

# 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 their common journey through news from fellowships and individuals, reviews of books and tapes, poetry, stories, essays, reflections, meditations, graphics, and whatever the Holy Spirit might blow our way.

*Lent, 1996*

from the editor:

Mea Culpa! The intended Advent issue never got past the editor's computer, shoved aside before and during the Holidays by a blizzard of obligations to job, Church, and local non-profit organizations. My apologies to all!

• This issue has come together based around two reflective articles from last Summer's pilgrimage to Assisi, plus a first-hand account of being professed in the city of St. Francis.

## FIND LOVE AND JOY INSIDE!

The middle four pages of this issue are the long-awaited Formation Letters, Nos. 21 ("Love: An Expression of Chastity") and 22 ("Joy: Our Expression of Obedience")

A deep debt of gratitude goes to former Provincial Chaplain Marie Webner TSSF for the preparation of these documents.

These four pages - numbered 56a, 56b, 56c, and 56d - should be removed from this issue, three-hole punched in the wide margin, and placed in your loose-leaf Formation notebook following page 56. They also may be cut at the fold, if you wish.

We are also blessed with a testimonial to the life of the late Barbara Kelly TSSF, written by her husband Frank.

His words, under the title of "Suffering and Transformation," provide a Lenten theme for this issue and a point of meditation for us all to ponder during this penitential season.



• By the time you read these words, a group of tertiaries will have met to begin the detailed planning for the Provincial Convocation, which will take place in New Orleans June 23-27, 1997.

The next issue of The Franciscan Times will contain as much pertinent information about this gathering as possible.

In the spirit of our patron, it is hoped that each of you has begun to ponder and discern your own gifts of time and talent that you might offer to the Third Order community during this time.

• And speaking of community, the directory of on-line tertiaries is growing quickly. The electronic communications age has become a virtual reality!

To get your e-mail address listed, and to get your copy of the TSSF e-mail directory, please contact [JOANKIDD@aol.com](mailto:JOANKIDD@aol.com).

May you have a holy lent.  
Pax et Bonum ... and Aloha!  
Robert Durand

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**THE CHAPLAIN'S JOURNAL**


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## "WHAT JOY IT IS!"

**(EDITOR'S NOTE: Gary Parker TSSF is the chaplain for United States Military Forces in the Mediterranean region. He began his journey as a tertiary in Hawai'i where he was a Marine Corps Chaplain and a member of the Hawai'i Fellowship. He later transferred to North Carolina where he became a member of the Servants of San Damiano Fellowship. By the time he was ready to be professed, he was based in Italy. He shares here the account of his unique profession.)**

by CDR Gary J. Parker, CHC, USN, TSSF  
25 August 1995

It is only a few hours until my profession at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of the Minister General's (R.C.) diplomatic section, which is located in Assisi at the International Franciscan Diplomatic Center. Fr. Peter Damien, who heads the American group, has graciously accepted to receive my vows.

I have been on retreat since late afternoon of August 20 until now, staying at St. Anthony's Guest House, operated by the Sisters of the Atonement, a Franciscan order with roots in the Episcopal tradition. My two books have been "The Way of St. Francis" by Murray Bodo and "Centering Prayer" by M. Basil Pennington. And I re-wrote my Rule of Life.

Two days ago, I met with Fr. Damien for an hour and shared my revised Rule with him. We also went over my journey and his, along with what to do today. He did not want to have the profession on its own, so we agreed on it happening as part of the Community Vespers. He allowed me to pick the Gospel reading (MT 16:24-27) and the hymns "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God" and "At the Name of Jesus."

He told me that we needed a "Festa" for this occasion. So the Community will be putting on a party afterwards. What joy it is!

This morning at my breakfast table was a single rose and a card from the Sisters, wishing me a Happy Birthday today and blessings in the Franciscan life. At the mid-day meal, I enjoyed a great conversation with Fr. Anthony, the novice master of the Eastern Province (RC) of the United States, located in Providence, R.I.

During the morning hours, I went down the hill to San Damiano by foot in the rain in order to pray for the Servants of San Damiano Fellowship of North Carolina. In St. Mary's Chapel, they were present with me on this day. What peace and good is there in this place!

Well, it is almost time ...

9:30 p.m. — The profession was a joyous occasion, with four Friars present, including one from Malta. Now I'm tired and need to finish packing, as I leave bright and early in the morning for the four-hour drive back to Naples.

It has been a good beginning for a long journey.

Pax et Bonum,

Gary



## IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. FRANCIS

**“We Are All Pilgrims”**

**(EDITOR'S NOTE: Last summer's pilgrimage to Italy, "in the footsteps of St. Francis," was led by Br. Robert Hugh SSF and Br. Justus Richard SSF. Among the 12 tertiary pilgrims was Lucy Blount, who began the journey as a postulant and finished as a novice. A resident of Montgomery, AL and the author of three books, Lucy prepared this reflection of the journey for The Franciscan Times.)**

by Lucy D. Blount TSSF

A great event occurred last Friday. Our — almost — one-year-old granddaughter took 14 steps. We, her audience, responded appropriately. There were cheers and claps and squeals of joy from her sister, aunt, and grandmother. She also received an enthusiastic tail wagging from our unusually large, lethargic Labrador.

Frances graciously accepted these distracting accolades with a smile and immediately fell down. Never daunted, she jumped back up and continued her journey; and we, her adoring audience, continued with our encouragement.

As I write to you, another Frances enters my memory. She carries the Italian version of the name, which is Francesca. She is the four-year-old granddaughter of Marcella, our Assisi guide par excellence. Francesca has a rare disease and can not walk. Her grandmother told me that she prays every day for a miracle as she re-visits the places of St. Francis.

I believe a miracle is happening, not only for Francesca but for the pilgrims who have had the awesome privilege of being guided by Marcella. I know. I've experienced such a happening.

I do not want to be overly dramatic. I wish I could whisper this article to you in a tiny chapel like the ones we experienced over and over again. They were diminutive holy spaces in hills, in caves, on mountains, and in valleys. We worshipped, sang, and celebrated.

I wish this lump in my heart could come forth as a flower like the miraculous thornless roses we saw growing in the garden at La Porzuncola.

I wish you could shut your eyes and hear the daily carols being sung at Grecchio.

I wish you could see the biggest sky I've ever experienced on the rooftop of Casa Papa Giovanni, our home in Assisi. You'd laugh out loud as the swallows perform their acrobatic soars.

I wish you could have skipped and sung with us down the steep hill from Assisi to San Damiano to see where Clare lived. On arrival at the convent, I wish you could have heard Sister Mary Philomena's homily on "Coming Home." We all felt closer to our roots as she humbly spoke.

I can close my eyes and still picture Sister Mary Philomena and Sis-

ter Mary Dorothea, our only American Poor Clares, dressed in pale yellow habits, arm in arm as if two school girls. Their presence blessed us daily. The community they shared seemed to spill over onto us and spread.

I'll never forget our celebrating the 40th anniversary of ordination for Br. Robert Hugh at San Gregorio Church in Rome. In his sermon, he compelled each one of us to be "authentic" to our individual calling.

I never forget the tears in our eyes as a fellow Alabamian, Sue Tidwell, noviced me, and Br. Justus admonished me "to persevere."

I'll never forget experiencing the eye-witness-like account given by a young Roman Catholic Franciscan novice at LaVerna. He made the drama of St. Francis receiving the stigmata an indelible etching on my mind.

(continued next page)

**"NEVER BEFORE HAVE I FELT  
SUCH AN AWARENESS OF  
THE 'CLOUD OF SAINTS'  
WHICH SURROUNDS US."**

**"WE ARE ALL PILGRIMS"***(continued from previous page)*

Now I'm getting more and more personal. As I read over the list of pilgrims, I can picture each individual and his or her unique gifts. The richness ... the diversity.

How grand. In just two weeks, we went from a group of individuals to a Franciscan community.

Franciscan Community. This is what we are all about. We just happened to be bodily participants for this 1995 Pilgrimage, but you, my brothers and sisters in Christ and Francis, were also very much a part of our journey.

I am reminded of the circle of family encouragers around my granddaughter Frances as she took some of her first steps in her journey of life. We are all pilgrims; it just happened that we 26 "wobbly" walkers were this year's participants.

Never before have I felt such an awareness of the "Cloud of Saints" which surrounds us. I could feel St. Francis and St. Clare calling us closer to the mark. I could sense our Franciscan world's unity as never before.

Yes, I do believe it was somehow like a miracle; for although 26 people participated, I could feel a host of cheerleaders celebrating our every move.

Marcella, our guide, prays for a miracle so that her granddaughter can walk; that also is my prayer. I do want her to know that miracles are already happening.

As Marcella knelt on the floor of Bernardo's home and retold the story of our blessed saint staying up all night to pray, "My God and My All," you could sense a deepening of the Spirit in us all. Yes, we too believe that this man — a beggar, a pauper, and little joyous troubadour — knew in a unique way how to follow his Lord. It is the path that we all yearn to follow.

Each of you was there. I sensed it. I could feel your encouragement surrounding us. May you be in the "pilgrimage participation ring" to Assisi the next time, and we will cheer you on. May there also be a precious little dark-haired, bright-eyed Italian girl by the name of Francesca leading your tour, following in her grandmother's footsteps.

Pax et Bonum. May the circle be unbroken.

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**NOTES FROM A QUIET DAY***(continued from page 5)*

It's important to remember that the passion of Christ refers both to the suffering and to the love. They are intertwined. When you love someone who is suffering, you share in that suffering.

It was absolute utter love which allowed Francis to communicate with El Camillo, the Saracen chief of Islam. As a result, Francis learned to pray from him. We are indebted to Islam for the Angelus and for the call to prayer, morning, noon, and night. To learn calls for great love.

In the Chapel of the Stigmata at LaVerna is a shield entitled the Mother Pelican of Piety, one of the best symbols of mother love anywhere. But it is also the symbol of the kind of love which emanated from Francis: self-giving love. He was always setting rules aside for the other person.

We tend to make assumptions that all suffering and love is some sort of redemptive act. That is just not so, just as poverty and simplicity are not virtues of which we boast. People who are poor did not opt for that way of life.

God invites us to live under these vows, but does not force us. We are here because, for today, we feel we are being called and we are responding to that call.

When we leave what we have felt to be our calling, there is a difference in how this is done. Some people leave because they feel God is calling them elsewhere. Others leave because they are running from or denying their calling. This is freedom.

Freedom and crucifixion have to go together. If there was no freedom on Christ's part to endure the agony of the Passion, then the crucifixion would be to no avail.

It is not suffering that is redemptive; it is the love which is found in the suffering.

And so, we conclude with the *Prayer Absorbeat*, attributed to Francis:

***May the power of your love, O Lord, fiery and sweet as honey, wean my heart from all that is under heaven, so that I may die for love of your love, you who were so good as to die for the love of my love.***

— from the "Writings of St. Francis," Appendix, pp. 160-161, (St. Francis of Assisi Omnibus of Sources, Chicago: Franciscan Herald Press, 1983)

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**NOTES FROM A QUIET DAY...**  
**Little Portion Friary, October 10, 1995**  
**by Br. Justus Richard SSF**

This past June, Br. Robert Hugh and I led a pilgrimage tour, following in the footsteps of St. Francis, accompanied by a number of tertiaries. This quiet day will be a reflection on two of the shrines we visited.

**GRECCIO**

*(Editor's Note: Those present in the Chapel at Little Portion Friary stood and sang the haunting Christmas carol, "Once In Royal David's City" — including the verse which begins, "And again at Greccio's stable...")*

*And again at Greccio's stable  
 was the Word of God made flesh  
 when the holy father Francis  
 gave the world a Christmas creche;  
 letting all the world adore,  
 God's own Son, whom Mary bore.*

**Y**ou all know the story of Francis and the first creche he created in the village of Greccio on Christmas Eve of 1223. We visited the cave where this creche was created... and the chapel which was built over the cave... and the church which was eventually built over the chapel (in the 1950s).

But what caught my attention was a portrayal (by an unknown artist) of the Nativity on the back wall of the Church. It was, at first glance, the typical nativity scene, but upon closer inspection, quite different.

In the center panel, you see Mary, not beautifully attired and freshly scrubbed, but tired and drenched with sweat, as though she had actually just experienced the pangs of labor and given birth. Joseph, at her side, has a slight grin such as you might imagine on the face of a new father. In the manger, the baby Jesus looks just like a newborn infant, wrinkled and not freshly scrubbed like some three-month-old healthy baby.

We all tend to think of the idealized Jesus, but Francis wanted us to remember that Jesus was truly human and came to us in human form. Francis understood real humanity and recognized that people can quarrel and have disagreements and can still be friends.

In one side panel is another stereotypical scene, that of the angels singing to the shepherds. Now in one sense, the shepherds were the outcasts of their day because they had to

stay in the hills and tend their flocks. They were not able to socialize and take time off.

Here again, we sense that Francis resonates with the humanity and social condition of the shepherds, just as he related to other outcasts, such as the lepers.

In the other side panel, we see the Magi, the three wise men on camels. As with other Franciscan depictions of the Nativity, you can find a cross buried somewhere in the picture. In this case, the saddle horn on one of the camels suddenly appears as a bright red cross.

Francis knew the Magi had come to Bethlehem from all over, drawing all sorts of people to Christ, just as he, Francis, himself traveled around and drew people to Christ through himself.

In one lower panel is a depiction of the slaughter of the innocent children, which is a part of the incarnation. Murder and mayhem accompany the light and joy of the event, a counterpoint to the word becoming flesh.

So it is with us: we each have our dark places, but the darkness allows the light to shine that much brighter.

The other lower panel shows the flight into Egypt and Jesus, Mary, and Joseph fleeing for their lives. Francis knew that exile also; he knew what it meant to hide from his father or his friends at different times in his life.

Francis knew all of these elements of the Nativity — the humanity, the outcasts, the social outreach, the darkness, and the exile. These are all parts of what it means to be a Franciscan and also a Christian today.

**LAVERNA**

**L**aVerna, of course, is the hillside where Francis received the marks of the crucified Christ. Before this happened, Francis prayed for two graces:

- to share, as much as possible, in the suffering of Christ on the cross, and
- to share, as much as possible, in the great love which Christ experienced for humanity while on the cross.

*(continued on page 4)*

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

## ATTENTION CONVENER:

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, P.O. Box 157, Kula, Maui, Hawaii 96790-0157. Deadline for the Easter issue is April 1, 1996.

### BROTHER JUNIPER FELLOWSHIP (Boston and New England)

The annual spring retreat has been scheduled for May 18-19, with a tentative location at the Maryhouse in Spencer, MA. Leader will be Fr. Sam Hale, using a topic, "The Spirituality of Brokenness."

"Brokenness and the telling of our stories" will also be the theme of reflection at meetings throughout 1996. According to Fr. Sam, "Until the brokenness is shared, there is really no community."

The next fellowship gatherings are scheduled for March 30 (location to be arranged) and August 3 in Dublin, NH (at St. Francis Chapel, Fr. Sam's new summer ministry). For information about fellowship activities, please contact convener NANCY KANGAS at 508-632-2435.

### LONG ISLAND FELLOWSHIP

The L.I.F. Line newsletter reports that the Spring retreat will be May 17-19 at Little Portion Friary. Convener will be Marie McShea. The next meeting will be on Sunday afternoon, March 24, at Ed Medina's home in Patchogue.

For more information about any activities of the Fellowship, please contact co-conveners MARIE McSHEA at (516) 379-7529 or ELIZABETH SCALERO at (516) 887-4199.

### PHILADELPHIA, NEW JERSEY, & DELAWARE FELLOWSHIP

Members gathered at the Church of St. James the Less in Philadelphia on Oct. 7 for a Francistide celebration which included a poetry reading by John Scott and a blessing of the animals.

For information about upcoming meetings and activities, please contact convener JOAN BEDELL at (215) 569-9955.

### LAND OF THE SKY FELLOWSHIP (Western North Carolina)

According to "Fruits of the Loom" newsletters, the members will be using and studying "*Franciscan Spirituality*" by Br. Ramon SSF beginning with the January meetings.

Members traveled to Kingsport, TN on Dec. 16 for a "most joyous" Christmas party with the Portiuncula Fellowship of East Tennessee and four sisters from the Poverello Joy Community of the Cloistered Heart Franciscan Order, a religious community of men and women who live together on a farm in Mosheim, TN.

The Blizzard of '96 cancelled the January meeting, but a Quiet Day is planned on Saturday, March 9, at Grace Church, led by David Nard TSSF, the new archdeacon for the Diocese of Western North Carolina.

For information about fellowship activities, please call convener MARY HAYES at (704) 254-0635.

### THE SERVANTS OF SAN DAMIANO (North Carolina Piedmont)

Fellowship meetings will be on the third Saturday of each month, at the centrally-located St. Matthew's Parish in Kernersville. Members unable to attend are asked to send a post card to be read at the meeting/

For more information about fellowship gatherings and activities, please contact new convener KALE KING at (910) 352-3822.

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# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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## **PLAINS, MOUNTAINS, & SEA FELLOWSHIP (Georgia and Alabama)**

This fellowship will be hosting the 1996 Southeastern Convocation in Atlanta, September 20-22.

For more information about Alabama fellowship activities, please contact YVONNE WILLIE at (205) 933-8997. For more information about Georgia fellowship activities, please contact JACQUI BELCHER at (912) 233-2105.

## **SAN DAMIANO FELLOWSHIP (Central Florida)**

The Fellowship Retreat is scheduled for Feb. 16-18 at the Holy Name Priory in St. Leo, Florida. Leader will be Br. Anthony Balgrove SSF from St. Elizabeth's Friary in Brooklyn.

Regular gatherings of the Fellowship are scheduled for the second Saturdays in March, May, July, and November. For more information about the location of meetings and other activities, please contact convener ROSEMARY PANCAKE at (813) 859-5064.

## **LA VERNA FELLOWSHIP (Cincinnati)**

Dan Cooksey reports that the annual retreat will be at the Convent of the Transfiguration in Glendale, OH, on the weekend of April 19 and 20. The leader will be Fr. Paul Walsman OFM.

For more information about fellowship meetings and activities, please contact convener MARY LOUISE REED at (513) 724-3363.

## **LITTLE SPARROW FELLOWSHIP (Toronto)**

Convener SYBIL YEARWOOD reports that the fellowship meets on the second Saturday of each month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. George the Martyr Church in Toronto. Visiting tertiaries are welcome. For more information, please contact Sybil at (416) 759-2600.

## **CHI RHO FELLOWSHIP (Chicago)**

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 AL EASTERWOOD at (708) 858-4147 or MARK DRISH at (312) 539-3057.

## **IOWA FELLOWSHIP**

Convener RICK SIMPSON reports that members gathered for an Advent Retreat at the Trappist Monastery of New Melleray. Time was spent in quiet prayer, the Divine Office (including a 3:30 a.m. vigil), and a sharing of our Franciscan lives and the walk of faith. A Lenten retreat is being planned also.

## **PRAIRIE WIND FELLOWSHIP (Wyoming and Nebraska)**

Convener BETTY WOOD reports that members made Third Order presentations to both the Wyoming and Nebraska Diocesan Conventions during 1995. Regular gatherings are held on the third Saturday of the month at St. Hilda's Church in Kimball, NE. The program includes discussions from chapters of *Franciscan Spirituality* by Br. Ramon.

For more information about Fellowship gatherings, please contact Betty at 1406 East 19th St., Cheyenne, WY 82001, telephone (307) 632-1517.

## **SACRAMENTO-DAVIS FELLOWSHIP (California)**

Convener HILARY BURWELL reports that the next year will be spent in study of the formation letters, but allowing the person in charge of the program to present the assigned letters in any way "the spirit moves them" thus allowing for originality and creativity.

For more information about fellowship meetings and activities, please get in touch with Hilary at (916) 966-8164.

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# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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## NEW UMBRIAN FELLOWSHIP (San Francisco Bay Area)

Ex co-convenor Elizabeth Greiner reports that the new co-convenors are CAROL KENT and REBECCA GOLDBERG. She adds, "Our fellowship is looking seriously at trying to send various members to other convocations to get to meet with (tertiaries) from other regions. We're afraid we're all becoming a bit myopic!"

For more information about fellowship meetings and activities, please call Carol at (415) 571-8577 or Becky at (415) 345-4683.

## HAWAII FELLOWSHIP

Regular meetings of the fellowship will be on the third Friday evening of each month, usually at the home of a member in Waikiki.

A Spring Retreat will be held on the Island of Maui, April 25-27, at the St. John's Retreat House in Kula. Robert Durand will be the convenor and guest master.

Any tertiaryaries visiting the Islands and interested in the retreat or meeting with the fellowship should contact convenor EDEAN IWANAGA at 3348 Campbell Ave., Honolulu, HI 96815, telephone (808) 735-4044.

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# CONVOCATION NOTES

## ATTENTION CONVENERS:

The Franciscan Times will reach interested and/or isolated tertiaryaries 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, P.O. Box 157, Kula, Maui, HI 96790-0157.

Deadline for the Easter issue is April 1, 1996.

## 1996 Convocation Dates

➤ South Central — April 26-28 (Oklahoma)

(St. Crispin Retreat Center, Seminole, Oklahoma)

➤ for information or reservations, contact CHERYL HOLMES AT telephone (405) 254-2347

Order of Ecumenical Franciscans — June 14-16 (Albuquerque)

Western — August 2-4 (Santa Rosa, CA)

Midwest — August 13-15 (Chicago)

Northeast — August 23-25 (Graymoor, NY)

Southwest & Rocky Mountains — August 23-25 (Colorado Springs)

Southeast — September 20-22 (Atlanta)

WATCH FOR DETAILS IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE FRANCISCAN TIMES!

Mark your calendars ... Begin to plan now ...

➤ TSSF PROVINCIAL CONVOCATION — JUNE 24-29, 1997

Loyola University, New Orleans, Louisiana



## TSSF CROWN ROSARY FELLOWSHIP FORMS

by Darlene Sipes TSSF

The Third Order will be continuing the work of Don Carlson's Fellowship of the Living Rosary, and the new name of the fellowship will be The Third Order Franciscan Crown Rosary.

The emphasis, appropriately, for tertiaries will be the Franciscan Crown Rosary, which will be prayed four months each year. The Seven Sorrows of Our Lady will be prayed for one month, and the remaining seven months will be devoted to praying the regular Dominican Rosary.

There being Seven Decades in both the Crown and Sorrows rosaries, the sixth day of the Dominican Rosary will include meditations on St. Clare and the seventh day will be honoring the Mother of God in the Anglican Communion.

Monthly intentions will be for all three Franciscan Orders and Associates, vocations to the orders, world hunger, world peace, and

joy for all three orders and the associates of the Society of St. Francis

Anyone interested in more information or in becoming a part of this Third Order Franciscan Crown Rosary community may call or write me at the address below:

**Darlene Sipes TSSF**  
**P.O. Box 131**  
**Coolidge, AZ 85228**  
**(520) 723-5648**

### BOOK REVIEW

*CHRIST THE COMPANION, Daily Meditations for Lent and Easter* by Fr. Andrew SDC. A 50th Anniversary Commemorative Edition (privately published by Marcia B. Stearns, Rockport, MA, 1996).

The discovery of *Christ the Companion*, written by the Anglican monk Fr. Andrew of the Society of the Divine Compassion and published just before his death in 1946, is like coming across a Spirit-sent daily treasure map for one's spiritual journey.

Printed only in England and out of print for many years, this gem of a spiritual guide is now available in the United States (and elsewhere) through the efforts of Marcia Stearns to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Fr. Andrew's death.

Marcia is a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Rockport, MA, home of tertiaries Mona Hull, Allan Brown, and the rector, the Rev. Karin Wade.

Fr. Andrew was a co-founder of the Society of Divine Compassion in 1894 at age 25. When he died in 1946, membership was dwindling, and in 1952, the community ceased to exist. At that time, much of its work as well as the care of its two remaining brothers was assumed by the Society of St. Francis.

This book can be obtained, at a reasonable retail cost of \$5.95 (including postage and handling), at the address below. (Wholesale rates for churches and bookstores are available on request.)

**Marcia B. Stearns**  
**9 Summer Street**  
**Rockport MA 01966-2138**  
**Tel. (508) 546-9392**  
**E-mail — pstearns@cove.com**  
 — Robert Durand

### Third Order Library News

**Many new books, audio cassettes, and videotapes continue to be added into the Third Order Library.**

**The complete list of titles has become too long and complex for frequent publication.**

**However, anyone wishing to borrow a specific book or tape should send a request, listing the title and author, to:**

**Rosemond McFerran**  
**TSSF Library**  
**1518 Tulane Drive**  
**Davis, CA 95616.**

**Suggestions for an efficient method of making titles known to tertiaries would be welcome. Please write your ideas to Rosie at the address above.**

## SUFFERING AND TRANSFORMATION

### What Barbara Kelly Taught Me About the Christian Life

**(EDITOR'S NOTE: Barbara Kelly TSSF passed into eternal life on December 4, 1995, in Santa Barbara, California. After she died, her husband Frank wrote the following piece for the newsletter of her home parish, Trinity Church, and thanks to Rosemond McFerran TSSF, it is shared here.)**

**by Frank Kelly**

When I first saw a beautiful woman named Violet Barbara Allen Mandigo in Kansas City in 1941, I fell in love with her immediately. That love grew and deepened through the 54 years of our married life, and it will never cease. At the time I met her, I was a cynical newspaper man: I had lost my faith in God and people. She revived my belief in a loving Lord and in the goodness of human beings.

During the last two years, I have been compelled to watch her undergo terrible pain — pain that I could not relieve and her doctors were not able to control despite their best efforts. In the midst of her worst agonies, she said to me, "I hate to see you suffer. Please don't worry. I'm going to be all right."

In her final weeks in the hospital, visitors were inspired by the radiance of her smile and her concern for them.

When I prayed with her, she would say, "Pray for all the people who are suffering in this hospital and pray for the doctors and nurses and the orderlies — all those who are trying to help them." She poured forth love for the nurses and attendants who came into the room she shared with other stricken people — and to everybody who came near to her.

She said to one of our friends that all the suffering she endured had been bearable because she felt deepening of love among the members of her family and every one she knew.

She was astonished and sustained by the great signs of love that came to her from so many people — her sons and daughters, her husband, her grandsons, members of Trinity Church and other churches, Jesuits and Franciscans, the Sisters of the Holy Nativity, members of the Order of the Holy Cross, members of the Third Order of St. Francis, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, and others.

She was a member of the Third Order of St. Francis for more than 20 years. In accordance with the rule she submitted when she became a professed member of the order, she



read the morning and evening prayers from the Book of Common Prayer every day. I had the joy of sharing those prayers with her.

She prayed for the sick, the homeless, the refugees driven from their homes by wars and other disasters; for all those who needed help. She had the names of 80 persons that she prayed for frequently. In her last illness, she took her prayer book into Cottage Hospital and continued her intercessions there.

When I brought the book home after her death, I found in it a copy of a prayer composed by one of the friends of St. Francis. It was written in Italian in the 13th Century and translated by Sr. Julia Elizabeth SHN into these words:

"O most humble Francis  
All inflamed by God  
In thy heart thou bearest  
The crucified Christ.

Pray to God Almighty  
On Whom I ever wait  
That when pain assails me  
My help will be — my Love!"

Our son Terry took our whole family to Italy in the summer of 1994. We had several exalting days in Assisi, the town in which St. Francis spend much of his life. On our last day there, Barbara and I — accompanied by our other son Stephen and his wife, Misa — went up a mountain to the hermitage where Francis had spent many hours in prayer. Barbara was able to enter his cell and pray there.

As we came down the mountain on that rainy afternoon, we saw a sparkling double rainbow in the sky above us. We shouted with joy. That double rainbow made us sing and life our hands toward God.

*(continued next page)*

## r e a d e r ' s   f o r u m

**1997 CONVOCATION: "...OUR FRANCISCAN HOSPITALITY..."**

The Rev. Alden Whitney  
Minister Provincial  
The Third Order, American Province  
Dear Alden,

The professed tertiaries of Central Florida and the San Damiano Fellowship have read and reflected on Jane Ellen Traugott's letter to you regarding the 1997 Provincial Convocation.

We are all very excited and are looking forward to that Convocation as a time of meeting tertiaries from the entire Province and celebrating with joy.

Our financial situations vary greatly. None of us are affluent. Some can afford "extras" and some can barely make ends meet. We feel that concentration on the financial aspects is affording an emphasis to money rather than being thankful for the gift of fellowship that is being offered.

**SUFFERING AND TRANSFORMATION**

*(continued from previous page)*

A few hours before Barbara died in Cottage Hospital, she cried out, "Take me, Lord! Please take me!" Those words were close to the ones St. Francis uttered when he died, "With my voice I cried unto the Lord... Thou art my hope and my portion... Take my soul out of prison... that I may praise Thy name! The just wait for me, until Thou reward me!"

Through our years together, we shared many great moments — our honeymoon in New York, the births of our sons and grandsons, the books we wrote together, the wonderful poems she composed on many other occasions, the achievements of our gifted sons in music and the other arts.

We laughed and danced when President Truman won his astounding victory in 1948. We worked together to help create the United States Institute of Peace. She encouraged me to go to Moscow and urge the Soviets to end the cold war. She was always confident that peace would prevail.

But, in her last moments, in her triumphs over the terrible pain that racked her body, she transformed everything around us. She showed the meaning of the Christian life.

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We are saving; some of us pennies and some of us dollars. We are exploring inexpensive transportation such as renting a van. We fully expect to share our resources to assist those who cannot afford the trip.

The concern that we do have relates to isolated tertiaries who have no Fellowship to assist them. Are we exploring ways to match needs for assistance with those needing to share their abundance?

Surely our Franciscan tradition of hospitality and service can assure that all tertiaries who truly want to attend the Provincial Convocation will be able to do so.

Pax et Bonum,  
Joan Verret TSSF  
Lakeland, FL

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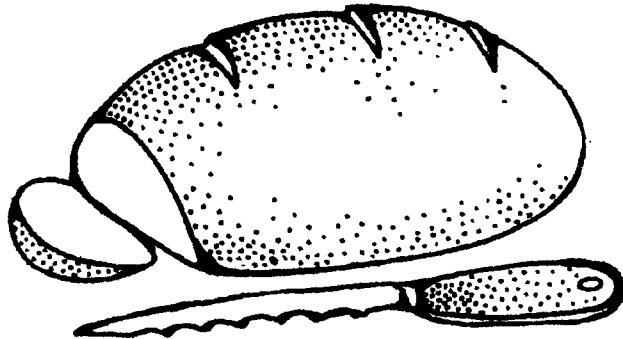


*The Franciscan Times*

*Lord, Make Me an Instrument of thy Peace*

“Describing and commending  
a participation  
in franciscan spirituality  
is like the making and eating  
of wholesome monastery bread —”

“Taste  
and see  
that the  
Lord  
is good!”



— Brother Ramon SSF (Introduction to *Franciscan Spirituality*)