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FEATURES: - "For Your Consideration," from the Guardian
- "Shepherd's Pie, Recipe for a Franciscan Fellowship Meeting," by Marie Webner
- Chapter and Pastoral Officers meetings this fall

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FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION ---

We have been learning that there is no cut-and-dried, six easy steps' way to live the Gospel, follow the Call, or get the Spirit under control. Once upon a time, a man or woman could seek admittance to a religious order or guild, and be given answers and neatly defined steps assuring the novice of the favor of God and the surety of Heaven, and the conviction that the novice was clearly "in" and others were "out". It was the style of pre-Vatican II Roman Catholicism, and in its reflection was often the style of Anglo-Catholicism, and we now call it "triumphalism". It is curiously like the divine plan as understood by Dostoyevsky's Grand Inquisitor in The Brothers Karamazov.

If Francis of Assisi had shared that same sense of the Divine Plan, he might have forsaken home, yes; but he would have done what many of his contemporaries did do - study for the priesthood, or become a monk or nun. So might Clare have done and other early friends. But Francis knew God was "no respecter of persons" (as Peter the Apostle had learned); and privilege and second-class heavenly citizenship contradicted the Good News. He also came to perceive that there was nothing evil in what God had made, that even "Sister Death" could be praised.

He did not have his head in the sand, but looked straight at all that was evil in the world, and wept - much as Jesus wept at Lazarus' tomb - and then embraced the leper and sang the songs in praise of all creation, finding himself at home with animals and the whole outdoors. He was a penitent for the wrong, the injustice. The illness, the doubt, the despair, he could see and feel but he was a man of joy because the love of God overcame it all - and that Love could ever do so as men and women came to share in it. He was no scold and killjoy; rather, he was a lover and celebrator, but he also gave himself with great energy to persons and a whole society that was askew.

In whatever measure, that remains our vocation. Most tertiaries are involved in expressing that in acts of ministry, that are often carried out quietly with love, and illustrate the old cliché that Christianity is not taught, but caught. There are three broad areas of life today in which all of us are caught up. Not surprisingly, they are the same that figured prominently in Francis' experience, too!

First, there is the Church itself - shall its life be comfortable conformity in a well-settled arrangement of "ins" and "outs", the well and the lepers, the first class and the second class? Who is to be included and who excluded? All of us see Francis' loyalty to the Church, but he did not make either the hierarchy comfortable or justify any persons who, like the Pharisees, thought they were better than others. Our present struggles over the meaning of sexuality, the ordination of women, the new prayerbook, are where we must witness to the fullness of God within us, sharing in the journey to the fullness of human potential as seen in Christ, witnessing to a love and openness deeper than the controversies.

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Second, there is the world, the "global village" and the obvious discrepancies in wealth, justice, and understanding. It is seeking Christ who is already there that constitutes both our pilgrimage and our expressing of simplicity and brotherhood within the human family. As for Francis, that is a crusade, but one without arms and conditions.

Third, there is the environment: the stars and the genes, the air and the rivers. Both our personal efforts at respect for the environment, and our corporate efforts with groups, governments and industries to end waste - and to recycle after the manner we can observe in the world God has given us - are appropriate places for Franciscans to express their prayer and their ministry.

We are penitents for these failures; not judges who think someone else should repent, but penitents who join in the task. Embracing lepers and Lady Poverty (the spirit of simplicity) is one way we do that.

This is a way of life, an attitude, the manner of making the journey. It is not "cut and dried, six easy steps", but a way that will always challenge us and, like Francis, face us with new ways of hearing God's call to us.

John Scott, Guardian

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SHEPHERD'S PIE

Recipe for a Franciscan Fellowship Meeting

Prayer

The fundamental ingredient. It always occupies a first and last position at meetings and seems, therefore, to have the character of a crust. This impression is false. Prayer is both the essence and the binding ingredient. It is the meat and the sauce. In prayer, God unites us with each other and with Him, draws us to Himself, changes us by His presence, and seasons us with His love.

For best results, begin with the Holy Eucharist and end with the appropriate prayerbook office (Morning or Evening Prayer, Noon office, or Compline). If the Sacrament is not available, an office may be substituted. The Liturgy from the Third Order Book of Devotions provides a goodly variation.

Fellowship

Fellowship (not Prayer) is the crust. It is made of infinite variations of Franciscan humanity, blended with Love. Great attention to Prayer (the First Ingredient) will, in time, produce Fellowship that is tender and piquant. And such Fellowship, in turn, enhances Prayer. Well-knit Fellowship will be sufficient in its strength to hold in its arms the offering of Prayer and the work of Study.

After the Lord's Table has been cleared, gather around a common meal (whether brown-bag lunch or putluck supper) to provide the best milieu for making Fellowship.

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Study

As potatoes are best scrubbed and peeled before cooking, so Study is best performed at home and shared at meetings. The Way of St. Francis is a constant in our lives and its flavor should enhance all our discussions. Publications of the First, Second, or Third Orders, communications from the Chaplain, programs from the fellowship coordinator -- all these are the solid starch of our life together.

My brothers and sisters, sheep do not prepare their Shepherd's Pie. Assemble the ingredients in humility and offer them to Him. He makes the pie, and each is different. Do not be afraid of the Shepherd's innovations. He offers us the richness of His abundant life as we are ready to receive it.

--MLW

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CHAPTER MEETING COMING SOON

Provincial Statutes say

The Chapter is the legislative body of the Order...and shall normally meet once each year.

All professed tertiaries may have a voice in Chapter by contacting Chapter members.

At least three months prior to a Chapter meeting, a notice shall be sent to all professed tertiaries, stating the date, and inviting them to present to the Guardian or Secretary items for the agenda at least 2 months prior to Chapter meeting.

In addition

A meeting has been called for the pastoral officers and counselors on November 9 and 10. IF YOU ARE A COUNSELOR you are cordially invited to attend the meeting to be held at Saint Joseph House, of the Poor Clares, Maryhill, Mount Sinai, Long Island, New York. Please return the registration form in September.
To: Mrs. Edward Webb, 4008 Buckingham Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21207

REGISTRATION FOR COUNSELORS AND/OR CHAPTER

(name)

ARRIVAL

(day) (date) (approximate time)

___ Port Jefferson train station ___ Islip airport (If other airports, please take the L.I. Railroad from there.)

or: ___ St. Joseph House ___ Little Portion guest house

DEPARTURE

(day) (date) (approximate time)

The counselors meeting is at St. Joseph House. Chapter is at Little Portion.

There is a change of address for mail to our Bursar. Please note the following: Mr. Richard Hohlfeld, St. Mary's Church, Hamilton Village, 3601 Locust Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

Katherine Klein's address is: The Church of St. John the Evangelist, 33 Bowdoin Street, Boston, MA 02114. Marie Webner's zip code is 85712. Mary Robert asks that all present and past Convenors contact her - she is looking for details about the job of Convenor. Her address: Box 273, Gualala, CA 95445. Marial Adey reminds us that: - Postulants should complete 6 reports before requesting novicing; and novices should complete 24 additional reports before requesting profession.

A professional photographer took pictures at the Fayetteville Convocation. If you are interested in slides (75¢ each) or prints (\$1.00 each), please contact Carolyn Banks. (Postage and handling are extra.)

Professions and Ordinations. We give thanks for:

Yvonne Boarts
 professed August 11
 The Rev. Robert George Brandt
 professed June 18
 Richard Hohlfeld
 professed August 6 *
 Robert Wagenseil
 professed June 24

The Rev. David Michael Davis
 ordained to the priesthood July 10
 The Rev. William J. Graham, Jr.
 ordained to the diaconate June 11

*During this service, there was a person signing for a large group of deaf people present. Richard is active in work with the deaf.

Quite a few Roman Franciscan liturgical publications are included in a brochure from: Franciscan Liturgical Projects, Holy Name College, 14th and Shepherd Streets, N.E., Washington, DC 20017.

Additions to our Library. To borrow material, write to Pat Mahon in Portland. NFCC Newsletter, summer 1977 - which includes news of an Annual communications meeting in October in Los Angeles, with a side trip to Santa Barbara.

- The May issue of "alive now", filled with pictures, poetry and articles on St. Francis and Franciscanism. If you would like to buy one, it is available from The Upper Room, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203. A single copy (63 pages) is \$1.50.

- Kent Riddell, one of our tertiaries, presented a talk during a recent retreat, and generously sent us a copy, if you would like to borrow it.

- In the San Francisco area, Louise Mangini is publishing "The Third Order Tribune" for local Franciscans. The first three issues are in the library.

Reminder: Please send changes of address to Mrs. Edward Webb, 4008 Buckingham Road, Baltimore, MD 21207. Also, please check your directory and send in any corrections.

If during the fall-winter-spring season you are planning a special program, conference or retreat for tertiaries, please send in the news to the Newsletter so that tertiaries from a wide area may attend.