



# The Franciscan Times

A NEWSLETTER 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 ■

Spring 2013



## Carolyn Banks's Celebration of a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of a Profession

*Annette Bell, Special Minister to Isolates (from her email to John Brockmann)*

It was a wonderful weekend. For me, it really was the best time to be with Carolyn and to get to know her better. It is amazing how much we are alike. We feel the same about most things. Our ancestors came over from Scotland at about the same time. They both went to Virginia, my family came to Kentucky and hers on to Arkansas. We both love everything Scottish. I met her family and felt at home.

I am sure she has already told you everything, I am so impressed by the people of St. Paul's (Fayetteville AR) (I attend St. Paul's in Louisville). She is much loved.

The rector had us meet with the Adult Class. Of course Carolyn did most of the talking and many questions were asked of her. I was also asked to talk about the Order in US and worldwide. I noticed at the reception the TSSF pamphlets were all taken.



*Annette Bell*

As you know the service is very simple but meaningful and beautiful. Several people told me how much they liked the service, and they all thought it was beautiful also. The two priests were very happy to honor Carolyn and to have me present to be the officiant. They decided that I should wear an alb and take part in the procession, walking with the Rev. Suzanne Stoner (she met with us on Saturday to rehearse what we would do on Sunday). I then sat with the priests until the time of our service. I then sat with the family.

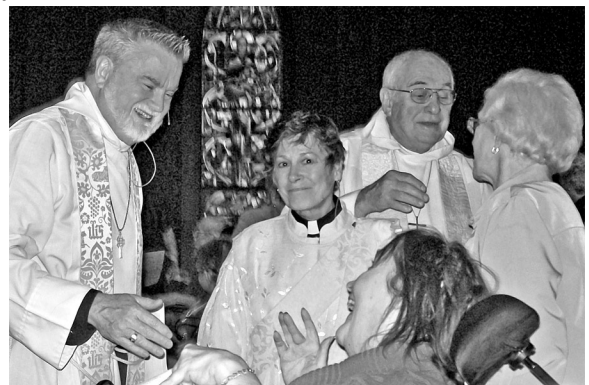
St. Paul's also loves St. Francis. There is a stained glass window of him above the choir with a prayer space, a kneeler and candles. Outside the entrance is a lovely garden and in back of it is a small garden dedicated to St. Francis.

Everyone appeared interested in knowing more about TSSF and the three Franciscan Orders. I am so proud of our Order and to have such a wonderful person to represent us in Fayetteville

### *Carolyn Banks Herself (from her email to John Brockmann)*

It was a grand and glorious day. I was overwhelmed by all the church and the parishioners did for "My Day", as they called it. The reception was a full meal with sherry and champagne! The music was beautiful, flowers resplendent; they gave me a gorgeous pot planted as a miniature garden, and then Annette presented me with the beautiful statue of St. Francis and the

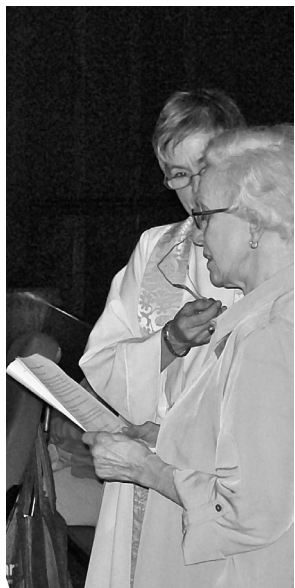
*The Rector, Lowell Grisham, along with Deacon Emily Bost, and The Rev. Chas. Walling offer Carolyn the Peace during the service.*



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**Celebration of a 50th Anniversary of a Profession (cont.)**

Wolf of Gubbio from the Third Order. The materials you had sent me were given a place of honor in the lobby of the parish hall and Father Grisham said he is going to "promote" the Third Order. Annette and I were featured performers at a pre-service lecture for the adult classes. I hope we made a good impression for the Third Order.



*Carolyn renewing  
vows with assistance  
from Assoc. Rector  
Stoner*

I had to drink lots of liquids before the Eucharist so I would be able to renew my vows audibly!

I am so grateful to everyone everywhere for going to all this effort to make it a true feast day for me! Thanks to you and the Third Order, to Annette, and to St. Paul's parish...it will never be forgotten! I felt so very cherished!

—From Minister

*Provincial, John Brockmann*

In the "olden days", many in our Order felt that we were a secret, and that it was not a very humble thing to describe our Order to others or to describe our life in the Order. Well those days have changed, and it is now incumbent upon us to declare the joys of our life following the footsteps of Francis as he hurries after Christ. As I invited various Franciscan Orders to come and attend our Provincial Convocation, I was struck by the ever-broadening draw of Francis as I discovered the Lutheran Order of Franciscans, the Little Sisters of St. Clare along with the Order of Ecumenical Franciscans, the Franciscans of Reconciliation (Old Catholics) and on and on.

The world would love to know about the Franciscan path to God, and these public celebrations of profession anniversaries offer a very accessible way to spread the word.

We will be more than happy to supply you with brochures and materials to create the TSSF publicity triptych to help make your celebration of a profession or your fellowship member a truly joyous occasion.

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## The Third Order, Province of the Americas

### The Society of Saint Francis

7 Moseley Street  
Whitesboro, NY 13492 USA

Email: [lynnhern@juno.com](mailto:lynnhern@juno.com)

April 15, 2013

Dear Professed Brothers and Sisters,

The tertiaries listed on the ballot on the next page have been selected by the professed membership and Standing Committee to stand as candidates for the next Third Order Chapter (2013-2015). Seven of these candidates will be elected to serve on Chapter. Please mail or email your seven choices to me at the above address by July 15<sup>th</sup>. Short biographical sketches provided by the nominees appear on the following pages. In determining your choices, please bear in mind the following instructions from the Provincial Statutes (I.A. 9-11):

9. By the fifteenth of April, a ballot containing all the candidates' names shall be circulated to all the professed. The ballots shall have a blank line to add the date on which the vote is cast. Local Fellowships and other Third Order groups shall undertake a full discussion of these candidates, and every effort shall be made to include all brothers and sisters of the Order in the discussions.

10. By the fifteenth of July, each professed tertiary shall vote for up to 7 of these candidates, taking due regard for the representation of all geographical areas in the Province, and return the ballot to the Secretary. The 7 candidates receiving

the highest total number of votes shall be elected members of the Chapter. In the case of a tie for the seventh position, the Minister Provincial shall cast the deciding vote.

11. The ballots shall be opened on August 1st, and tallied by a Chapter member appointed by the Minister Provincial, who is not a candidate for office.

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BALLOT FOR THIRD ORDER CHAPTER 2013 – 2015

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Voting: \_\_\_\_\_

Vote for no more than 7 candidates:

\_\_\_\_\_ Janet Fedders \_\_\_\_\_ Kate Salinaro \_\_\_\_\_ Masud Ibn Syedullah

\_\_\_\_\_ Janine Schenone \_\_\_\_\_ Joan Verret

\_\_\_\_\_ Julie Goodin \_\_\_\_\_ Steve Schaiberger \_\_\_\_\_ Joyce Wilding

\_\_\_\_\_ Diane Jones \_\_\_\_\_ Ed Schneider

\_\_\_\_\_ Millicent Ramcharan \_\_\_\_\_ Brenda Stewart

By July 15<sup>th</sup> mail or email your seven choices to Lynn Herne, Provincial Secretary, 7 Moseley Street, Whitesboro, NY 13492 USA or at [lynnhern@juno.com](mailto:lynnhern@juno.com)

Janet Fedders



There are a few things that I would bring to Chapter that might be useful, youth and beauty not among them. I lived in the Midwest for a long time and was an isolated tertiary there. That might bring to Chapter geographic context and the experience of being a virtual TSSF-er. I am also a contemplative, another possibly interesting mix within the group. For years, I was an NPR station manager, so my management skills are well-honed and ready to plug in. I adore organizing things and I love data and spreadsheets. I'm a good negotiator. I find that most decisions make themselves for you, if you're open and listening. You might think I'm not your typical Franciscan. But then, looking at our beloved TSSF, there doesn't really seem to be a "typical". I teach the violin to children, some of whom pay me. I'm married (to a psychiatrist), have 2 grown children and 8 grandchildren. My household with my husband also includes my older brother, 3 cats and Gracie, the dog. We attend Christ Church Cathedral, Cincinnati, just across the river from where we live in Covington, Ky. I'm a reader, a knitter, and fluent in German.

Diane Jones



Diane Jones, born and raised in Canada, has lived in three western Canadian provinces, and also lived in London, England, and Hong Kong. For forty years, she was active in the local high Anglican church in Vancouver, before moving to the more middle-of-the-road cathedral in this city. In addition to being active in her local church, teaching Sunday School and singing in the choir, Diane served for six years on the Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat, the national executive of that church movement. This involved visiting Cursillo groups and leading workshops across Canada. Diane was professed in the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis, on Pentecost Sunday, May 30, 2009. She has attended convocations in California and Washington, and was involved in putting on the 2008 convocation in British Columbia.

Her goals are to liaise between her Canadian Franciscan brothers and sisters with Chapter, and to visit as many fellowships and convocations as possible. Diane has been married to Frank for 56 years. They raised 5 children, and have been blessed with 13 grandchildren and 2 great-granddaughters. Diane and Frank live in Vancouver, BC, Canada with their beautiful tortoiseshell cat, Mona.

(continued on page 4)

**Chapter Nominees (cont.)**

Millicent Ramcharan

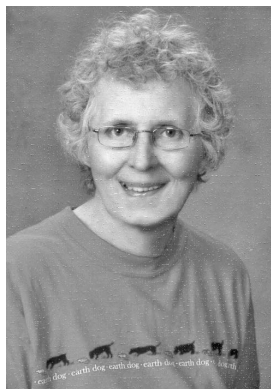


I am Millicent Ramcharan and live in Princes Town in the south of Trinidad in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. I worship at St Stephen's Anglican Church. There is where I first came in contact with the Franciscans. Members of the First Order managed the parish for a number of years in the eighties and nineties.

Two years ago I retired as the principal of an Anglican secondary school. Before promotion to administration I spent a number of years as a teacher. During that period I taught Sunday School, assisted and taught Vacation Bible School and was the Vestry member responsible for the Youth Group. Through my involvement with the youth I was asked to serve on the Diocesan Youth Council and I am still involved in the Happening Movement. I serve as the treasurer of the Senior Citizens' Activity Center run by my church and assist the church in any way I can.

My life as a Franciscan keeps me focused on my spirituality mainly because of the written Rule of Life. At present I serve as a Formation Counselor. I try to attend all the Convocations held in whatever part of the Caribbean and can recall missing only one when I had a family commitment. I attended the last Provincial Convocation and am eagerly anticipating this year's in June. I look forward to being a Caribbean voice at Chapter.

Julie Goodin



I have been Professed for almost 8 years, and my Franciscan vocation is my life. I am currently Area Chaplain for NC and also a Formation Counselor. I have done much of the organizational work attached to two Southeast Regional Convocations and work on the editorial staff for *Franciscan Times*. I am on the planning team for Provincial Convocation and wrote an article published in our Diocesan magazine on what it means to be a Franciscan. I write a daily reflection on Facebook based on one of the Psalms from the Daily Office. I am a member of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in High Point NC and an LEM. I work full time as caregiver, have adult children, and two grandchildren. I also enjoy working with local dog training club as an instructor.

If elected to Chapter I will bring to it my natural enthusiasm, joy and energy, my best listening and communication skills, a spirit of cooperation, humility and servant-hood.

With prayer and God's help, I will serve in whatever capacity our Ministers ask of me, with the goal of making our beloved Order more vibrant and alive and drawing us closer as a community as we all follow our Lord in the way of St. Francis.

Kate Salinaro



I gratefully accept the nomination to be a candidate for Chapter, if elected. I really enjoyed filling in this past year, and found the chapter meeting to be a spiritual and exciting way to serve the Franciscan family. I have been professed since 1985, and have had the privilege of serving the Order as Fellowship Convener, Area Chaplain, and Formation Counselor. Each of these roles has enriched my spiritual and community life. I am a member of New Umbrian Fellowship in San Francisco.

I have served the Diocese of California as a deacon to the School for Deacons where I am on the faculty, teaching liturgy, and music and coordinating the Field Education Program. I also teach at CDSP in the Field Education Program. I have served in several parishes including La Santisima Trinidad / Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in English and Spanish speaking services.

My main interests and involvements are in world mission, peace, justice, homeless issues, and immigration plus local inter-faith groups, Kairos Prison Ministry, and Cur-sillo. I serve my diocese on the World Mission Department; Co-Chair of Peace, Justice, and Homeless Commission plus Companion Diocese Committee to Curitiba, Brazil.

If elected I would bring experience in the above areas. My hope is that our Order will become more visible, find ways to reach out to the various ethnic peoples in the church, and our communities.

Janine Schenone



I am honored by this nomination to serve on Chapter for the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis. My lifetime profession was in September of 2007, and I have been a member of three different fellowships: Living Waters Fellowship in Northern California; Brother Juniper Fellowship in New England; and the New York City Fellowship. I received an M.Div. from Yale Divinity School in 2012 and began a Ph.D. in systematic theology at Fordham University this past fall, and some of my scholarship has focused on Franciscan spirituality, ecology, pacifism and interfaith dialogue. This study has been an important part of my Franciscan practice, as has my work with the homeless and the poor in New Haven, CT. I am passionate about spreading the news of the Third Order and Franciscan spirituality, and I frequently preach about it, blog about it at [janineschenone.net](http://janineschenone.net), and post status updates called "Franciscan moments" on Facebook. I use social media to discuss Franciscan spirituality to feed what I perceive as a widespread curiosity about monasticism, rules of life, simplicity, and radical Christianity as expressed in the "New Monasticism" movement.

My hope is to update and broaden the Third Order's use of social media (web sites, blogs, Facebook and Twitter) to reach younger audiences whose main sources of information are read on iPads and iPhones—people who retweet and repost HuffingtonPost religion columns when they need the Word. I think people interested in radical Christianity and the "New Monasticism" would join the Third Order if they knew about us. I also believe that frequent member contributions to social media would help tertiaries to feel more connection and support, especially when they are unable to attend fellowship meetings. My other hope is to build a digital library of free articles, e-books, Podcasts, sacred music and art that would be rich resources for prayer, study and work—both for professed tertiaries and for people visiting the site.

And finally, my hope is that the Third Order—as well as the Episcopal Church in the United States—will grow in its welcome and inclusion of more Latino and Latina members. We can do this by partnering with churches and leaders who are leading the way in ministering to Latinos and Latinas and calling them to be leaders in the Church.

Steve Schaiberger



I was professed into the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis on 10 May 1980. I am 68 years old. I am serving now my 4th year as fellowship coordinator for Minnesota aka the fellowship of all out doors as we relate to Third Order members and Associates in Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and North Dakota and at one time the Virgin Islands!!

I am now in my 42<sup>nd</sup> year of priesthood. I have served small congregations in Minnesota and I have served as Canon Missioner for northern Minnesota for 10 years. I am now also retired after serving 24 years as a Chaplain in the Minnesota National Guard having served on 5 continents. My careers have allowed me a great field in which to exercise my Franciscan vocation. Through all this time I have rarely missed a fellowship meeting; I need them!

I am now fully retired and a snowbird. I live in Arizona 5 months of the year and attend their fellowship meetings. Thanks to Skype and other electronic communication tools I have been able to stay in the loop with both fellowships.

I can offer a positive attitude to Chapter and I have no preconceived agenda to bring to Chapter. I have some talents in trying out new technology that may be of value to keeping in touch with one another in our common journey. I have experiences galore.

God has given me the health and retirement time to serve the Third Order in a wider dimension. Thus I have accepted to stand for nomination to be elected to Chapter.

*(continued on page 6)*

**Chapter Nominees (cont.)**

Ed Schneider



I have been professed since 2004. I served as convener of the DC Fellowship for five years (for the last year, I worked with Verleah Kosloske as co-convener). I have been an area chaplain for DE/NJ since 2008. I became a Formation Counselor in 2012. I have served as the bookkeeper/ registrar for the Northeastern Regional Convocation (NERC) since 2005. In addition, I helped to organize and lead the programs at NERC for three years.

Outside of the Third Order, I began a ministry of spiritual direction in 2012. I served on two Lutheran parish councils (ELCA) for a total of 5 years and one vestry at an Episcopal parish for five years. I was the treasurer of a Lutheran parish for 3 years. I was the paid cantor (lead singer) at Grace & St. Peter's Episcopal Church for 9 of the 11 years I was there. I also led adult education classes at Grace & St. Peter's for several years.

I was recently licensed by the Diocese of Maryland as a lay preacher and Lay Eucharistic Visitor.

I have a M.A. in Theology (major: Biblical Studies), and I returned to graduate school in 2012 to work on a Certificate of Advanced Study in spirituality with a concentration in spirituality.

I was asked to write what I want to accomplish if elected to Chapter. I would take no agenda or plans. I believe it unwise and lacking in humility to enter a leadership group - especially for the first time - with my own agenda. It is best first to learn the needs of the organization from the executive level and then wait for the Holy Spirit to guide me.

Brenda Stewart



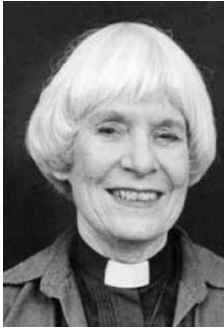
I am a retired Civil Servant having served the Government of Jamaica in various Government Departments (the last being the Ministry of Finance) in the fields of Accounting, Auditing and Senior Management. I am a Justice of the Peace.

I was an elected member of Chapter for two terms, serving as Member of Standing Committee, and Coordinated the TSSF Medical Mission to Guyana and the last Provincial Convocation at Endicott College in Boston. I am currently Assistant Chaplain TSSF, Regional Associates' Secretary Jamaica, Regional Bursar Jamaica and Fellowship Convenor.

I have served in the Church in Jamaica as Synod Representative, Member of Diocesan Board, Member of Diocesan Financial Board and Coordinator Regional Stewardship Program. I am a parishioner of St. John the Evangelist where over the years I have served as Treasurer and Co-ordinator of the outreach projects – ministry to sick, shut-ins, elderly, the materially impoverished, education of under-privileged youngsters and skills training projects. These were the activities that led me to a Franciscan spirituality and to seek membership in the TSSF.

If elected to Chapter I will use my training and experience to uphold and foster the Principles of the Third Order and enhancement of the welfare of our brothers and sisters. I am always mindful of the command given by our Lord to St. Francis "TO REBUILD MY CHURCH" and will endeavor to assist in carrying out this mandate.

Joan Verret



Some of you will remember me from times past as Fellowship Coordinator and Chapter/Standing Committee member. Others as former Area Chaplain of Florida and now of Alabama. At one time I had the honor of serving on the International Provincial Chapter (the year we met in Australia). I was novice counselor to some of you. I assisted in planning and serving at various Provincial Convocations. My greatest joy was meeting so many of you at regional and provincial convocations. For several years I've served on the Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity, in fact will be assisting with the mini conference in Westfield MA this week. In my diocese I serve as the first ever Deacon and counselor to the youth leaders at Camp Wingmann, our youth camp. I am also currently assigned as deacon to St. David's Episcopal Church in Lakeland FL.

I am active in peace and justice issues, League of Woman voters, environmental issues and an RN union. My four adult children live nearby and my grandchildren are almost all through college.

Our Franciscan spirituality has never been more desperately needed than at present in our communities, our country, and the world. As an Order we must grow in our support of each other and the causes we work for through our isolated members, fellowships, those unable to travel due to a age or medical conditions.

I believe that I am being called at this time to be a part of the Chapter that will be a visible instrument of peace.

Joyce Wilding



Currently, I serve as Wind, Water, Fire & Earth TSSF fellowship Convener in Diocese of TN, TN TSSF chaplain, team member of the TSSF Franciscan Action Network (FAN) group and a member of 2013 Provincial Convention program committee. In 2012, I became a TSSF spiritual director. I have written many articles about my Franciscan ministry and resources for Franciscan Times. Some of my resources are posted on TSSF Website.

I have served on the Advisory Board of Center for Religion and Environment (CRE) at Sewanee as well as promoted CRE's Opening The Book Nature events. From 2004-7, I conducted the Templeton Foundation ENTREAT science and religion grant proposal programs, co-led ENTREAT Local Societies Initiative at the University of the South; planned, hosted and facilitated the public Science & Religion: Renewal of Reverence series. I was Province IV Environmental Ministry (EM) leader for twenty Episcopal dioceses in nine southern states from 2000 to 2009 and EM leader at Christ Church Cathedral in Nashville, TN from 1998-2008. I have been an active member of the Institute on Religion in an Age of Science (IRAS); the Episcopal Ecological Network National Steering Committee and the Episcopal Science, Technology & Faith Committee. My "Water of Life" resources were posted on the 2009 Parliament of World's Religions web pages. Since 2009, I have been an active associate member of the Society of Ordained Scientists SOSc.

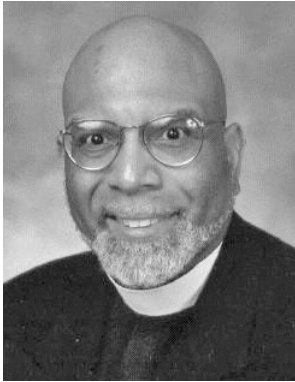
For past two years, I have used Journey of the Universe resources with my Franciscan programs including a film that reimagines the universe story and reframes the human connection to the cosmos.

In 2012, I developed and co-facilitated: Transfiguration of Christ and Creation: Journey to Wholeness - a weekend retreat that can be adapted to half day or whole day retreat. This retreat includes Franciscan spirituality principles and practices, as well as Franciscan Canticle Trail resources.

If elected to chapter, I would help the JPIC team promote these resources to fellowship groups who want to promote retreats that examine the biblical story of Jesus' Transfiguration "on a high mountain" and connect this with their spiritual longings and present-day concerns. These concerns are addressed with a blend of personal reflection and commentary on relevant theological and scriptural texts, literary works, music, and art. Transfiguration is central to transformation of human nature, and not just a conservation or preservation of natural resources but a transfiguration of all creation. When Transfiguration is celebrated as "feast of beauty" it re-energizes current discussions of Christianity's relation to environmental attitudes and policy. Transfiguration is an organizing principle that bridges the immanence of this world with the transcendence of that which is to come.

**Chapter Nominees (cont.)**

Masud Ibn Syedullah



Franciscan spirituality and the Third Order community have been at the core of my life for more than thirty years. My rule of life and Franciscan brothers and sisters mark my life and help focus me toward right relationship with God, people, and all of creation. During the past thirty years of profession I have served the Third Order in a range of ministries including being a member of Chapter, novice counselor, Area Chaplain, Provincial Chaplain, and Minister Provincial which provided me experience of much of the Third Order throughout the Province of the Americas, as well as other provinces of the Third Order.

Currently I serve as the Chair of the Joint Committee on Franciscan Unity (an ecumenical endeavor of the Third Order bringing together Anglicans, Roman Catholics, and Franciscans of other traditions to spread the spirit of love and harmony throughout the Franciscan family and to promote corporate ministry). I am also Secretary of the National Association of Episcopal Christian Communities (NAECC), the official network of communities similar to the Third Order, most of whom live in dispersed communities with a rule of life-long intent. NAECC works closely with the Conference of Anglican Religious Orders in the Americas (COROA) exploring ways religious communities can more fully serve to advance the mission of the Church. Consequently, I bring an awareness and understanding of the breath of Episcopal/Anglican religious communities within the Americas.

I believe my extensive life, work, and experience within the Third Order would be of value to the work of Chapter, and I would joyfully serve if elected.

**A New Era Begins***Harry Coverston*

On the morning of December 21, 2012, I found myself suddenly awake at 5:00 AM, unable to return to sleep. The morning's news on my iPad was full of hype about the end of the world and the hysteria – not to mention the parties – that attended it. But in the back of my mind, something was telling me that this shortest day of the year, this end of one solar revolution and beginning of the next, should be marked by something more than hype. It should be remembered with intentionality and celebrated.

And so I searched the internet for any observances of the solstice in Orlando. To my surprise, there was such an observance at a local independent coffee shop just down the street. I quickly rose, showered and headed out into what was a very cold morning for Central Florida.

The observance began at 5:30 in an open lot adjacent to the coffee house. A fire blazed in the center of the lot and blankets and chairs had been mercifully provided. The fire lent some merciful if modest warmth against the fierce northwest wind. Periodically a shower of sparks would whirl out of the fire making it impossible to sit too close. The back side of this cold front was blowing away the near summer weather of the previous week and reminding us that this was, after all, the first day of winter even here in Central Florida.

The organizer of the event began by asking the 30

people gathered to voice their intentions for the observance (and thus of the new year, the new era). Most offered the prayers one might expect in such a gathering: peace, new ways of being human, a new awareness of Mother Earth. While I shared their concerns, my own intentions, which remained in the silence of my heart, were much more immediate: to find the new locus for my life calling where I could devote my remaining life energies to something that mattered. One door was closing in my life. Where did the new door lie? How could my life make a difference?

*"To what are you calling me now, O Holy One?"*

And so we lapsed into silence awaiting the rising of the sun at 6:11 AM. Our officiant had asked us to note the irony of being intentionally still and silent in a world of constant noise, motion and distraction, a world that was busily rousing from its slumber and coming to life all around us. And so I sat in silence, my focus on my breathing interspersed with awareness of the vibrant colors in the sky overhead, the erratic and swift movements of flocks of birds joyously singing the new day into being and the sounds of rumbling school buses enroute to the nearby elementary school. All the while, a very cold north wind whistled in my ears beneath the hood of my sweatshirt.

**A Franciscan Meditation**

As the new era for our Mother Earth drew ever closer, I suddenly found my meditation taking the form of a familiar Franciscan prayer. And the more I contemplat-



ed it, the more I realized this was the perfect prayer for this moment. The following is an amplification of the meditation that ensued:

**O G-d, may we be instruments of your peace;**

*I pray on a morning where the destructive passions of humanity threaten to consume us. Brother kills brother in Syria village by village. A deep, sickly horror has settled over my own land where 20 school children lay dead in a rampage of violence in a nation addicted to the weapons of war. All the while, Mother Earth sends out her warning signals regarding humanity's abuse of her—melting ice caps, killer droughts and superstorms devastating urban centers. And yet we still have no ears to hear.*

*O G-d, there is so much anger, fear and injustice in the world we have constructed. There are so many places where your peace cannot be found. How do we, your people, find our way out of this morass of our own making? And what must we do to be agents of your peace?*

**where there is hatred, let me sow love;**

**where there is injury, pardon;**

**where there is doubt, faith;**

**where there is despair, hope;**

**where there is darkness, light;**

**and where there is sadness, joy.**

*We are called to be sowers of love. To whom are we now called to love? What hatreds must that love overcome? With what resources will we overcome them?*

*Where do I fail to love my neighbor as myself? On whose faces do I routinely fail to recognize the image of G-d? That image often lurks behind distressing disguises of poverty, addiction, and homelessness inclining me to judge them out of my presumed middle class superiority. It lurks behind disguises of existential sloth, mediocrity of spirit and vapidness of life inclining this driven professional to discount them out of my own work ethic which I presume applies to everyone. It lurks behind disguises of power, privilege and the arrogance that attends them inclining we who are subject to their domination to resent if not loathe them.*

*Where in your Good Creation, O G-d, do I routinely peer yet fail to see your goodness shining through, reminding me of the duties I have to all living beings bearing the image of the divine? Indeed, when I look in the mirror, where do I fail to love myself as I am, warts and all?*

*How do we become the means of pardon? How do we pardon those who have hurt us, sometimes*

**The Franciscan Times**  
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- Name and address changes
- Convocation Dates
- Profession & Novicing Dates
- Notification of Deaths

Send to Secretary of the Order:

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**For Chaplaincy Matters**

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cdom@att.net

When individuals and/or local TSSF fellowships create websites that reference TSSF, it should be clearly indicated that the site is not an official site of the Third Order, Society of St. Francis in the Americas. Additionally, a link should be included to [www.tssf.org](http://www.tssf.org).

*deeply, leaving scars that may not define us but never entirely fade away? How do we heal relationships sundered by violence, by greed, by unhealthy competitiveness, by addiction, by mistrust? How do we pardon ourselves for those things we have done which we said we'd never do, for that which violates our own deepest values that we recognize as imperative to our very lives?*

*How do we learn to trust in a culture which is often little more than a veneer of civility over an egocentric war of all against all sanctioned by our dominant economic and social philosophies? Where do we find the resources to engage the hard work of growth and moral development always required*

(continued on page 10)

**A New Era Begins (cont.)**

*to embrace an ever widening circle of care for the world's inhabitants? How do we make friends with Sister Death, whose embrace is our inevitable conclusion as finite human beings? How do we avoid grasping for sure-fire formulae to relieve our existential anxieties, readily casting into the fires of hell anyone who would dare remind us they are, after all, social constructions, the works of our own hands?*

*It is more than a little audacious to **hope** in the face of despair. And yet we must hope or be consumed by the darkness of despair.*

*How do we learn to hope as a people? Where do we find the hope from which the words and deeds needed to sustain life and insure our posterity of the same must arise? How do we separate such hope from wistful optimism viewed through rose-tinted lenses or the irresponsible demands upon unseen deities to deliver us from the disasters of our own making that we too often confuse for prayer?*

The sun is now rising just below the horizon to our east, lighting up the long, wispy streamers of clouds on the edge of this coming cold front. V-shaped formations of birds cross the horizon, headed for warmer climes to our south. My prayer continues.

*How do we become lucifers, bearers of **light**, in a world which has often preferred the comfort of darkness? What aspects of our individual lives and our lives together absolutely beg for enlightenment - the ideas, attitudes, behaviors that scream out for light to be shined upon them? To what darkness do we cling and where do we exacerbate that darkness with dishonesty, lying first to ourselves before we lie to others? And yet, what silence, darkness, stillness must we preserve in this world of constant noise and distraction to maintain even a semblance of sanity?*

*On this day of new beginnings, what do we leave behind in the old era? What ways of being human no longer serve us well? To what cherished hopes, dreams and memories have we clung for so long whose time for relinquishing our tight grip on them has come? How do we grieve for that loss and **sadness** in a healthy manner?*

*How do we cherish the **joy** that is life in this Good Creation? How can we bring joy to the lives of others enabling them to do the same? And what joys shall we celebrate this day, this year, this new era of our Mother Earth and our life together with her?*

A new era brings new ways of being human. We face many crises at this stage in our journey together, not

the least of which is our relationship to "this fragile earth, our island home." If we are to survive, indeed if we are to have the luxury of hoping to thrive, we have much yet to learn, much to leave behind and much we must change. All births are marked by pain. This one will certainly be no different.

We *homo sapiens* are here to tell our story this morning of a new era because we learned to cooperate and refused to engage in the endless and boundless zero sum competition that our culture would have us believe are normative for human beings. We discovered early on our proclivities to be *zoon politikon*, social animals, as well as our capacities to become *homo sapiens*, wise animals. This new era will test both of those fundamental lessons and the stakes could hardly be higher – our survival as a species and possibly the vast majority of our fellow animals as well.

What lessons stare us in the face this bitterly cold morning?

**Grant that I may not so much seek**

**to be consoled as to console;**

**to be understood, as to understand,**

**to be loved as to love;**

**for it is in giving that we receive,**

**it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,**

**and it is in dying [to ourselves] that we are born to eternal life.**

*Our lives together are served by our ability to **console** one another in those inevitable times of sadness. It is out of our own experiences of suffering that we become fonts of compassion for the other who now suffers, wounded healers as Henri Nouwen so well named them. And there is so much suffering to console in our world for those who have ears to hear and open arms to embrace.*

*Our lives are meaningful to the extent we are capable of and willing to reflect upon them to the degree to which we are able. It is only by coming to **understand** ourselves – embracing both our ideals and our failings as human beings, holding them in tension - that we can ever understand others. And it is only by our openness to the understandings offered by others and the reality checks they offer us that we maintain clear pictures of our own lives individually and collectively. There is an inordinate need for understanding in this time of polarization and demonization of the other.*

*We human beings generally like other people because; but we always **love** others in spite of. And some we love give us more than ample material to work with in the latter category. No doubt, we*

return that favor.

Coming to love ourselves, ALL of who we are, is the first step to loving our neighbors as ourselves. It is a life work and it is absolutely essential for a healthy humanity. We will need to continue learning it in this new era.

Giving flows from the font of a healthy, creative, productive human animal. To **give** to others is to meet our very purpose in life – to be generative. When the generativity of who we are overflows the bounds of our limited existences, our creativity flows out into a world sorely in need of what we were created to provide it.

As members of societies composed of and constructed by generative human beings, we are provided the matrix necessary to develop our own full potentials, benefiting from the fruits of our lives together. Without the gifts of others, we cannot become fully human; without our gift, the world is deprived of the opportunities to become more fully human our gifts provide them. This is a lesson we still struggle to comprehend in this new era.

If the duty to love one's neighbor as oneself is the Great Commandment, the mechanics of that commandment function only when the grease of forgiveness is routinely applied to the parts which make contact with others. The ability to **pardon** is essential to each of us to live with our very selves as we fall short of our own ideals. We rely on pardon to live with loved ones who routinely find minor ways to get under our skin and sometimes ways to wound us to the very core of our beings. Without the ability and willingness to pardon others, the whole project of being human simply collapses. We have much yet to learn about pardon. The new era provides new opportunities to learn.

As the night of the old solar year fades to a navy, then violet, then grey, dispelled by the scarlet, oranges, yellows then whites of the solstice, an era is dying. While our fellow animals face death without compunction, it is not something we readily embrace as human animals. Yet even as our culture is so desperate to deny it, **dying** has never been our enemy. It is the natural conclusion to a finite life cycle. It is the embrace of Sister Death as Brother Francis has taught us. So ends the old era. And this new era will some day come to its own end.

May this new era bring **love** of all being that overcomes hatreds, **pardon** that heals injured lives and permits our own healing as well, **trust** that holds at bay our existential anxieties, **hope** that does not simply await rescue, **enlightenment** of the darkest corners of our individual and collective

souls and **joy** that is celebrated amidst the sorrows we shoulder together. May we find **consolation** for our weary hearts, **understanding** of the mysteries of our own lives and those of others, **love** of all G-d's creation, and may we find ways to give birth to lives which become all they were created to be, itself a **gift** that a world so desperately awaits.

## RIP: Emris McKenzie of Tobago

### Part 1: Eulogy by her son Garvin McKenzie.

To everything there is a season. A time for every matter under heaven;

A time to be born, and a time to die

A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted

A time to weep and a time to laugh.

A time to mourn and a time to dance

A time to keep and a time to cast away.

Emris Henrietta Nancis McKenzie was the true definition of a mother, wife and friend; she never fell short in her role of being the ultimate support to anyone in need. Let's go into some of her roles and how they eventually had an effect on the lives of the people who were blessed to have her around.

We go back to her days as a child where she grew up in Good-wood (Tobago) among humble beginnings. Life for her, as she related to us, was hard. She often spoke of her long trek to school - a three mile walk, and how many buckets of water she had to *tote* from the nearest standpipe, which really wasn't so near when she described the distance. She often had the responsible role of caring for many of her eleven siblings and how hard it was without running water and electricity at home.

This lays the foundation for her dynamic and academy award-winning role as a wife, mother and grandmother. At the age of 25 she was taken from her village by my father and there she began her role as Mrs. McKenzie. She started her family which included myself, Nichelle, Kevin, and Kimoy.

As a mother, and I am speaking from the perspective of a son, but I know my other siblings could testify that she was nothing short of being *Mammy*. She had a strange but effective way of disciplining us. We had a nickname for her—the *wet clothes specialist*. When you did not listen to an instruction, or you were playing hard-of-hearing, while she was attending to her household's laundry, you would receive a stinging shot of a wet piece of clothing which besides surprising you, would have set you straight. She was never quick to administer physical corporal punishment, but she was quick to let you know that you were wrong and your fate was well-deserved.

She also showed full and equal support to each one of her kids in whatever we did. No idea was deemed as stupid to

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**RIP: Emris Mc Kenzie of Tobago (cont.)**

her. She stood in full defence of her children. She made sure that we never felt second to anyone. She encouraged us to use our abilities and talents. She also made it clear that, if at any point in our lives things seemed hopeless or downhill, she strongly encouraged us to pray.

Emris as a wife was second to none. Her husband could attest that she never fell short of her role and function. She took full control of her household especially her decorating and furnishings. Anyone who entered our home was mesmerized by the decor, especially her wide and versatile *ceramic zoo*. And trust me if any of those ceramic animals got damaged, that animal was repaired with water, egg, and flour.

I stand here today proud to boast about my mother's love for her church. How many of you could say that you are in every group in church? She was known to us as Church Nenny! Well, Emris was in Mothers' Union, St. Francis Assisi, World Day of Prayer, Vestry, Church Warden just to name a few. Just say *church*, and Emris was there.

Emris Mc Kenzie had one of the biggest and kindest of hearts I have ever seen. Our home in Lambeau was often considered, much to the annoyance of her husband, as the house of refuge for anyone she met who had a sad story. Because of her kindness displayed over the many years we knew her, there is no doubt in my mind that she is resting comfortably as an angel in heaven.

Through out her ordeal of sickness one thing stood out. Despite losing much of her weight she maintained a full head of hair and her dignity to the end. This is largely indicative of the majestic life she lived. She always took pride in looking good, dressing nice, and smelling good. She was always trendy and took pride in being fashionable.

I went into her room after her passing and noticed three brand new dresses she bought during her period of sickness. Though she was unable to go anywhere in these dresses she always had hope that she would be able to wear them. Actually we ensured that she got her wish of wearing at least one of these dresses today.

During her ordeal, instead of being bitter and depressed and indulging in self pity, she always had unrelenting faith in God that He would help her would overcome her sickness. She always looked forward to going to Trinidad to meet with her specialist who would often tell her "Emris, don't worry" and she would be happy to come home with the joyous news filled with optimism. Unfortunately her last trip confirmed to us the beginning of the end of her journey.

As we grieve our loss we need to remember what Emris has gained. St. Paul said that we don't grieve for her as if we had no hope because she will be with the Lord forever. Because her life belonged to Christ, Christ's unending life now belongs to her. Mom is with the God who made her. She is with the God who kept her pain free even in the final hours of her

struggle. She is with the God who gave her four children, five grandchildren and a devoted husband to care for her and love her to the end. She is with the God who loves her so much. He went to the cross to bear the weight of her sins so she can have hope.

She is with the God whom death could not hold in the tomb. She is with the God who lives, and she lives in glory. We all grieve but in Christ we grieve in hope.

My dear mother Emris, we all will forever love you, and hold and keep you dearly in our hearts. Rest, dear mother, until we see you again.

Thank you mother, and we love you.

May your soul rest in peace.

**Part 2: Remembrance by Pamela Redhead on behalf of the Trinidad/Tobago Fellowships**

Emris Mc Kenzie had been a professed member since February 1<sup>st</sup> 2003. She was well known, loved and involved in the local Franciscan community. We recall how willingly she accepted the role of Fellowship Convenor after the passing of Germaine Fell-Smith. She was like a sister to us, always smiling, hugging, welcoming us into her home and keeping in touch by telephone. She attended our Annual Convocations as often as she could. Secretary Lynn Herne aptly expressed:

...She has touched the lives of many. Her gift of music still rings in the hearts of those who had the joy of hearing her. God's call to "make a joyful noise" is one she took to heart and stories are told of her dedication in preparing her musical offerings—even in whispers late at night at convocations. Her friendliness and caring were ideal gifts to offer other tertiaries... As a "livewire", her enthusiasm and passion were true to the example our founding father St. Francis offered in his day.

After a long illness, Emris died on January 6<sup>th</sup> 2013. Members of the Tobago Fellowship were able to visit with her shortly before her passing and we are thankful for that. Millicent Ramcharan, Brenda Cummings and I attended her funeral service along with Ossilla James, Archdeacon Phillip Isaac and Revs. David and Dona Harrison of the Tobago Fellowship. Bishop Claude Berkley officiated along with Fr. Hilton Bonas, her parish priest. We all chorally said the anthem from the burial office then read a statement from the Caribbean Fellowships and one from Lynn Herne, offering condolences to the family. We remarked that the tributes paid to her were so many and so positive! The service itself was typical of her disposition...friendly and lively. We think the greatest tribute we can pay to her is to emulate her good qualities.

Emris, we will miss you, miss your chats, your laughter and singing. May her soul rest in peace. We quote these words as

indicative of her life:

*'Do all the good you can  
By all the means you can  
In all the ways you can  
In all the places you can  
At all the times you can  
To all the people you can  
As long as ever you can.'*

## From the Bursar

*Tom Johnson, Provincial Bursar*

The deadline to register for the 2013 Provincial Convocation is just around the corner. After June 1, registration is only on a space-available basis and will incur a \$100 surcharge.

The Planning Committee has put together a dynamic program with Bishop Mark MacDonald, Jeff Gollher and Elsie Dennis as our keynote speakers. Other special presentations include report of an exciting new program from Franciscan Action Network (FAN), a report on Ecumenical Accompaniment in the Palestinian territories, suggestions for local pilgrimages, ways of engaging young people in TSSF, and much more.

There's also plenty of time for casual fellowship, fun and "refreshment." There is a registration form in this issue, or you can easily register online at [www.tssf.org](http://www.tssf.org). See you in June!

### **Bursar for USA**

Tom Johnson  
214 Leafwood Way  
Folsom, CA 95630  
[tjohnsonret@gmail.com](mailto:tjohnsonret@gmail.com)

### **Bursar for Canada**

Gordon Arthur  
211-221 Seventh Street  
New Westminster, BC V3M  
3K2 Canada  
[Gordon@ecumenist.org](mailto:Gordon@ecumenist.org)

### **Bursar for Jamaica**

Brenda Stewart,  
1 Calcraft Ave., Kingston, 8, Jamaica;  
[bmae12@yahoo.com](mailto:bmae12@yahoo.com)



### **Bursar for Trinidad and Tobago**

Jacqueline Richards  
Lot 23, Blue Range Ave.  
Blue Range, Diego Martin,  
Trinidad, West Indies  
[jackieapex@yahoo.com](mailto:jackieapex@yahoo.com)

### **Bursar for Guyana**

Clarence Narain  
23 Prospect  
East Bank Demerara, Guyana  
[dioofguy@networksgy.com](mailto:dioofguy@networksgy.com)

## TSSF Publications

*The Principles of the Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis for Daily Reading* (\$2.50)

*Order of Admission* (\$1)

*Spiritual Director Guide* (\$2.50)

*Statutes* (\$1)

*Devotional Companion* (\$4.50)

*Forming the Life of a Franciscan* (2011) \$15.00

### Please Note:

The TSSF Directory is not to be used for solicitations of any kind that are unrelated to Third Order, Province of the Americas.

## RIP: Gage Colby

Gage Colby was a St Paul, Minnesota boy. He was the son of Woodard and Ruth Colby and was born at Miller Hospital. He grew up on Iglehart on Pill Hill. His brother, Roger, died when he was only two days old so the kids who lived on Pill Hill were Gage's siblings. He attended St Mark's Catholic School and loved the nuns who taught him. He attended Mariah Sanford Junior High and then went on to Central High School, Class of 1940. His friends at Central were his friends for life. Gage worked at Hove's Grocery, loved going to the Grandview Movie Theater, sledding on the hills at the Town and Country Club, was a member of the youth group at St Paul's on the Hill, and thought the Prom Ball Room was swell.

After High School he became a student at the University of Minnesota, signed up with the ROTC and finished his Bachelor Degree and Doctor of Dental Surgery in 6 years before being sent to his first duty station. The commanding officer took one look at him and exclaimed, "They're sending us babies now?!!" Gage didn't like to be without something to do so in his spare time he studied law and got his law degree too. His Naval career began at U of M and his duty stations included: Rhode Island, New Jersey, Brooklyn, NY, Great Lakes Naval Training Station, Ill, Port Lyautey, French Morocco, Chincoteague, VA, Norfolk, Va, Annapolis, MD, The Bureau of Medicine in Washington, DC, Andrews Air Force Base, retirement from Great Lakes in 1970, and back home to St Paul, Minnesota. While in the Navy he not only was a dental officer but also was the judge on Courtmartial boards as well as acting as the protestant clergy while on board ship.

Gage married Sylvia Chaney in 1950 while stationed in Brooklyn, New York. Their twin sons, Christopher

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**RIP: Gage Colby (cont.)**

and Gregory were born in 1952 and Katharine was born in 1954 while they were at Great Lakes Naval Training Station. In 1954 the family moved to Africa and returned in 1956 with Rebecca. Gage was a very involved father and was so proud of his four children. Sylvia died in 1978. In 1979 he married Virginia Manke, an old friend from Central High School. Suddenly Gage found himself sur-

rounded by more children, then grandchildren and finally great-grandchildren. He loved having lots of family.

After retirement from the Navy, Gage opened a private dental practice in the Hamm Bldg in St Paul, and was an active member of the American Academy of General Dentistry and the Minnesota Academy of General Dentistry. Gage volunteered many hours providing free dental care to the communities that needed it. Gage was an active member in the Rotary, an active member of St Paul's on the Hill, a member of the Third Order, Society of St. Francis as well as managing the family farms, all of which he continued after his retirement in 1995. To keep busy then he took up painting.

He had the best time being a volunteer lighthouse inspector for the Great Lakes Region. Gage was a life-long journal keeper and student. He liked good food and good beer! He worked at his spiritual growth and believed fully in the power of positive thinking.

People liked Gage because he liked people. He was a wonderful husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, great grandfather and friend. Also known as Gage N. Colby...the N stood for No Middle Name.

**RIP: Barbara L. Lawton**

Barbara L. Lawton died Feb. 28, 2013, at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital in New London, Connecticut.

She was born on June 3, 1940, in West Chester, Pa., and was predeceased by her parents, M. Elizabeth and Lawrence E. Lawton.

She is survived by a sister, Beverly L. Bigler and husband, Robert, of Ocean Pines, Md.; two children, John C. Chattin of Ledyard and Dianne T. Orton and husband, Douglas, of Conway, S.C.; and her beloved grandchildren, Grace and Alec Chattin and Heather

and Joel Orton. She is also survived by her former husband and love of her life, J. Craig Chattin, Sr. of Aiken, S.C.

She had been active in her church, St. James Episcopal Church, New London, and served as Eucharistic Lay Minister, Parish Clerk, Chalice Bearer, choir member, and helper in the Jumble Shoppe. Ms. Lawton was a member of the Third Order, Society of St. Francis and tried to model her life on the principles of the saint before her health failed.

**Peace that Passes Understanding: Hope and Healing for Anxious Times by Rick Bellows**

*A Review by John Brockmann*

Rick and his wife Danni have been dear friends of mine in TSSF for many years. Many of us in the Northeast Convocations and at the New Orleans Provincial Convocation recall Rick and Danni with their two children in tow. Rick has been known to many of us for the TSSF liturgies he has composed including the "Eucharist for Francis and Clare" in our *Devotional Companion*, and the new liturgy for "Celebrating the Anniversary of a Profession," as well as his occasional pieces here in the *Franciscan Times* in which he integrates his nature photography with his poems and prayers. A big problem, however, with presenting his work in the *Times* is that we cannot reproduce the beauty and complexity of color. This book of his work does not have that limitation!

*The Peace that Passes Understanding: Hope and Healing for Anxious Times* (2012) is a collection of his nature photography with his poems and prayers. (142 pages; CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (December 10, 2012) ISBN-10: 1481066757; ISBN-13: 978-1481066754. Available from Amazon and other online outlets for \$29.95.) Here's the description from Amazon.com:

*In August of 2008, photographer, priest, and poet, Richard Bellows, began sending cards of his photographs and written reflections to Laurel, a woman living with cancer. Because she found the cards "have the awesome power to bring peace and a tranquility that allows for healing," Richard expanded the card list to include others, including Paul and Jodi. The cards meant so much to Jodi, even though she was nearly blind, she would take her favorites pinned to a bulletin board whenever she would be admitted to the hospital. Their daughter wrote, "Rick's cards...gave us the strength we needed from God to continue on our journey. The cards were truly cherished treasures for a very difficult time leading up to and after my parents' deaths." Now collected in this book, you, too, can find hope and healing in these pages. As a Christian inspired by St. Francis, Richard sees God in the world—in creation, in people, and in community. He encourages an open minded Christian faith that notices God sending us messages of love and wisdom—gifts wrapped in the beauty of nature. By unwrapping these gifts we find hope and healing. The author is a member of the Third Order, Society of St. Francis, an Episcopal religious order. He started his career as a geologist, and finished as a parish priest after nearly thirteen years serving as rector of parishes. At age 42 he was diagnosed*

*with Parkinson's Disease which forced him to retire and move at age 48. Richard, his wife, and two children (when they aren't away at college), live in Westfield, Massachusetts, where he gardens, takes pictures, and writes.*

All his pictures are exquisite ranging from the very, very close-up on nature to the wide-angle view of a horizon at dawn or dusk. His prose poems that accompany the pictures also range from just one or two lines to several pages. And yet despite the variety of text and picture, each is anchored in a very specific date and place in the church calendar (Easter, Epiphany, Advent, etc.), and the dates and pictures and prose poems take us through four years of Rick's life from 2008 to 2012. All of this arises from Rick's search for the signs of God's presence and peace in his life so that he and we may become "signs of God welcomed into our lives—living evidence of grace and healing."

Rick invites the reader to join him in welcoming the mysteries of peace, hope, and trust, and it's an invitation that we all should accept.

## Bring Your Local Pilgrimage Posters to Convocation!

*John Brockmann*

You are invited to bring posters created by fellowships and area convocations displaying pilgrimages that could be made by professed members from other parts of the Province. We are going to try to keep these pilgrimages inexpensive by perhaps offering pilgrims a place to stay in our own homes while they make their journey. Working collaboratively with Roman Catholic Franciscans and Ecumenical Franciscans is heartily suggested. Consider reading some of these books to help you design something in your area :

- Phil Cousineau, *The Art of Pilgrimage: The Seeker's Guide to Making Travel Sacred*
- Edward Cletus Sellner, *Pilgrimage (Exploring a Great Spiritual Practice)* --( especially Chapter 5: How to Do It: Common Elements of Pilgrimage)
- Jim Forest. *The Road to Emmaus: Pilgrimage as a Way of Life*

### Consider these Ideas When Creating Your Local Pilgrimage Experience for Others

Karen M. Wyatt, MD Blog (<http://www.karenwyattmd.com/sacredpilgrimage.htm>)

The spiritual impact of the pilgrimage is derived from several factors, including the journey itself, the meaning attached to the sacred site, and the intention of the pilgrim who travels there.

The act of traveling to a distant place is important because it requires effort and some sacrifice just to get there. If you are willing to go to the trouble of making the journey, then you are probably open to the Spirit.

The sacred site itself is important because it holds meaning and history for the people who have valued it. Anthropologist Martin Gray has traveled to many of these sacred places and has found several characteristics that are common to all of sacred places:

*The first main category—Earth influences—relates to the geophysical characteristics of the sacred sites, including geothermal activity, the presence of underground water, and ultrasound. The aesthetic qualities of the sacred sites can also be included in this category. Beautiful and unusual surroundings have always had transformative effects on humans. A good example here would be the Grand Canyon.*

*The second category of factors contributing to the power of sacred sites concerns the design, construction, and ornamentation of the structures that humans have placed there. A particularly fascinating example is the sacred geometry used in the construction of the temples, mosques and cathedrals at certain locations. A good example here would be the National Cathedral.*

*A third factor contributing to the potency of the sacred sites is the concentrated power of human intention. As photographic film records the energy of light and audiotapes record the energy of sound, the Earth itself can record the energy and intention of humans who have visited a sacred site. Within the shrines and sanctuaries, pilgrims have gathered for years; their chanting and praying have continuously charged the fields with love and peace, healing and divinity.*

But the factor that is most significant in determining the outcome of a pilgrimage is the mindset of the spiritual seeker who travels to a holy place. The one who benefits most from such a journey has first done internal work to clear a space within to allow the spark of new growth and creativity that can be inspired by the sacred location.

A journey to a famous pilgrimage site is a rare opportunity that we would be lucky to attain even once during this lifetime. But, it is actually possible to achieve the same spiritual benefits by making a mini-pilgrimage right in your own community. There are likely to be many sites of breathtaking beauty and rich history near your town, which can be spiritually uplifting and inspiring to visit. Choose a place that has spiritual significance for you. Consider whether or not you prefer to be in an isolated area or one frequented by other people. You might also choose a place where you or a loved one had a special experience in the past. One of the biggest advantages a local mini-pilgrimage has over a long trek to a famous sacred site in a foreign country is that you can go on multiple adventures in one year.

## Province of the Americas, Provincial Convocation-June 25-30, 2013

Marilynn Mincey, *ProvCon2013 Committee Chair*

Coming together for a Provincial Convocation is much more than just another meeting. It is a grace-filled time of relaxation, fellowship, celebration and learning. It is a time to greet old friends and get to know new ones. It is often a life-changing experience especially for those who live where no fellowship exists to nurture their spiritual journey.

We know that a gathering of all of the members of TSSF of the Province of the Americas is always exciting because it brings together many who can finally put a face to a name we have prayed for in our Directory.

Here is another invitation so you can save the dates on your calendar and begin the planning process.

**Theme:** *Franciscans Reconciling with First Peoples and Sacred Lands.*

**Dates:** June 25-30, 2013

**Location:** America's Best Value Inn and Suites-- Shakopee, Minnesota. Shakopee is a suburb of Minneapolis and you would fly into Minneapolis Airport where a shuttle service will be available to take you and your party directly to the hotel. **Do not contact the hotel directly.** To register please use the Registration Form included.

**Cost:** shared room (2) persons including all meals (except Thursday dinner) for 5 days, \$415.00 per person; for a single room including all meals dinner for 5 days, \$615.00 per person.

**Scholarships:** available for those who need financial assistance. The requests for scholarship assistance should be sent to the Bursar Tom Johnson.

**Registration:** available online and by regular mail. If you have no computer access we will get the information to you by regular mail.

**Speakers:** **The Rt. Rev Mark MacDonald** National Indigenous Bishop of the Anglican Church of Canada; **The Rev Canon Jeff Gollhofer** Environmental Representative for the Worldwide Anglican Communion to the United Nations since 1991; and **Elsie Dennis**, Co-Chair, First Nations Committee, Diocese of Olympia; Executive Committee on Anti-Racism (TEC).

For those who wish to make this a family holiday, Minnesota is: north and west of Chicago; bordered on the north by the Province of Ontario, Canada; bordered on the east by Wisconsin and Michigan and Lake Superior and Lake Michigan; bordered on the west by the Dakotas. If you Google Minneapolis/ St Paul (the twin cities) you will find many interesting things to do. It will be early summer in the area so the days should be warm (but not tropical) and the evenings cool (but not cold).

## Convocation Poetry?

*Beverly Hosea*

We are looking for your haiku. Rick Bellows is putting together slides for projection during worship and other gatherings for Provincial Convocation. He has requested some Franciscan haiku poems. So whether or not you have registered to attend, send your beautiful, little creations to Rick at Rick Bellows <rickbellows@yahoo.com>. Yes, even if you haven't signed up yet; it's not too late!

Also on the Wednesday evening of the Provincial

Convocation our fellowship time will include a POETRY SLAM! So bring some of your poetic creations with you. Or you can write something now to bring with you. Or bring a favorite piece of poetry by one of your favorite poets that fits our Convocation theme (*Franciscans Reconciling with First Peoples and Sacred Land*) or is Franciscan in flavor. .

## Musicians and Singers, We Need You!

Looking for musical talent for the Provincial Convocation in June--choristers and instrumentalists wanted! Please contact Jocelyn Linnekin at [JLinnekin@comcast.net](mailto:JLinnekin@comcast.net).

## We Also Need Deacons!

Looking for deacons for the Provincial Convocation! Please contact Anita Catron Miner at [anitacatron@gmail.com](mailto:anitacatron@gmail.com).





## Convocation Store

*Bett Wood*

Do you have anything you want to sell at the Book / Gift store at Provincial Convocation? We have plenty of space available for the store, with room for 25 exhibitors - - or even more, as not everyone will need an entire table.

There will also be room for educational displays. Tables will be provided, and we will have a cashier who will collect all monies, add on sales tax and deduct the 10% which goes to the Order, and send you the balance after things are over. You will receive credit for a donation to the Order in the amount of that 10%. This system has worked well in the past, so we will continue to use it.

PLEASE let me know if you are bringing items—it does help to organize things if we know what to expect.

All items will be on consignment, and the people bringing (or shipping) them will be responsible for getting them there and removing them at the end of the convocation. If you just leave them behind, there is no telling what we might do with them!

Details for shipping arrangements are available for those who might need them.

IMPORTANT: all items for sale need to have prices on them, and the name of the person who is selling them. The cash register will then be able to keep track of what is sold and who is selling it, as well as computing the sales tax—in other words, it will make the rough places smooth.

The store will not be open during the major events of the Convocation, but whenever there is free time—come see us!

For more information, contact me at [bettwood@bettwood.com](mailto:bettwood@bettwood.com), or at the address given in our directory.

There will be books by some of our TSSF authors, who will be happy to sign the books you buy.

## Latest Information on the Provincial Convocation

*Dianne Aid*

While pulling together the overall program for Provincial Convocation, I was overjoyed to realize the great diversity of gifts and passions of our Order's members. We will have a chance to share and learn from each other in our work we carry out in our home communities, and in our vocation as Third Order Franciscans.

Our three featured speakers will give us windows of understanding into the rich history and culture of First Peoples within our Province of the Americas, and the challenges these communities face today as a result

of conquest and greed. These same dynamics are also causing great harm to God's nurturing Creation .

Small group discussions will offer a time to reflect on what we have heard, and evaluate our Franciscan Rule and Principles as a way to move forward in healing and reconciliation. We will encourage the use of Talking Sticks – if you have an object you would like to use (something small to be passed from speaker to speaker), please bring it along.

Afternoons will have a time to relax, as well as gather in smaller workshops to examine various aspects of our work within the Order. We have had to schedule two sessions each afternoon, and it will be hard to choose between the offerings. Hopefully we can find a way to share information from the various sessions. There will be time for Formation Counselors, Chaplains, Fellowship Conveners, Fellowship Development and ways to care for the professed. Workshops enhancing our exploration of the theme of Provincial Convocation will address environmental racism, Franciscan Spirit and Social Action, Pilgrimage, Care for Creation and Conflict in the Holy Lands.

We will hear from Chapter, The First Order Brothers and Sisters, and updates from brother and sister sojourners in other Franciscan religious communities in the Province.

We have several special events (optional) planned for the evenings—most will not want to miss them. There will be a Poetry Slam, and on Thursday we have an opportunity to visit and eat a meal at The First Nations Kitchen at All Saints Indian Mission in Minneapolis. This is a show-case ministry of The Diocese of Minnesota, which provides organic, sustainable meals primarily using the harvests from local tribal lands and offering them to the homeless. Tickets will be \$25.00, which includes dinner and roundtrip transportation to Minneapolis. Please email me at [sanmateo921@yahoo.com](mailto:sanmateo921@yahoo.com) if you plan on going—we will need to give the Kitchen a two-day advance head count. Also, indicate if you are vegan or vegetarian.

We plan an evening of Lament, a chance to hear stories, drumming and move towards deep healing of community wounds. The model for our Lament will be based on The Service of Public Lament held at the 2012 Episcopal Church General Convention. (Elsie Dennis, one of our three speakers, was very involved in the Lament's creation.)

There will be lighter moments, such as a Henry The 8<sup>th</sup> Ice Cream Social, movies and popcorn, Franciscan Jeopardy, and, FUN, FUN, FUN TIL DADDY TAKES THE T-BIRD AWAY at Julie's Sock Hop.

## Preliminary Schedule, Provincial Convocation, June 25-30, Minnesota

	Tues. 6/25	Wed. 6/26	Thur. 6/27	Fri. 6/28	Sat. 6/29	Sun. 6/30
7:30		Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer
8:00		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9:00		9:00 Address Mark MacDonald	9:00 Address Jeff Golliher	9:00 Address Elsie Dennis	9:00 Panel of Speakers	9:00 wrap up plenary session
					Plenary sharing from each group's notes on community bulletin board	
9:45		9:45 Break	9:45 Break	9:45 Break		
10:00		10:00 Address Elsie Dennis	10:00 Address Mark MacDonald	10:00 Address Jeff Golliher		10:00 Eucharist
		10:45 break	10:45 break	10:45 break		
11:00		11:00 breakout groups	11:00 breakout groups	11:00 breakout groups		
11:45		11:45 break	11:45 break	11:45 break	11:45 break	11:45 break
Noon	Registration From 1-5 pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00						Departure
1:30		1:30 Address Jeff Golliher	1:30 Address Elsie Dennis	1:30 Address Mark MacDonald	1:30 Chris Cowan Other Presentations	
2:15		2:15 break 1 hour	2:15 break 1 hour	2:15 break 1 hour		
3:15		3:15 Other meetings*	3:15 Other meetings*	3:15 Other meetings*		
4:15		4:15 break	4:15 break	4:15 break	4:00 Eucharist	
4:30		4:30 Eucharist	4:30 Eucharist	4:30 Eucharist		
6:00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner out	Dinner	Dinner	
			Transportation to			
7:30	Welcome; Orientation	Other reports, fellowship, networking	First Nations Kitchen	Other reports, LAMENT	Other reports, fellowship, networking	
	Fellowship	Compline	Compline	networking	networking	
	Compline			Compline	Compline	
9:00						

**Afternoon sessions** Wednesday through Friday: one a day: Formation Counselors, Fellowship Conveners, Area Chaplains

**Other meetings:** Franciscan Action Network (FAN); Secular Franciscan Order (OFS); Franciscans International; Engaging Young Adults in TSSF, John Brockmann (Pilgrimage), Joyce Wilding and Pam Moffat, (JPIC)

Evening sessions: begin with short plenary for announcements, First Order reports, Chapter reports, followed by a variety of optional fellowship activities in the Social Gathering Space with snacks and drinks provided by us:

Franciscan Jeopardy, Poetry Slam, Franciscan movies, individual conversation groups

Early morning: Meditation from 6 AM till 7:25 in the Chapel, come for as long or as short a time as you like.

Breakfasts: Pool-side, casual, with other hotel guests, served from 6:30 to 9:30.

## Provincial Convocation -- June 25 – 30, 2013

Americas Best Value Inn & Suites + Canterbury Inn      1244 Canterbury Road, Shakopee, MN 55379

### REGISTRATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, ST zip/Province Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Rates per person: (please see note at bottom of page):

Double occupancy    \$415     I will room with \_\_\_\_\_  Please assign me a roommate.  
Choose:  2 Queen beds  1 King bed

Single occupancy    \$615

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I wish to apply for a scholarship in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_. (maximum \$385)

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I'm including \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the Convocation Scholarship Fund.

I have enclosed my check in the total amount of: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form to:

REGISTRAR  
214 Leafwood Way  
Folsom, CA 95630

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For questions or further information please contact the Provincial Registrar: Diane Jones (604) 325-5483

DO NOT CONTACT THE HOTEL DIRECTLY. All registration matters are handled by the Provincial Registrar.

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Are you bringing children? Number \_\_\_\_ Ages \_\_\_\_\_ Do you want childcare?  Yes  No

Do you have any special needs? Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to pre-order TSSF T-shirts? Sm #\_\_ Med #\_\_ Lg #\_\_ Xlg #\_\_ XXlg #\_\_

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\*\* NOTE: Registrations received after May 30 will be processed on a space-available basis only, and will incur a \$100 surcharge.

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**Third Order of the Society of St. Francis  
American Province, Inc.**

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Send in your contributions for the Fall 2013 issue by October 4

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