

Franciscan Times

November, 1984

Maybe this newsletter should be called the "Not on Times," because I seldom seem to get it together by the time I intend to. Thanks to everyone who has sent in Fellowship news, personal news, poetry, thoughts, book reviews. I hope you'll all continue to share in this way. The next issue of the Franciscan Times will probably come out in January, so the deadline would be at the end of this year. My address is 2020 Hauser Blvd., Helena, MT 59601. Send your sharings, and they will appear in the next issue.

--Joanne Maynard



FROM THE CHAPLAIN

What a superb Chapter we had! At last we have tried to deal with the fact that looking after seven hundred brothers and sisters requires a full time person. Housing and other factors will fall into place, but we are going to need more than what is in the proposed budget for a full time Chaplain to become a reality.

The timing is crucial. My work at St. Mary's is gradually coming to an end. I am able to offer myself to you for this ministry, but as you can understand, I can only do so until the first of the year. After that time, I will have to make my own arrangements for a new work. You will shortly receive a white paper on the Chaplaincy which contains my vision of what is possible. I will be sending it out at my own expense. If everyone makes a pledge, we can do this with ease. The key lies with an increase of giving from those who are able, but it absolutely depends on those of you who have not pledged, making some kind of commitment.

Heretofore, we have never thought of money-raising as an activity of fellowships, but I throw the idea out to you. In Australia, part of the tertiary budget is raised by a Franciscan fair. My women's group last year raised \$4,000, and it has only eight elderly members. I wonder if larger fellowships couldn't raise a thousand dollars or more with ease.

I am willing to step out in trust and faith and put my livelihood and well being at your mercy. You are being asked to make a much less precarious response, but one which promises a bright future for us and what we can do for the Church as witnesses to the Gospel life.

We have tertiaries in nine countries in this Province. Many of these are in the Third World. I think it is ironic that the little group in Trinidad, a country where prices are two to three times higher than they are here, with incomes much lower, has paid Jackie Richards's travel expenses and made a contribution to our postage costs. Some of us are not even giving out of our affluence, while they have been giving of their substance. I beg you to pray about this very seriously.

Faithfully yours,

The Rev. Robert J. Goode, Jr.
Provincial Chaplain



MONTANA:

An unusual Third Order get-together occurred this summer when Clint Best, assistant controller at the Episcopal Church Center in New York City, travelled all the way to Helena, Montana to check on procedures at the office of the Diocese of Montana. That's where I work, and so I was notified of his impending arrival. I didn't realize Clint was a Tertiary until I was sticking labels on newsletters and saw his name there.

It was especially good to be able to welcome a fellow Franciscan to the Big Sky Country. Of course, he had work to do, but he got time to see a bit of our town. I wanted to be sure that he saw the "real" Helena, and so I took him to the "No Sweat Cafe" for lunch!

Also, Ann Haggett and I met, very briefly, at the convention of the Diocese of Montana, which was held at a wonderful resort in Bigfork. Ann came down in order to sing with a group who had been practicing all summer with new kinds of music, and hymns from the 1982 hymnal. The leader for the convention workshops was George Mims, and we surely enjoyed him and his wife Leslie, and all the wonderful music.

--Joanne Maynard

From a letter: "I am totally revved up, as I am not long back from a fantastic retreat in British Columbia! I mean I have not really ever been that close to Christ. The place is beautiful, and since it is a silent situation, it is most restful and reflective....I am so enthusiastic about this place that I am encouraging everyone I the world to go!..."

"The White Train went through Whitefish last week. An eerie experience. This is the first time I've been to the tracks to try and maintain a prayerful presence for peace. I really didn't know what to expect, but it was more frightening than I'd anticipated. Fortunately, we have a very caring group here..."

--Ann Haggett

(If you want to know more about Marywood, the retreat center, you can write to Ann.)



OREGON:

The Fellowship met on November 4 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss several matters: a name for the group, frequency of meetings, who can attend an area convocation in British Columbia next summer, and any problems with Rules of Life that anyone is experiencing.

Fr. Lindsay Warren celebrated the Eucharist at noon, and a shared lunch followed. In the afternoon a serious discussion of what the Prayer of St. Francis means to us and how we can implement it in our lives was held.


All this took place at the home of Pat Mahon in Portland.



ST. CLARE FELLOWSHIP:

They met at St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle in July to discuss a chapter of Richard Foster's book, Celebration of Discipline. In August, they met for a picnic at Gloria Goller's summer place on Hood Canal. And in September, they again met at the Cathedral for a discussion of "Study" from the Foster book.

Tertiary Mark Earl was united in marriage with Nancy Van Hees on August 4. They honeymooned in Hawaii.



A REPORT ON WESTERN CONVOCATION AT THE BISHOP'S RANCH
from Carole Hoerauf

The theme of the Convocation was "Inward Pilgrim, Outward Servant." The topic on the first evening focussed on the journey inward; spirituality, Rule, daily devotions, study and meditation. Various panel members told of their experiences with prayer as leading from loneliness to transcendence with God, as a vehicle for continuous change, as listening to God, as healing power from God. One member spoke of God speaking through her dreams. Another is learning to thank God for all things, including the "comeuppances!"

Next morning, small group discussions gave everyone a chance to share how he or she opened to God and experienced him, not only through Christ, but also as a Spirit in Christ. In the afternoon a Tertiary who is a student of Eastern healing practices shared her knowledge about opening to God and his energy. She stressed the need to be grounded to the earth or centered in Christ before uniting with God in heaven.

The group was treated to a Maia Aprahamian production of "Brother Francis," followed by Evening Prayer/Eucharist and the life profession of Gary Ost. And that was followed by dinner and a party.

Sunday's discussion centered on the journey outward as God's servants through ministry, living the Gospel every day. A Eucharist and renewal of vows followed.

Then it was lunch and planning for next year. Dorothy Voigt will be coordinator for the 1985 Convocation, to be held again at the Bishop's Ranch. Mary Ann Jackman was thanked for her work on this year's meeting, and also others who helped, as well as to Fr. Joe and his wife Phoebe.

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SOUTH BAY FELLOWSHIP, CALIFORNIA

--Dorothy Voight

Louise De Clercq was received as a Novice on July 15th in a warm family setting with newly ordained Fr. Michael Munro celebrating the Eucharist.

August was a bittersweet month. We rallied around Betsy Jeavons and helped her prepare to move their household to a lovely ranch in Willits. We shall miss her immediate presence in the fellowship, but are glad for her family's good fortune in locating in such a lovely area. She and her husband Bill are operating a mail order seed business to help fund lifegiving agricultural education efforts overseas.

The last Sunday of the month, four of us from the fellowship planned and presented a worship service to the inmates of a San Jose mental facility. This yearly event is always marked with great joy . . . lots of singing and never ending new experiences!

In October we are looking forward to celebrating Franciscan with our Roman Catholic Secular Order brethren. A day of recollection has been planned at the Poor Clare Convent in Los Altos, and we have been invited to share this joyous and prayerful experience with them. Lucky Fr. Michael and Machrina will be in Europe during this time, but we will be united by prayer none the less!



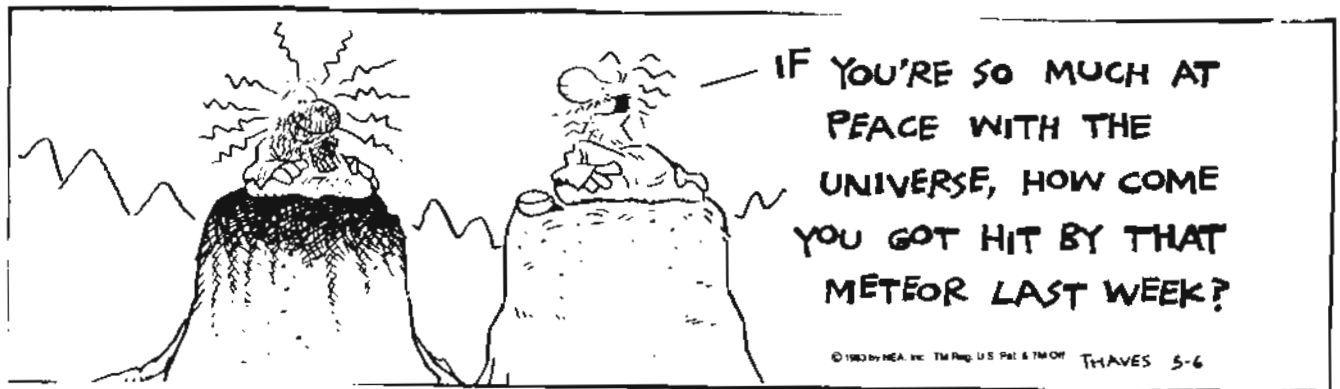
LAND OF THE SKY FELLOWSHIP

Kitten Gray, Heber Peacock, Jody Scronce (visitor), Cleaves Johnson, Betty Ball. David Nard is behind the camera. On the far right, of course, is our friend, Francis.



THE LAND OF THE SKY FELLOWSHIP met on July 21 at the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley, North Carolina. David Nard is Convenor, Kitten Gray is Co-Convenor, and Betty Bell is Secretary. Other members are Vivian Stanton, the Rev. Heber Peacock, Cleaves Johnson, Roy Hoffman and Joan Marshall. Spouses and guests attended the meeting, and David Nard brought his guitar for a songfest.

A retreat was held in August at the Lakeside home of Heber Peacock. The theme was "Mystery." Retreat leader was the Third Order area Chaplain, the Rev. Lawrence Hardy of Aurora, NC.



NORTHEAST AREA CONFERENCE: Helen Webb reports:

The Northeast Area Conference was a memorable experience - a relaxed, enjoyable time. Thirty people attended, including five Friars, and two aspirants. The Theme was the Canticle of the Sun, and people had been asked to send in meditations. These were shared informally during the weekend. Br. Justus, SSF gave a slide show, and Br. Jon, SSF a puppet show, on the theme.

DREAM OF A CANVASS PAST

I HAD A terrible dream that the Lord took my Sunday offering and multiplied it by ten, and that became my weekly income. In no time I had to give up my car, my house payments, little luxuries, and even my necessities. What can a man do on \$10 a week? If the Lord took your offering, multiplied it by ten, and made that *your* weekly income, where would *you* be?—St John's, Mason City, Diocese of Iowa

Have you pledged to the Third Order?

This note is to share the good news that Austin, TX has a new T.O. Fellowship! It was ably formed by Jean Bear who had been spending some time doing graduate studies at the University of Texas. She has regrettably returned to Hawaii. Our kick-off event was a luncheon served by Lisa Rogers, in honor of the visit of her sister, Terry Rogers, and a perfect opportunity to organize new and on-going interest in the Third Order. With the arrival of the Catrons from Winter Park, FL, there were enough people officially to form a Fellowship. At one of our first meetings Bill Beare was noviced at St. John's Church in Austin, and we have been meeting monthly since then.

The Dallas Fellowship (Sharon Sandow, convener) was kind enough to invite us to their retreat and luncheon during Lent, at which time we had the pleasure of meeting members and associates there. David was happy to meet Loyd Morris, one of his counselees, up to this point, whom he had known only through correspondence. The fact that Texas is such a large state (!) does create some distance problems, therefore we have tried to rotate Fellowship meeting locations, so that we can include everyone in the Texas-Louisiana-Oklahoma area.

At the July meeting, held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Richard Lillard in Temple, TX, we shared an enlightening slide presentation and talk on the "Shroud of Turin" by Father Robert Ripson. He and his wife have recently moved from Louisiana to Alvarado, TX where he is vicar of St. Anthony's Church and a regional Field Representative for the Presiding Bishop's Fund on coordinating dioceses and refugee sponsorship. At this meeting many of our friends from Dallas and Houston joined us.

The next Austin meeting will be held at David and Anita's on September 8 at 11 a.m., and we look forward to future joint meetings with nearby fellowships both on the local and regional convocational level.

Love and Peace,



Anita Catron
Convener



THE "PANHANDLE FELLOWSHIP"

Greetings from the deep South! We are planning a St. Francis Day, Saturday, the 6th of October, at St. Francis Church, Gulf Breeze, Florida, starting with the blessing of all animals, picnic lunch, craft show, special table for Franciscan information, etc.; ending with Eucharist and a short talk by myself on the three Orders and why one should want to join them. June and myself and Myron Boice will renew our vows at this time.

Received information on retreat in Tampa, but due to our new positions, we cannot attend. I have just started working for the Navy as an optician, back in my own field. And June has applied for a job on base hospital as children's clinic nurse. As we work in Florida, our plans are to move over as soon as we sell our places in Alabama. I will keep you posted on our progress.

Peace,

Jim Costigan

A LETTER FROM TERRY ANDREWS:

So many Franciscans have been praying for my son Bruce that I would like to let them know that he has finished his chemo-therapy and, except for a few side effect, which time will take care of, is -- Thanks Be To God -- through with treatment. The doctors will follow him frequently for a period, but they have actually used the word CURE for him.

This is one of those clear incidences where the prayers and work of man have certainly taken part in God's miracle. Consider that only a few years ago, a diagnosis of Hodgkin's disease was a sentence of death. Today, with our diagnostic procedures possible, the medical world feels confident enough to say that there is no sign of the disease in a body and probably will not be.

Realizing the paradox of the development of the atomic bomb and all that has occurred in the art of warfare since, juxtaposed against the benefits of electron microscopic surgery which enables limbs to be replanted, tumors to be removed, not to mention the many new procedures done on infants and even before birth, brings true cause to rejoice in God's action through man, as well as a call to work in prayer and action to see that the knowledge and capability that he bestows is used according to his will.

Thanks once more for your help. Hope things are going well with you. The world seems to bright to me today that it is hard to realize that there are those who do walk in sadness and dark. May our Lord shower them with his love and light.

With love for you, your loved ones and all of God's creation.

Your sister in Christ,
Terry

HAWAII FELLOWSHIP --

- * Dorothy Nakatsuji will celebrate the first anniversary of her ordination as a Deacon on November 11th. She was also elected Area Chaplain for the Hawaiian Islands.
- * Bob Moore has joined YWAM (Youth With A Mission) and is serving as Fourth Officer on their ship, ANASTASIS.
- * Marilyn Brown was admitted as postulant on August 11th.
- * Peggy Schwertfeger was noviced on Sept. 1 and two days later left for her second year at Episcopal Divinity School in Boston.
- * Elizabeth Moore, an aspirant, has enrolled at CDSP.
- * Ken Jackson has been accepted in the Diaconate Program.
- * We are looking forward to a great celebration with our Neighbor Islands tertiaries, Hawaii (Big Island) Rosemary Holmes, and on Maui (Valley Isle) the Rev. Robert and Ramona Walden, to come to Oahu (Gathering Place) for Eucharist and renewal of vows at St. Clement's Episcopal Church on October 4.

* Edean Iwanaga

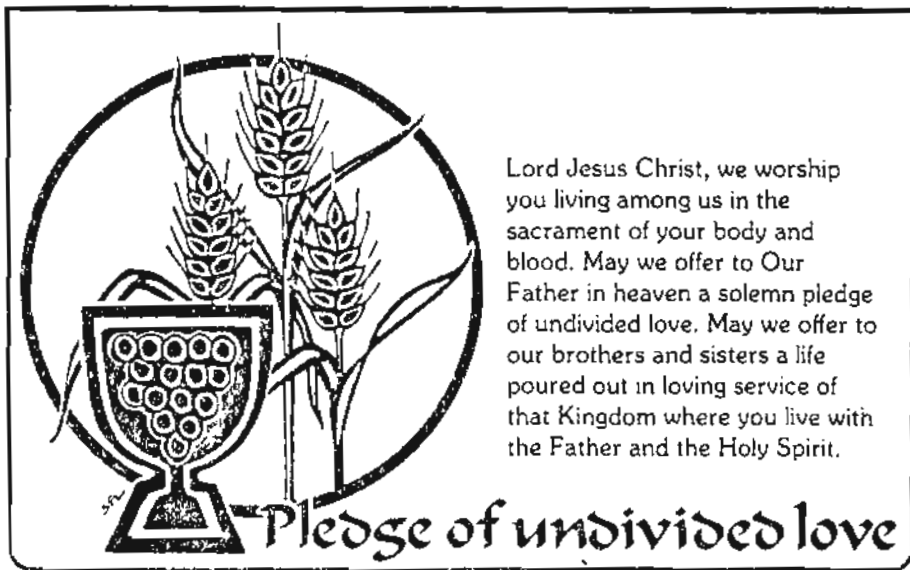
O ye children
of men--



Bless ye
the Lord.

NOTICE: EXTRA COPIES of the Third Order Directory are available. To get one, send 70¢ for postage to: Alice Cordtz, 26835 Madrone Dr., Cloverdale, CA 95425.





Lord Jesus Christ, we worship you living among us in the sacrament of your body and blood. May we offer to Our Father in heaven a solemn pledge of undivided love. May we offer to our brothers and sisters a life poured out in loving service of that Kingdom where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

THIS beautiful piece is borrowed from the Little Flower of St. Francis, the newsletter of the ministry to students at Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS. Father Ron Clingenpeel is chaplain.



MORE ABOUT NEWSLETTERS:

In August, Judith Gillette, n/TSF published the first issue of a monthly newsletter called On Retreat. In her editorial statement, she writes: "Our hope for this small publication is that it will both awaken and affirm the contemplative aspect of our spirituality; to encourage the natjral contemplative to go deeper, and to invite the active person to seek time with God in quietness." This issue includes a lovely article on St. Clare, written by Mona Hull, TSF. Also an article titled "Learning to Pray" by the Rev. Tansy Chapman, and other goodies. If you are interested in seeing this publication, perhaps a request to Judith at St. Sergius House, 26 Pierce St., Reading, Mass. 01867, along with a small contribution for printing/mailing costs, will bring you a copy.

EMPIRICISM

*A wizened gnome lay curled
Within a chestnut burr,
Gleefully my laughter purred
To hear his napping purr.*

*"Oh, ho!" thought I, "here's where
I bargain for a truth."
Hastily with fingers bare
clutched imp and bed uncouth.*

*The prickles stung; down dropped
They both; the gnome to flee,
While to my mouth were popped
The stinging tips of me!*

--Nina L. Andrews



KEYS

Looking through a basket of things today,
searching for a safety pin,
I saw a cross and a key, tangled together,
a silver cross and a silver key
and somehow they looked the same.
On the cross, Jesus Christ was dying,
And the key was one of those you save,
not because you remember its purpose
but because you fear that if you discard it
you'll come upon the locked thing it was intended
to open,
and be unable to open it.
A mystery key.
And Christ on the cross? A mystery.
God came to Bethlehem. A baby.
A young man dying.
A mystery key that opens what glories?
For He lives.
O Key of David!
In my coat pocket I carry a key.
I never knew its purpose.
Embossed on the top is the figure of a Lion
and the one word, "Master."

--Joanne Maynard

*(From the booklet, The Burning
Mushroom, published by the
Forward Movement.*

The Caracas Fellowship.

We are a very small group, only three (One professed and two postulants). We meet regularly once a month for worship and study. The two postulants are elected for novicing but we are waiting a visit of Br. Desmond from Trinidad to have them received.

We have made some works for the future of the T.O. in Spanish: a new translation of the Principles and Rule of Life; an Introduction of the Rule of Life and a theological comment on it and and have been publishing our "Franciscan Letter" (Carta Franciscana), which is sent to Spanish speaking members and friends. We hope to grow in a new future.

Oct.4/1984.

(Fr. José)

LA PAGINA EN ESPANOL

(Esta página es una contribución del Grupo de la T.O. en Caracas, Venezuela. Va dirigida a los miembros y simpatizantes de la Orden de habla hispana.)

La Regla de Vida Evangélica (o el Discipulado Cristiano).

Hay cristianos que consideran la vida espiritual como algo estático; una vez han sido bautizados, o estiman que son buenos creyentes, piensan que no hay necesidad de otra cosa sino el mantenerse en su fe. Otros opinan que una vida de dedicación, amor y servicio a sus semejantes es suficiente para asegurar su salvación y que la fe en Cristo y su obra redentora es secundaria. Aún hay quienes han experimentado una "conversión", súbita o gradual, y la ven como signo suficiente de que ya son salvos.

Fero, si bien es cierto que el creyente está "completo en Cristo" respecto de la justificación, no lo está respecto de su santificación; y ambas cosas, justificación y santificación son como las dos caras de una moneda, siendo su borde como el acto de conversión o regeneración.

Cada una de estas tres cosas -Justificación, Regeneración y Santificación- son necesarias, si bien la fe sola es signo de la gracia por la cual hemos sido aceptados por Dios.

Es muy importante que el cristiano tenga una idea clara de cada una de estas acciones de Dios para que alcance una vida verdaderamente plena en el Espíritu.

(Continuaremos este comentario a la Regla de Vida)

THE REPORTS ON PAGE 8 ARE THE WORK OF FR. JOSE A. VALENZUELA, WHO ALSO SENT THIS LETTER AND DRAWING:

The Rev. José A. Valenzuela
Apartado 2104.
Caracas 1010
Venezuela.

Dear Sister:

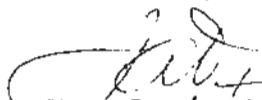
I have been receiving regularly your beautiful and warm "Franciscan Times", which keeps me up to date on brothers and fellowships. It is a pity that most of the Tertiaries and Associates here does not read English. May I suggest to include at least one page in Spanish? I can offer you to send the material for each issue in the future.

I want to do a comment on the word "Convener", mentioned in the April issue (pag 7). I have had some trouble to translate it into Spanish, having not an adequate term for it. So, I am using the term "Coordinador de Grupo" (Group Coordinator). For "Fellowship Coordinator" I am using "Coordinador de Grupos" (Fellowships Coordinator).

Another comment: two of our three Postulants are going to be received soon as Novices, after a year of postulancy. Their names are: Oswaldo Alvares and Francisco Díaz.

And, finally: I see frequently comments in the "F.T." on cats. I want to refer to my setter (dog) "Saks", which has several franciscan marks: he uses de brown color of the friars; he loves everybody and is always happy; and, every day, at exactly 6 am, 12 m and 6 pm he looks for company singing (not just the angelus, but a barking concert). Herewith is a draft picture of Saks.

Faithfully Yours,


(Fr. José, tsf)



BOOK REVIEW

What are they Saying about Mysticism?
Harvey D. Egan, SJ
pp 134 (with notes)
Paulist Press, NY \$3.95

Mysticism is news; it is popular and it is much misunderstood. Fr. Egan's purpose is to "present the manifold approaches to mysticism taken by recent and contemporary commentators." (p. 3) The range covers those who see it as a pathological abberation to those who see it as the highest form of prayer. This is a valuable study of interest to all who are concerned with the direction of souls and with the teaching of Christian prayer.

+John-Charles, SSF

JESUS, I COME

Out of my bondage, darkness and night
Jesus, I come -- Jesus, I come.
Into your freedom, goodness and light
Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of my sickness into your health --
Out of my poverty into your wealth --
Out of my sin, and into Yourself --
Jesus, I come to thee.

Book Report, by Pat Mahon When Bad Things Happen to Good People
by, Harold S. Kushner

Harold Kushner is a Jewish rabbi, a fact which should be remembered when reading his book. While there is much worth accepting, he does not have a Christian point of view. In my opinion his most important point is that not everything bad that happens is God's punishment, for our minor infractions. He refers to a couple, whose 21 year old daughter was killed by a drunk driver. They decided that it must be their punishment for having failed to keep a ritual fast on the appointed day. God is not going to destroy a girl in her prime because of her parents slip and such a guilt trip can only be destructive to all concerned. Obviously a major sin was committed, but it was by the drunk driver. No one else had any control over it. And God is just as sad over such needless pain and destruction as the parents. Kushner wrote this book in memory of his son Aaron who died at the age of fourteen of progeria, "rapid aging". He says that such congenital or genetic diseases are obviously not God's will. They are accidents of nature. In this I agree with him. However in his conclusion he says that there is no point in praying to God for healing, except to comfort ourselves and others. It is as if he believes that God wound the world up and no longer takes any part in it. I and many others can testify that God heals. Saying that he does not abandon our basic Christian principles. Obviously it ignores all of Jesus' healings in the gospels. As Christians we know otherwise. I feel sorry for those who don't. Nevertheless, despite this unfortunate ending, When Bad Things Happen is well worth reading. It is published by Schocken Books and is available from the Third Order library.



ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS
ARIZONA FELLOWSHIP

Andrew Wilkes writes that he now has a computer, suggests that others who have them can type up columns for the Times that are "ready to go." I'd go for that! Just make sure it fits on a page. j.m.

Jim Cain was professed on August 11 at St. Michael's Church in Coolidge. Mass began at noon. A potluck was held afterwards in the parish hall. Fr. Lewis Long was Celebrant; Andrew Wilkes received Jim's vow. Marie Webner preached. Carole Watson was chalice bearer. Steve Alfrey read the Epistle and Darlene Sipes read the Old Testament lesson. Patricia Shelton offered the anthem "Ave Maria."

CHI-RHO FELLOWSHIP = On September 29, the group enjoyed a presentation on the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, led by the Shrine's administrator, Fr. Christopher Colvin. On October 27, the group met at the Church of the Ascension for renewal of vows. Glen-Ann Jicha reported on Chapter meeting and led a discussion on Rule of Life.

They are planning a quiet day for November 24, beginning with a 10:00 a.m. Mass. Br. John George will be the director.

It was said about Abba John the Little that he went away to an old Theban in Scetis who lived in the desert. Once his Abba took a piece of dry wood, planted it, and said to him = Water it every day with a bottle of water until it bears fruit. The water, however, was so far away from there that John had to go out late in the evening and come back the next morning. Three years later, the tree came to life and bore fruit. Then the old man took some of the fruit and brought it to the church, and said to the brothers = Take and eat the fruit of obedience!

(from the book Desert Wisdom by Yushi Nomura. Sent in by Andrew Wilkes.)

NEW UMBRIAN FELLOWSHIP

Their August meeting was hosted by Tammy Sparks at St. Andrew's, San Bruno, CA. Tammy led the discussion on ways of relating to God in Prayer, which was taped by Louise Mangini to send to an isolated novice. Sr. Cecilia was with them and talked about plans for Franciscan activities in conjunction with the First Order. Many members of the Fellowship attended the Western Convocation in July. They met on October 5 at St. Francis House, to renew their vows and elect a new Convenor and Co-Convenor. Then they joined in an ecumenical Franciscan peace vigil, with singing, prayer, silence, and candle lighting.

(New Umbrian Fellowship, continued)

New Convenor is Chris Dettner. Co-convenor, Kay Salinaro. Newsletter, Don Briggs. MaryAnn Jackman was thanked for her good work on the newsletter in the past. And they met in November for Eucharist and a potluck. On September 15, Sylvia Broadbent was the presenter of a program on "Loving the World: Personal and Franciscan Reflections" at the Church of St. John the Evangelist in San Francisco.



SOUTHWEST CONVOCATION IN ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO:

Everyone who was able to go had a wonderful time at the Southwest Convocation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We talked about peace - in the world and in our hearts. Arizona had the hearts and New Mexico had the world. Sr. Pamela Clare led off the meeting with a quiet day that covered both topics and gave everyone much to think about.

Obstacles to peace in the heart are found almost every where you look. We often find ourselves at war within ourselves when we can't control what's happening in our lives. Everyone recognized the positive value of having God in control. This necessary trust is a gift we need to ask of God. Self acceptance is a prelude to peace. An appreciation of the fact that God has dealt with all the bad things we've done in our lives creates peace in the heart.

The discussion of peace in the world was fortunate to have Dr. Johnathan Steinheart of Phoenix share impressions from a trip he made in June to Central America. Jonathan cautions that his trip was not intended to be an impartial study of the conditions in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras. He and the group of church people he was with was uniformly disappointed with the official explanations given at the American Embassies in all three nations. The church in Nicaragua is split between a politically active 'peoples church' and a church hierarchy that is trying to be neutral. The church people Jonathan visited (Missouri Synod Lutheran) for the most part were very interested in not seeing anymore arms come from the United States. It seems they end up in the wrong hands.

Fr. Henry Bird, pastor of the Episcopal Church in Sirocco, N.M., shared his experiences promoting peace in the world as he has ministered in several parishes in the southwest.

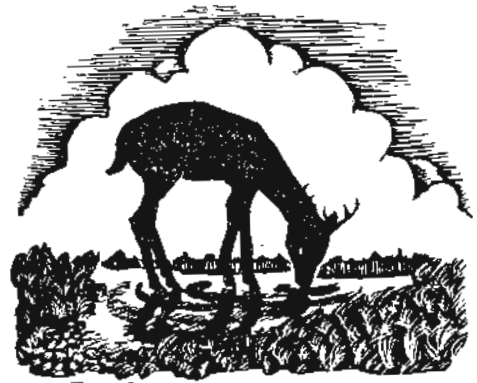
He has been at the front of most of the major social issues of our generation. His witness of his involvement is that he has typically not gone out of his way to find these controversial issues; they have found him.

Henry doesn't see his response as different from that of any other committed, conscientious Christian. The thing that seemed different about Henry is the amount of peace and love he brings to his ministry. His parishoners do get upset with him. But, nobody can fault either motives or his peaceful, loving mode of operation.

--Andrew Wilkes

ST. BERNARDINE FELLOWSHIP
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Fr. Robert Woodfield, convenor, leads our monthly meetings. Because of our large geographical area, our meeting moves each month to the home of one of our members. In recent months, we have met in Long Beach, San Diego, Riverside, Monrovia, and San Bernardino. Our members and friends come from as far as Las Vegas and Santa Barbara for worship, meditation, and fellowship. In September, Doris Diener was admitted as an Associate.



To be spiritual
is to find the
whole of yourself

THE NEW YORK FELLOWSHIP

Helen Parker was noviced at their June meeting. Also at that meeting, Bill and Ingrid Roberts announced that they are expecting their second child. The latest report of their activities was sent in by John Menees:

Greetings and Peace from the New York chapter at this Francistide. This year the Third Order brothers and sisters were fortunate enough to meet in a joint celebration with the First Order brothers and sisters in and around the New York City area. What a joyous celebration it was with the honor of having our Third Order brother, Bishop, Desmond Tutu, celebrate the eucharist and preach. Those professed, including Bishop Tutu, renewed their commitment to our Lord and the Order, this portion of the service was lead by Br. Robert Hugh who stressed the importance of community life and involvement.

Following the eucharist and renewal of pledges all retired into the rectory of St. Peter's church, in the Chelsea district of Manhattan, for good food and fellowship.

Yours in Christ, Terry Rogers and Joshua Eric Menees.

LONG ISLAND FELLOWSHIP

Nov. 5, 1984

Dear Sister-in-Christ and Francis

The Long Island Fellowship of the Society of St. Francis is holding their annual covered dish Christmas meeting/fellowship on December 29, 1984 at the home of Louise Staag at 11 A.M.

The Peace of the Lord be with you

John Apmann
John Apmann
Convenor



Do pray is not
to talke,
or thinke-
but to love.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND A HOLE-PUNCHER

by Terry Rogers, NY Fellowship

No matter how long you have been in the Third Order, you probably have had moments when you think you will go mad trying to keep track of all the printed material you have received. "Where is my directory? What have I done with my Devotional Companion? Why didn't I keep that formation letter that was so helpful?" I have had this experience numerous times, and it was not till the summer of '83 at the Midwest Convocation that one of our members showed me her method for bringing order out of chaos. It has made quite a difference for me.

You will have noticed that much of the material you have is approximately the same size. If you get a small looseleaf notebook and a hole puncher, and put some lovely music on the stereo, you can have a peaceful hour or so punching holes in little booklets and you will send up with them all in the same place; the directory, Statutes, Devotional Companion, Novice Counselor's Handbook, The Way of St. Francis, a Book of Roots, etc.

The Formation Letters can all go in a larger-sized notebook and you'll have them permanently -- they are well worth this kind of care. The Convenor's Handbook can be added as well, and since corrections and additions to it are being made page by page, it will be much easier to keep it up to date if it's in a notebook. The Third Order Songbook, when it is finished, will also be in this larger size.

One of the signs of the grace of the Holy Spirit is that disorder is replaced by order, and confusion and frustration are replaced by peace. I really do sit down to do my Third Order work, study, or prayer in a more peaceful, restful spirit, because one of my sisters shared her inspired idea with me.

A THIRD ORDER SONG BOOK

Writers + Missionaries - Take Note!

At the October meeting of the Third Order Provincial Chapter, David Nard and Massud Syedullah presented a wonderful array of texts and tunes for a proposed Third Order Provincial Song Book, to be completed during the coming year. They would like this to truly be a songbook from and for this community. Therefore, in the next few months, they would be happy to receive copies of songs written by tertiaries, to be considered for inclusion in the songbook. They are especially, but not exclusively, interested in songs about Francis (or other Franciscan saints) and the Franciscan life. Please send copies to:

The Rev. Massud Syedullah
4045 N. Cincinnati Dr.
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74106



MINNESOTA FELLOWSHIP --

They are already planning for the 1985 regional meeting, which will be held on the Labor Day weekend at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Prior Lake, Minnesota, August 30 through September 2. 'Way back in July, they celebrated the Mass with Brs. Robert and Chad. Robert was leaving for North Dakota to visit Dale Trana who is establishing a Third Order in the United Church of Christ. Br. Chad then left for the East Coast. They held a Quiet Day on September 15 at the Oratory of St. Mary in Afton, MN, where they also held their October meeting. At that meeting, they renewed their vows. On November 1, their meeting began a new series of discussions on "Apostolate." Kathy Staggs presented the first program. In December, Julia Bergstrom will talk about her vocation to "Kinder, Küche, Kirche." (Children, Kitchen, Church) The group is making a Third Order reading list to include on the list of the American Province.

An interesting postal from Winston Wright in Kingston, Jamaica has been received. He collects postals, & will soon get one from Helena, Montana.

Nov. 23, 1984:

It is the day after Thanksgiving, and I officially have the day off, but I've come down to the office, in hopes of getting this Newsletter finished. I got a lot of it done near the end of October, and then the rush of work, plus a couple of days off to visit a friend, caused me to have to let the Times sit on the side of my desk for about three weeks. Today is The Day to get it completed and off to the printers, so you will have it during Advent, with any luck at all. Renewal of vows is a tricky thing to line up, in a community where there are no other Franciscans within a hundred miles. So I asked an old friend, Fr. Ray Brown, to receive my renewal of vows on the Feast of St. James of Jerusalem, when he would be celebrating Mass at the chapel of St. Peter's Cathedral, next door to my office. So he did that.

--Joanne

THE MILWAUKEE FELLOWSHIP --

Sally Waller reports that the Milwaukee TSF Fellowship met on St. Francis Day at Nashotah House, with Eucharist in the chapel at 5:00 p.m. They joined the seminary community for the service. Afterward, they went to Hall's apartment for a pot luck supper and fellowship. Chaplain "Gooch" was with them for Al's profession in August, and Sally wrote that she hoped he could make the journey from the north woods to be with them again soon. There are some new Third Order people in their area. Arthur Wolsoncroft has come from New York and Laurie Myers has moved to Milwaukee from Florida, via Africa where she did missionary work.



LILIES OF THE FIELD FELLOWSHIP

Dearlie Moline writes that they have two new aspirants, Charlene Bobo and Nancy Duell. They had a couple of potluck picnics in the summer. They're talking about forming a fellowship in Colorado Springs. The program at their September meeting concerned how God uses dreams to communicate His will to us. In October, Dorothy presented a program on what several aspects of the Francis's life mean to her. The members present renewed their vows at the children's chapel altar, led by Dearlie, who will be convenor for another year.

Sharp Deavers

That is the name of a Sunday School Curriculum designed by Peg Shull, TSF for her church in Lubbock, Texas. There is a lesson for each Sunday, based on the propers for that day. Each lesson includes a "Background on Scripture," a pew sheet to copy for congregants' use, a story, and activity suggestions. Peg says that she would offer one set free each year to any mission served by a Franciscan that couldn't otherwise afford Sunday School materials. This is an attractive book, bound with a plastic ring binding. The material looks useful and helpful, and the stories are great. You can write to Peg for more info.

The Chi-Rho Fellowship held a Quiet Day on November 24 at the Church of the Ascension. They renewed their vows at the Eucharist. Br John George led the Quiet Day, providing meditations and counsel. In December, Mark Drish will share a meditation which he has translated from "Muestrame Tu Rostro: hacia la intimidad con Dios," by Ignacio Larrañaga. - 15 -

What are they saying about Papal Primacy?

J. Michael Miller, CSB. (pp 102 with index.
Paulist Press, New York \$3.95)

This presentation offers a summary and overview of recent discussions of this important-ecumenical matter by Anglicans, Roman Catholics and Lutherans. It analyses the discussions within the context of three relationships: Jesus and Peter, Peter and Pope, Pope and Church. This is a useful book for all who wish to keep up with ecumenical issues.

This meditation is from the booklet that Forward printed for me, The Burning Mushroom. I hope it will add to your Christmas thoughts.
- Joanne.



PINE CONES

One evening, near the end of August, I was thinking about Christmas. I had decided to get my bit for the Christmas Bazaar done early, and I was trying to make a Christmas wreath. It was fashioned of a strange green stuff which resisted all my efforts to make it grow around the ring in a natural manner, and by the time I was ready to wire on the red and white painted pine cones, I was in a grumpy mood. After a few minutes I turned my mind toward God and he showed me something about the true meaning of Christmas as I worked.

The flashy painted pine cones made me think of a chipmunk I'd seen while out in the mountains. He was carrying pine cones from under a tree at the top of the hill to his hole at the bottom of the hill. He'd run up and down several times, and then pause to refresh himself with a bit of pine cone to eat. He ate it like a man eating an ear of corn, only much faster, turning the cone over and over in his hand-like paws, nibbling all the time.

How different were his cones from these painted ones! The chipmunk's cones were small, plain, unattractive things. Yet they were complex, for at just the right time, the hard outer shell opened in many places, so that the seeds could come out.

The painted cones on the wreath may have been, to my eye, prettier, painted red and white, but the seeds were gone from some of the openings, and could not come out of others; the paint had stuck them shut tight. The chipmunk wouldn't find a meal here! The painted cones were nice to look at, but there was no life left in them.

The two sorts of cones are like the two sorts of Christmases — God's and ours. God's Christmas is a small, plain thing. A baby born to a poor family, something that happens many times a day. But a complex thing too. The baby is God. This Christmas is a humble thing. The word "humble" comes from the same root as the word "humus" . . . capable of maintaining life. God's Christmas has life in it.

Our own Christmas seems more like the painted cone. We have put so many decorations and trimmings on our Christmas, it is hard to see what it was meant to be. We have slopped on so much paint to make it "pretty." There is nothing pretty about a baby born in a cave. The seeds of life are sealed up under the paint and cannot come out.

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

Mrs Laurence Mahon
1990 S.E. Mulberry Ave.
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SHARING NEWS OF OUR THIRD ORDER COMMUNITY