Church, the common mind of our group (Christianity), and what others say.

We must do the will of the One who created us and sanctifies us, not only for ourselves, but for others. We are often blocked from doing this by our own personal agendas.

Time is a gift of God so that we may seek and share God's love with others. God's will is being done in time — past, present, and future.

In the past, our confessions are redeemed. Reconciliation leads us to redemption in the present.

We must look to the past in thanksgiving for where we have been, in order that we may be in the the present.

The present moment belongs to God. When we know this, we can discern, by both talking and listening in situations such as quiet days and meetings. These structures are in place to help us discern the Spirit of our lives.

What God says to us in the present will determine the future. We should anticipate the Glory of God: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Meditation Two (Ref: I Corinthians 12) In this passage, we must consider the Will of God in belonging. We belong to each other because we belong to God, through Christ.

God always wants to belong to us. God has created, redeemed, and sustained us. God is always available to us, even if we are not available to God.

We can be available to God by belonging to others — all others.

Too often, we use labels to exclude others. We must be especially careful not to use the Franciscan label in this way.

Jesus Christ was not the redeemer of some. He was the redeemer of all creation — all human-kind.

We belong to each other in Christ, especially when we belong to the Society of St. Francis. But what is our motive?

Even if we have a mixture of motives, the right and true motives will eventually emerge, if we work at belonging to each other.

We must ask . . . what is the degree of our belonging? . . . what are our expectations? . . . what do we expect of others and of the TSSF? What is meant by community?

We are coming to perceive ourselves (the Society of St. Francis) as a family. To paraphrase I Cor 12, we are many parts (three orders), with a common center to our family life being God in Christ.

We must carry in our hearts the message of reconciliation and peace as reflected in Paul's letter to the Ephesians 2:14-16.

Meditation Three. We can seek the Will of God by being who we are and doing what we do.

Francis believed in the uniqueness of each person and did not expect everyone to be the same. He saw a future, a vocation yet to be fulfilled, behind each face he encountered.

Francis also recognized that no vocation is fulfilled except by following in the footsteps of Christ.

To be one's self, we must go to the center of our being, which is God. And then Christ is the face that we wear.

Franciscans are a family of "individual" Christians, but we all wear the face of Christ.

Contemplation and action are complementary with each other and with doing the work of Christ through humility, love, and joy.

We must seek Christ in prayer and worship. But we must also seek Christ in service to the poor.

If we neglect one for the other, then we are in trouble.

We must seek Christ in our spiritual journeys, but also in the streets of our cities and towns as well. +++

F E L L O W S H I P N E W S

ATTENTION CONVENERS:

If news about your Fellowship -- be it something to share from a past or current gathering, or information about an upcoming meeting, retreat, or quiet day -- should be on these pages, please send it to: Robert Durand TSSF, 2124 Awihi Place, #215, Kihei, Maui, Hawaii 96753.

Deadline for the Lenten issue is February 15, 1993.

LONG ISLAND FELLOWSHIP

JANE ELLEN TRAUGOTT has been re-elected convener, and ALISON TRENHOLME, who has returned from her upstate sojourn, will serve on the program committee. Jane Ellen reports that the July 18 picnic revealed that Alden Whitney's flock of sheep are truly Franciscan — they are all black!

On Oct. 8, the Fellowship gathered at Little Portion, along with Chapter, for Evening Prayer, Renewal of Vows, and a very moving Profession for MARIE McSHEA, followed by a presentation by TERRY ROGERS (story elsewhere in this issue). DANIELLE BELLOWS was to be noviced at the November meeting, and planning will begin for the 1993 Northeast Convocation at Graymoor.

For information about Fellowship meetings and plans, please call Jane Ellen at (516) 928-0484.

LAND OF THE SKY FELLOWSHIP (North Carolina)

According to "Fruits of the Loom" newsletter, the Fellowship received RAY ESCOTT as a novice at the Franciscan picnic and gathering at Church of the Holy Spirit in Mars Hill on August 15. Some 20 souls and four different Franciscan "families" were represented. At the October meeting, MARY HAYES and RAY DALEY were to be professed, following a retreat with area chaplain DAVID NARD.

The chief commitment for 1993 will be taking responsibility for the 1993 Southeast Convocation, and planning will get under way at the January meeting. In addition, members are making a banner which can be used both at the convocation and at the Diocesan Convention.

The Spring Retreat has been scheduled for April 30 to May 2, 1993, at the Snail's Pace Retreat Center, and the leader will be Sr. Helen Godfrey of the Poor Clares (RC) in Greenville, SC. For information about the retreat or other fellowship activities, please call Convener ALICE WRIGHT at (704) 689-9768.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The three fellowships in Trinidad and Tobago continue to have regular meetings in their respective areas. The highlight of 1992 was the visit of Minister Provincial ALDEN WHITNEY in March.

The passing of Br. Desmond SSF was a great sense of loss to us. He was a tower of strength and support and showed us, in many ways, what perseverance is all about, such was his concern for the life and growth of the Third Order. May he rest in peace.

For more information about the fellowships, please contact convener PETER PATRICK at St. Andrew's Rectory, Scarborough, Tobago, telephone 639-2485.

LITTLE SPARROW FELLOWSHIP (Toronto)

Co-convener JOHN HODGINS reports that YOLANDE CHAN was professed before the Rt. Rev. Arthur Brown at St. John's Convent (SSJD) in Toronto on Oct. 17. The bread and the wine for the Eucharist was presented by MARY DOWNHAM as an act of thanksgiving on the 40th anniversary of her profession. A letter of congratulations from the Primate, Archbishop Peers, was presented to Mary at the reception. Tertiaries attended from as far away as British Columbia.

For more information about the Little Sparrow Fellowship, please contact convener SYBIL YEARWOOD at 78 Yardley Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4B 2B1, telephone (416) 759-2600.

F E L L O W S H I P N E W S

(continued)

CHI RHO FELLOWSHIP (Chicago)

A quiet day, with talks on spiritual direction and prayer, was scheduled for Nov. 21 at St. Peter's Church in Chicago. Please note that the January meeting will take place on Jan. 2 in order to celebrate the profession of YVONNE KOYZIS. Novices will gather for formation class on Jan. 16. Also note the date of the April 24 Quiet Day, to be led by Br. John-Charles.

Regular Chi Rho meetings take place on the third Saturday at the Church of the Ascension. For more information about fellowship activities, please contact convener MARK DRISH at (312) 539-3057.

MINNESOTA FELLOWSHIP

A Spring retreat is scheduled for May 7-8-9 at Collegeville, Minnesota. The retreat director will be Patricia Schuth. For more information about fellowship activities and the retreat, please contact JULIA BERGSTROM at 749 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105, telephone (612) 221-0277.

BROTHER WIND FELLOWSHIP (Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri)

For more information, please contact convener SUE HEINSOHN at P.O. Box 453, Arnett, OK 73832, telephone (405) 885-7916.

LILIES OF THE FIELD FELLOWSHIP (Colorado, Wyoming)

For more information about meetings, contact convener Mary Lou Hall at 4006 West 13th St., Greeley, CO 80634.

NEW UMBRIAN FELLOWSHIP (San Francisco Bay Area)

The Francistide meeting included 22 members for Transitus, the profession of HARRY COVERSTON, renewal of vows, and Holy Eucharist. The new convener elected for 1993 was LINDA BELL. The December 12 gathering will be an open meeting at Church of the Advent in San Francisco.

For more information about this fellowship, contact Linda at (415) 849-0130.

HAWAII FELLOWSHIP

Any tertiaries visiting the Islands and interested in meeting with the Hawaii fellowship, usually on the second Friday of each month, should contact new convener EDEAN IWANAGA at 3348 Campbell Ave., Honolulu, HI 96815, telephone (808) 737-8716.

ORDER OF ECUMENICAL FRANCISCANS (OEF)

From the Francistide issue of Fiddlesticks, the OEF newsletter, we glean the following report by Minister Provincial Dale Trana:

THANK YOU! Third Order, Society of Saint Francis, as you continue to be a source of information and encouragement to us.

At our last chapter, ANITA CATRON represented TSSF and maintained a vital and continuing link between our two Franciscan orders. Anita spoke and shared and celebrated with us. She was a valuable resource as we continued about the business of building an ecumenical Franciscan community.

Anita graced our meetings as both guest and gift. The topics she shared with us were "The Wider Franciscan Community" and "Building Religious Community Through Distance." She suggested that our fellowship might be enhanced by chain telephone calls and chain letters. And she stressed the importance of prayer. To pray incessantly — pray throughout the day, for there is always something to be thankful for.

Anita also said that, as we are being taught about spiritual growth and formation, we should expect something to happen. This is very important "because it won't work otherwise. We must learn to look for the Christ in each one of us and become obedient to each other."

Anita was rewarded for her efforts with the presentation of OEF's prestigious Pietro di Bernadone Award. We are grateful!

Convocation Notes

ATTENTION CONVENERS:

The Franciscan Times will reach interested and/or isolated tertiaries in your region (and elsewhere) who might make plans to attend your gathering. Advance notice and a name of a person to contact will be helpful to them.

Please send the details to

Robert Durand TSSF, 2124 Awihi Place #215, Kihei, Maui, HI 96753.

Deadline for the Lenten issue is February 15, 1993.

NORTHEAST CONVOCATION

According to HELEN WEBB, another "very good conference" was held at Graymoor in August. Convened by the Delaware Valley Fellowship, the theme was "The Mystery of Franciscan Community" and small group discussions provided the communities.

- The Long Island Fellowship will convene the 1993 Northeast Convocation, again at Graymoor, with dates set for August 26-27-28. For more information, please contact JANE ELLEN TRAUOGOTT at 803 Main St., Port Jefferson, NY 11777, telephone (516) 928-0484.

SOUTHEAST CONVOCATION

- The 1993 Convocation will be September 17-19 at Ignatius House, Atlanta. The convening fellowship will be Land of the Sky. For more information, please contact ALICE WRIGHT at 702 White Oak Road, Mars Hill, NC 28754, telephone (704) 689-9768.

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO CONVOCATION

- This next year, the convocation is scheduled for March 12-13-14 at St. Andrew's Church in Scarborough. Co-conveners are PETER PATRICK (telephone 639-2485) and GLORIA WALDRON (telephone 637-9661). Please contact one of them to make arrangements.

MIDWEST CONVOCATION

- The Chi Rho Fellowship will convene the 1993 Convocation on June 18-19-20 at the Carmelite Retreat Center in Darien, Illinois. For information, reservations, and travel arrangements, please contact LINDA KING at 521 W. Brompton, #117, Chicago IL 60657, telephone (312) 665-1482.

SOUTHWEST CONVOCATION

- The dates for 1993 are June 4-5-6 at Picture Rocks Retreat in Tucson, Arizona, described as "a lovely desert setting on the outskirts of town." The theme has not been set nor leader chosen as of this writing, but for more information, please contact PAT SHELTON at 1643 East. Edison St., Tucson, AZ 85719, telephone (602) 326-5719.

WESTERN CONVOCATION

From CYNTHIA KOKIS comes this report of the 1992 Convocation at the Franciscan Retreat Center near Portland, Oregon:

"Franciscans from California, Oregon, and Washington gathered to discuss the 500-year heritage of the conquest and its relevance to our lives. In her keynote address, Sr. Pamela Clare CSF asked, 'What does Columbus symbolize that we must renounce? I want to focus on two aspects: greed and dualism.'

"The world of Columbus and our world share an addiction to greed. Our call is to redirect our quest for the infinite away from the cultural and toward God. Dualism, the myth of separateness which splits and categorizes, prevents 'truth-telling, visioning, and loving.'

"We examined how our lives are greedy and dualistic. We were renewed by the Native American Indians' concept of the Great Harmony and the Sacred Circle. 'Copies of Sr. Pamela Clare's talk are available. (Please refer to The Canticle, CSF newsletter of October 1992.)

- The 1993 Convocation will return to the Bishop's Ranch in California, with dates set for July 23-24-25. For information, please contact JOAN KIDD at 433 Granelli Ave., Half Moon Bay, CA 94019, telephone (415) 726-2056.

Third Order Library News

HOW TO USE THE LIBRARY

Books in the Third Order Library may be borrowed by writing to: Rosemond McFerran, 1518 Tulane Drive, Davis, CA 95616.

Books are charged out for a period of two months and sent to you by fourth-class mail. When you have finished with the book, please return it to Rosie, also by fourth-class mail. A book may be renewed for another two-month period if no one is waiting on it, by notifying Rosie.

If you have no particular title in mind, but need a book on a particular subject, let Rosie know for what you are looking. If it is in the library, she will find it for

by Rosie McFerran TSSF

Ruthanne Sanford, from the LaVerna Fellowship (Cincinnati), has just written to the Librarian, graciously expressing that Fellowship's willingness to loan out books from their own library.

She sent me a list of their rather extensive holdings, which includes at least 166 books which we do not have in the Third Order Library (and 24 which we do). In fact, I perceive that the list is really too long to include in The Franciscan Times as a supplement.

However, in the future if I am asked for a book which is not in the Third Order library, but is in the LaVerna Fellowship collection, I will refer the request to Ruthanne. Thanks very much to the LaVerna Fellowship!

The newest additions to the Third Order Library (54 titles) are listed in this issue.

 r e a d e r ' s f o r u m

REFLECTIONS FROM ANTIOCH

(Editor's Note: The Rev. Jean A. Goldberg TSSF wrote me during the past year, describing a very special renewal of vows while on a pilgrimage tour entitled "The Second Holy Land." She was asked to elaborate on that experience for this issue.)

As we approach Francistide in 1992, I remember vividly the Feast of St. Francis in 1991. As Canon Geoffrey Butcher accepted the vows of Franciscans at St. John's Cathedral in New Mexico, I was at St. Peter's Grotto in Antioch.

The Rev. Dr. Donald Wiseman, who organized this pilgrimage after two years of planning, received my vows in this large and historic cave hollowed out of the side of a mountain.

St. Peter's Grotto is the first church to be called Christian. It was the site of many discussions and arguments between St. Peter and St. Paul. St. Peter was the conservative who insisted that anyone who wanted to follow Jesus had to be a circumcised Jew, while St. Paul said that anyone who wanted to follow our Lord was welcome. St. Paul prevailed. It is easy to understand why St. Paul was called the Apostle to the Gentiles.

The inside of the cave is still rough rock and, interestingly, has a tunnel going from the Altar to the outside so that the early Christians could escape if they needed to leave in a hurry.

Before the renewal of vows, Dr. Wiseman gave a fine homily on the life of St. Francis. The two of us then stood in front of the stone Altar as I repeated my vows, and then I put my Rule on that Altar. There was a deep sense of awe for all in our group and especially for me. This was the highest point on the pilgrimage.

Another special time came during the visit to Ephesus, when we were driven to the top of a mountain to visit the house where St. John cared for the Virgin Mary until the time of her death.

The tiny stone house has been converted into a chapel which is cared for by French priests and nuns. One impression stood out at this Shrine. There was absolute silence, in spite of the many tourists who visited. It reminded me of the Veteran's Memorial to those who lost their lives in Vietnam.

We were amazed to see the restoration of the city of Ephesus itself. At the height of its influence, Ephesus had a half million inhabitants.

Some of the ruins are of Greek style and some are Roman. The city must have been spectacular during that period.

Of special importance to all of us on the pilgrimage was a visit to the town presently called Iznik. Its ancient name was Nicea. Our group stood in the ruins of a Byzantine church and said in unison the Nicene Creed in the same place where the bishops gathered to write it. Another spine-tingling experience!

We also visited the sites of the seven churches of the Revelation. Some of them are in complete ruin, but some have been skillfully restored. It was a thrill to stand in the locations where St. Paul had started those churches.

If anyone would be interested in making such a pilgrimage, please contact me at 609 Encino Place NE, #809, Albuquerque, NM 87102, and I will put them in touch with Dr. Wiseman, who is a retired Episcopal priest in Florida.

Pax et Bonum

In Christ and Francis,
The Rev. Jean A. Goldberg TSSF

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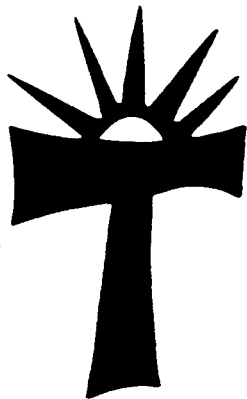
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When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:



To find the lost +
To heal the broken +
To feed the hungry +
To release the prisoner +
To rebuild the nations +
To bring peace among people +
To make music in the heart +

— message by Howard Thurman, taken from a Christmas card sent from John Anderson TSSF to Bob Teudesman TSSF