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BRIEFLY -

Do you have anything you would like Chapter to discuss? - Ken Cox is a new Novice Director. - A world wide SSF Constitution is being prepared. - News from the Minister General, the Minister Provincial, Third Order Bursar, Standing Committee, Fellowships. - Bits & pieces from tertiaries around the country. - A Sermon and Reaction.

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ANNUAL MEETING OF CHAPTER

The 1976 meeting of the Third Order Chapter will be held at the Bishop's Ranch in California on November 5 and 6. There are 7 elected members and 6 ex officio members - as listed on Page 28 of the Directory.

Professed tertiaries: Please send in agenda items for consideration by September 5, either to John Scott or Helen Webb. Some topics already foreseen are: the Interprovincial Chapter meeting immediately following our Chapter, the 1977 Spring Convocation for all tertiaries; Fellowships; Communications; and Finances.

CHANGE IN NOVICE DIRECTORS

We welcome Mr. Kenneth Cox, 6969 Newbury Avenue, San Bernardino, California, 92404, as a new Novice Director - approved by the Chapter members in July. He will be busy because we continue to get inquiries regularly from people who are interested in becoming tertiaries.

Words can't begin to express our gratitude and indebtedness to Peter Funk, former Novice Director, who has been an inspiration to so many people through his loving concern and hard work, and especially through his series of printed monthly letters to novices. He has also attended what must have seemed an endless number of meetings, and his suggestions and presence have always been valuable.

We are thankful to Muriel Adey who continues her faithful and helpful work as a Novice Director; and also to Marie Hayes who, like Peter, gave so much of herself when she was a Novice Director.

STANDING COMMITTEE

The committee members met June 11th via conference telephone call. The discussion touched on administrative procedures, Chapter and Interprovincial Chapter meetings, 1977 Convocation (possibly in Fayetteville, Arkansas), Finances (\$2,900 in the bank with a \$2,000 expense seen for Chapter), changes in the pastoral staff. The 1976 Directory plus the new Calendar & Devotional Material were mailed June 10th. The Third Order brochure in Spanish is available from John's office. The Third Order in Rhodesia asked about our Profession Cross and ten were sent to them.

BR. GEOFFREY, S.S.F.

In his regular Minister General's Letter, spring 1976, Br. Geoffrey announced his re-election for a 6-year term and said, "the fact that so many of you want me as your Minister General has heartened me. I do ask you all particularly to continue to pray for me." (continued)

His travels included Melanesia, where the Brothers have shifted responsibilities around, including settling in some new locations. In Papua, New Guinea, changes also mean new forms of ministry for our Brothers and new opportunities, with some new aspirants also. In Australia, Br. John Charles settled in as the new Guardian of the Brookfield Friary. The Community of St. Clare established a Convent at Stroud, N.S.W., and the time is coming when they will need to build a chapel and accommodations for aspirants and guests. In New Zealand, Br. Geoffrey found signs of stability and growth at the House in Glen Innes. In Auckland, he conducted a Third Order retreat, which was well attended. There is a steady increase in the number of tertiaries in Australia and New Zealand.

(If you would like to read the complete Letter, I'll gladly circulate it to those who ask. Helen Webb)

SSF; AMERICAN PROVINCE

Br. Luke, S.S.F., sent his Minister Provincial's Letter in July 1976. It included his tentative schedule: August 1-14 vacation, August 15-31 East Coast, Sep. 1-23 in England for the General Chapter of the European Province, Sep. 24-Nov. 3 East Coast, Nov. 5-30 West Coast, Dec. 1-15 Trinidad.

He pointed out that at present there are 10 professed friars in the West, 6 in the East, and 4 in Trinidad. There are 9 novices now at Little Portion. 3 will go to Yonkers in September. 4 postulants are expected to arrive in the fall.

He said there have been some inquiries about the novice training project in Yonkers. "CLUSTER" (Congregations Linked in Urban Strategy To Effect Renewal) is a group of 6 Episcopal parishes under the direction of Fr. S. Burtner Ulrich. Yonkers is white/Spanish/Black - a typically urban situation in a fast-deteriorating city. Here the novices will spend six to nine months of training under the direction of Fr. Ulrich. Cluster will provide funds for food, travel, etc. The training will include hospital visiting, youth work, senior citizens, Bible classes and prayer groups. Courses in pastoral care and urban work and theory will be given.

In Trinidad, the Brothers are well, happy and working hard. John Evangelist has withdrawn. However, we do have Vincent Cox from Trinidad, and Gopaul, an Indian from Guyana. So our little group is growing. Do keep them all in your prayers.

WORLDWIDE CONSTITUTION BEING PREPARED

During our Third Order Chapter meeting last fall it was announced that the First Order was drawing up a Constitution for the Society as a whole, and that eventually we would receive copies. Recently, as Secretary of the Third Order, American Province, I asked how it was coming along. Br. Luke said it is not yet ratified by all the constituting members and that the Ministers meeting in November will draft a final form. He sent a copy of the present form, along with the hope that with minor amendments from the four Orders, it will pass. If you have any comments or suggestions, please send them on to Br. Luke. (The Constitution is on the next page.)

Helen Webb, Secretary

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY OF SAINT FRANCIS (proposed)

THE SOCIETY OF ST. FRANCIS

The Society of St. Francis came into being in 1937 at Cerne Abbas, Dorset, England, from the amalgamation of the Brotherhood of St. Francis of Assisi with the Brotherhood of the Love of Christ, to form the First Order of the Society.

In 1967 this First Order and the corresponding community in the Episcopal Church in the United States of America, The Order of St. Francis, amalgamated. Beside this First Order for men, four other communities are constitutionally included within the Society: - since its foundation in 1947, the enclosed sisterhood of The Community of St. Clare, - and since 1969 a corresponding sisterhood in America, The Poor Clares of Reparation and Adoration, together constituting the Society's Second Order; - since 1964 the active sisterhood of The Community of St. Francis, the Sisters of the First Order; - and since the Society's own inception, the Third Order for men and women in the world.

DEFINITIONS

1. The Society of St. Francis comprises:
 - (a) The Brothers of the First Order
 - (b) The Sisters of the First Order
 - (c) The Second Order
 - (d) The Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order

2. The Brothers of the First Order are called The Society of St. Francis (S.S.F.). ~~The Sisters of the First Order are called The Community of St. Francis~~ (C.S.F.). The Sisters of the Second Order are called either The Community of St. Clare (C.S.CL.) or The Poor Clares of Reparation and Adoration (P.C.Rep.). The Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order are called The Third Order.

3. Each constituent part of the Society is governed by its own Constitution, Chapters, Ministers, Mothers, and/or other officers.

The Minister General is Minister of the Society of St. Francis as a whole; the Minister in each Province is the Minister of the Society in that Province.

THE CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF ST. FRANCIS

The Chapter of the Society of St. Francis is a consultative and coordinating body. Its functions are limited to those matters which are the concern of the Society as a whole, such as the Principles, and the goals or vocation of the Society. It has no legislative function, but refers back to the Chapters of the three Orders. It shall consist of the members of the First Order Brother's Chapter, two Sisters of the First Order, the Wardens of the Second Order, and the members of the Third Order Interprovincial Chapter. It may be convened from time to time by the Minister General as the need arises. The General Secretary shall be in attendance, record the Minutes and be responsible for their custody and circulation.

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THE CENTRAL FUND

There shall be a fund known as The Society of St. Francis Central Fund, held in trust by the Protector General, and its income shall be administered by the Minister General with the assistance of the General Secretary.

THE PATRONS

The Society places itself under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary, of Saint Francis, and of Saint Clare. Their festivals are to be observed with special devotion.

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A LETTER FROM OUR BURSAR

The Rev. Hendrik Koning
St. Mary's Church, Hamilton Village
3601 Locust Walk
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I moved to a new home, and promptly had to deal with a virus which kept me in and out of bed for weeks. Some of you may have noticed that your checks were not cashed promptly. I'm sorry that I caused some trouble with those monthly bank statements. I certainly hope I did not give the idea that the delay in cashing checks was due to less need for T.S.F. household money.

Thank you for your many notes. I hope you understand I cannot answer them personally. For those of you who have enclosed notes for prayer, all of them I offer up in prayer - furthermore, I share them with the Philadelphia Fellowship, which continues to have regular intercessions on Friday evenings.

It is very encouraging to see the increase in sharing amongst the sisters and brethren of the Third Order. May God grant us that we may grow in witness.

With love,

Hendrik

FROM THE NATIONAL FRANCISCAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

There will be an annual meeting October 25-28 in the New York City area at Cardinal Spellman Retreat House. Themes will be: - the world we are attempting to communicate with; - the ministry of communications; - American Franciscan Today, a multi-media reflection on the bicentennial and 750th anniversary of the death of St. Francis.

For more details, ask for the next Newsletter, from Fr. Roy Gasnick, Communications Office, 135 West 31st Street, New York, NY 10001. Also mentioned in the NFCC newsletter was an article published by our John Scott, "Franciscans in the Alien World" with copies at 50¢ each from Allen Gruenke, O.F.M. Cap., 1820 Mt. Elliott Ave., Detroit, MI 48207. Our publication of "The Book of Roots" was also advertised.

FRANCISCAN FAMILY

Dorothy Nakatsuji wrote, "I'd like to share excerpts from Miss Kathie Yarr's letter from New Zealand." She writes to tertiaries in about 15 countries. She lives alone, her family is 13,000 miles away "but my Franciscan family give me that sense of belonging to the great family of God." She speaks of the Pacific Province as a scattered band, "but in spite of great distances, we can form a close loving family relationship by mail." She describes the Brothers return to Alanguala, the Poor Clares' life, Christmas preparation in Stroud, New South Wales. Of the Poor Clares she writes, "Br. Reginald said you could see the joy and wealth of poverty at Stroud and be thankful to God for it. What a lesson they are to the material living people of today, living up to the Jones' is the only joy they seem to get, but must always strive for more. How sorry I am for them, they miss so much, the richness of love, of simple things, to stop and enjoy the beauty of nature which we are surrounded with, by God's grace."

BITS & PIECES

As always, just as soon as the new Directory was mailed, address changes happened, and errors were noticed. The area code of the telephone for the Rev. George Metcalf should have been (612). Judith Layo's telephone is (315) 764-0823. Linda Holz' address is 51 Elm Street, Camden, Maine 04843. Roberta Beisel, 116 E. Edgebrook Drive #701, Houston, Texas 77034. (Roberta asks whether there are any tertiaries or associates living nearby.) The Rev. Russell Northway, Box 84, Peru, Indiana 46970. Mr. William R. Heck, 3 Evelyn Drive, Delmar, NY 12054. Mr. Paul E. Holbrook, Jr., 2306 Forest Avenue, Ashland, KY 41101. Pamela Moffat has moved to Morocco. Her mailing address is Mrs. Jay P. Moffat, American Embassy, Box 99, FPO New York 09544. Her location (if you'd like to drop in!) is American Embassy, Boite Postale 120, Rabat, Morocco. We are happy to have the Rev. Ian Riding, of St. John's Church, 5201 N. Brookline Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73108, with us. He came from the European Province. There are others who have moved within cities, and postulants added, but the list would get quite long if I included all of them here.

We congratulate those recently ordained. We've heard of: Robert Brandt, Donald Seaver, Joan Shelton and Annjane Tanner. Did you know that on Saint Dunstan's Day 1975 the Rev. Roy Frederick Schippling celebrated the 35th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood? We welcome three who have recently been professed as tertiaries: Dorothy Nakatsuji, Effie Hanes, and Deane Kennedy. Did you know that Kale King has the "CB handle" of "Friar Tuck"? Sister Cecilia, C.S.F. wrote about a pleasant time spent with Glen-Ann Jicha, Muriel Adey and Peggy Hoffman. She says, "At Palatine, I met several members of the Order and it was lovely to be with them ... As always, such contact with our tertiaries was an encouraging and humbling experience, and I give thanks always for you all."

Fellowship news has been skimpy of late (Convenors, have you asked anyone to send in reports?) We overlooked the report from the Spokane Fellowship in the last newsletter. They are meeting regularly four times a year. They have invited the local Roman Catholic tertiaries to meet with them. At Fayetteville, the group was so large that the tertiaries finally decided to meet separately from the associates at least part of the time. The Lexington, KY Fellowship planned a July picnic. The New England Fellowship was invited to Mona Hull's new home in Rockport for a June picnic. The New York-Long Island Fellowship had a March

Fellowships (continued)

Quiet Day at Little Portion and the Poor Clares' St. Joseph's House. One highlight of the day was a memorable visit with Father Joseph, O.S.F. Several members attended the Profession of Brs. Mark Charles and Justus Richard; as well as the Little Portion June Festival. They schedule monthly meetings.

There is a newly-organized Minnesota Fellowship, planning quarterly meetings at The Oratory of St. Mary, Fr. George Metcalf's home and retreat center. They hope to have a lending library. They rejoiced with Lee Malloy when her husband, Ward, was ordained a Minister at the First Congregational United Church of Christ. The Bay Area New Umbrian Fellowship continues to have a full schedule of their own activities in addition to meeting as a group on other occasions. Although the San Bernardino Fellowship is smaller in size since several people moved, they are still getting together whenever they can, usually with a pot luck meal as well as the Eucharist, and a discussion. The Washington, D.C. Fellowship had a farewell meeting in July, since Pamela Moffat was moving to Morocco and two other members expect to move out of the state this summer.

Included with this mailing is a Sermon and Reaction, sent by Mrs. Patricia Cousins, Third Order Secretary in Rhodesia. If you have comments, why not write a "letter to the Editor" (of the T.O. Newsletter, Helen Webb), and we might get some discussion going.

Terry Rogers works for the Volunteer Corps, of the Episcopal Church, in New York City. She sent a small booklet about it, as well as one on the National Institute for Lay Training. She writes that the purpose of the Volunteer Corps is to find jobs for people wishing to do voluntary service for a summer, a year, or more. Employers provide room and board, ten to fifteen dollars a week spending money, and health insurance. She is interested not only in finding new volunteers, but also in locating more places where volunteers can be used. For more details write to Teresa Rogers, Volunteer Corps, 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017.

You may have heard of the Church Army, a corporation whose members were Church Army officers. Terry explains that recently it was felt that the name was a deterrent, so the name became The National Institute for Lay Training, which runs a training program for lay people, some of whom may join the Church Army but some may not. Within the program is the Volunteer Corps, for placing volunteers without training.

Speaking of volunteers, a need has arisen and perhaps you could help. Quite a bit of material is sent to your Third Order secretary which could be circulated. Would you like to be our librarian, to hold this material temporarily until people request it, and perhaps we could also circulate books. Write Helen Webb if you'd be interested.

Don't forget your checks, made payable to "Third Order, Society of Saint Francis" and mailed to The Rev. Hendrik Koning, St. Mary's Church, Hamilton Village, 3601 Locust Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

It has been suggested that all tertiaries renew their profession on or near the Feast of St. Francis, October 4. It would be helpful if you'd fill in the blank so that we can tell which of the tertiaries are active.

To: Mrs. Edward Webb, Secretary, 4008 Buckingham Rd., Baltimore, MD 21207

RENEWAL OF PROFESSION

Name & Address:

Date renewed _____