



The Franciscan Times

A NEWSLETTER HELPING MEMBERS OF THE THIRD ORDER, SOCIETY OF ST. FRANCIS, PROVINCE OF THE AMERICAS SHARE THEIR COMMON JOURNEY THROUGH NEWS FROM FELLOWSHIPS AND INDIVIDUALS, REVIEWS OF BOOKS, CDs, DVDs, POETRY, STORIES, ESSAYS, REFLECTIONS, MEDITATIONS, GRAPHICS, AND WHATEVER THE HOLY SPIRIT MIGHT BLOW OUR WAY ■

Winter 2016

Re-envisioning a 21st-Century Library for the Province of the Americas

Janice Syedullah and John Brockmann

As well as the devotional study of Scripture, we all recognize our Christian responsibility to pursue other branches of study, both sacred and secular. In particular accept the duty of contributing, through research and writing, to a better understanding of the church's mission in the world: the application of Christian principles to the use and distribution of wealth; questions concerning justice and peace; and of all other questions concerning the life of faith.

The Principles, Day 18

The object of our study is consciousness-raising, opening ourselves more fully to God and to our brothers and sisters and to all creation; increasing our good stewardship of planet earth and environs; strengthening our purposeful action as Franciscan witnesses for peace and justice. We strive to learn so that we may act on what we learn.

Forming the Life of a Franciscan

Study is an essential part of our lives in the Third Order beginning in Formation Process and continuing for the rest of our lives as professed tertiaries. Little wonder then that on visiting a tertiary's home, one is liable to find more than a few books.

Now we can buy these books ourselves, or we can borrow them from a library. For decades, that meant contacting the Third Order librarian who managed a specialized collection of books that are especially useful for those in the Province. Individuals would mail requested books to a user. When users finish with the book, they would then mail the book back to the librarian. This practice has become burdensome for the person who has to store the books, and little used by tertiaries.

Times have changed. We can now get the books we need for specialized spiritual study at our local libraries that now have the capability of statewide and regional **interlibrary loan**. We can also get books in **ebook** form from the vast free resources of **Project Gutenberg** to read on our computers or tablets. Finally, the number of new, relevant useful books increases at a speed far beyond what our Province can afford to purchase. (E-books are very popular; however, lending e-books on a widescale requires complicated licensing agreements that are often costly.)

The result of all this increased accessibility of books is that our provincial library has received less and less use over the years, and has become more and more out of date. Thus in response to our Minister Provincial's call for re-envisioning

how we operate as a Province, we offer this new approach which utilizes the idea of a distributed library accessible via our website and based on the principle of sharing.

Many of us have books about Franciscan spirituality and other closely related topics. Those of us who are willing to share our books will provide a list of those books to the Third Order librarian who will then coordinate the lending and returning process.

This is the way the process will work. The librarian will create an online catalog of materials that are available for Third Order members to borrow. (The most convenient and inexpensive tool to use for this is an online service known as LibraryThing. This online tool for cataloging books is being widely used by church libraries, seminary libraries, public, academic, special, and school libraries as well as personal home libraries.) Once the catalog is established, we will be able to have a link to it on our web page. We can use that site to write reviews on books we've enjoyed and even share conversations online about them. This site will advise us of local events involving books and author appearances that may be of interest to us. This site will also indicate which items are checked out.

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Re-envisioning a 21st-Century Library (cont.)

Third Order members who are willing to share specific books would request a form from the librarian by email. The librarian would email a standardized form requesting basic information about the book or books that would be filled out and emailed back to the librarian. Those materials would then be added to the library catalog by the librarian and all members could then view it through the LibraryThing catalog.

If anyone wanted to borrow a book that they found in the catalog, they would send an email or postcard to the librarian who would then make arrangements with the person who submitted the title to have it sent to the borrower by parcel post. When the borrower is finished with the book, he or she would send it back to that person also by parcel post. The cost of sending out the books will be covered by the Third Order. (The way we will be funding this cost is by selling off books from our library that are in good condition but easily found elsewhere and outside our new strict focus on a Franciscan library. To get a copy of the list, please write to jbrockma@udel.edu. The cost of any book is \$3.00 each with an estimated \$2.72/book for media mailing. Please make checks out to TSSF writing *Books* on the memo line.)

In this way we would accomplish a number of very Franciscan goals:

- We would greatly increase the number and timeliness of titles (even multiple copies) available at no cost to the Province.
- We would embody our Franciscan sense of poverty by sharing what we each have, and by caring for those books we receive and return.

So to get ready for us to launch this aspect of our 21st century library, begin making a list of what books you would like to share.

We can also make available on our website a bibliography of titles and indicate from what facility those items would be available. For example, one title could be an e-book available for purchase from Amazon. Another title could be an e-book available free from Project Gutenberg or some other service.

These two ways of making resources available would be an easier way for us to keep the concept of a library alive and functioning. It is important for those in formation as well as those of us who are professed to continue to read and study. These are ways for us as individuals and as a community to be able to be more effective witnesses of our faith to the world around us.

Opening Doors : A Special Call to Action

Tom Johnson, Minister Provincial

A Postulant and another inquirer in Cuba; two new Postulants in Mexico; an inquirer in Venezuela; an inquirer in Colombia; Bishops in Guatemala and El Salvador express-

ing keen interest in the Third Order! Our new Coordinator of Hispanic Ministry, Jim Hagen, has been invited to lead a day with the clergy in El Salvador in February as part of their Continuing Education and will also be meeting with a group of lay people at the Pro-Cathedral in San Salvador as well – and perhaps a youth meeting, too!

Bishop Scruton recently commented, “It seems that God is clearly telling us in which direction we need to move.”

While desire to be part of the Third Order flourishes in Puerto Rico, inquiries are suddenly coming in from several parts of the Spanish-speaking hemisphere, opening new doors for outreach. As Chapter considered these opportunities, we realized that responding adequately to God’s call at this time was going to involve significant investment of time, energy and funds. Thankfully we have Spanish-speaking tertiaries that are willing to make the effort; however, our normal operating budget will not stretch to provide the financial resources to respond to all these opportunities.

Thus, Chapter voted in October to establish a special fund for Hispanic Ministries, with the goal of raising \$5,000.00 this year to begin the process of cultivating the growing interest in the Third Order in Spanish-speaking countries. Two initial contributions totaling \$1,500.00 have been received to kick off this fund-raising effort.

Just 70 more gifts of \$50 each will push us to our goal – or 35 gifts of \$100 – or 140 gifts of \$25. You get the picture. We need as many contributions as possible to this special fund (over and above your regular support, so that other efforts do not suffer).

Please send your checks made out to TSSF and mail them to The Bursar, PO Box 121, Rahway, NJ 07065 writing in the memo line “Hispanic Ministries.”

Newly Professed: Robert William Thomas

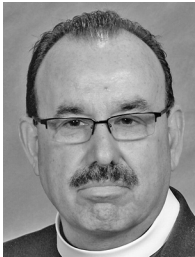
My journey began almost 25 years ago when Fr. Bob Ripson cast his line and began reeling the soon-to-be Deacon Bob in to see that I wanted to swim with Francis on Jesus’ Way toward the Father. Fr. Bob helped me to realize that the TSSF community around the Eucharistic table was what I was seeking. Before I began the process, following Francis’ principles, I made many significant changes in my life. Since I began the process, the changes have been more subtle. I appreciate the silence of just being in the moment and sharing that with God so much more.

I also find myself less of a dual thinker than I used to be. Richard Rohr has taught me to be at home with the mystic side I always hid from the world and be comfortable with non-dualistic thinking. He helped me see that the Spirit I longed for flowed out from that table to empower me to empower others to share this Spirit in helping those who needed help in living in the world around me.

From Bishop Michael Curry, I learned that the Diocese of North Carolina was my Galilee, and the power of the Eucharist could be seen in the small acts of kindness that one person does to transform another into a pilgrim on that Way. I continue on this journey today. From my wife, Cyn, I learned that God's love flows from each of us and that ministerial journey can be so joyous when you have a partner to team up with.

I was raised as a Roman Catholic teacher, football coach and jack-of-all-trades in theatre. I understood a judging God way out there observing us. He sat with the Big Book waiting to trip you up as He counted each act in the ledger. When you died, you were punished in hell for all the evil you did. Then, I met Francis and Jesus who introduced me to the loving God who was a part of us all.

Instead of guilt trips, I found love and joy in the Eucharist, Sacrament of Reconciliation and daily self-exams. I realized that God wasn't holding a whip to flog us with but was offering us a chance to turn around and get back on the Way toward eternal union with Him. I found out that instead of punishing us for how bad we were, God was showing us His boundless love and calling us to be a part of that love in the same way the two lovers share in "The Song of Solomon."



As a deacon, my life's call is to live out the Franciscan values of peacemaking, service to and justice for the poor and oppressed, care for creation, and simplicity of life. I try to live all of it daily as well as in my roles in my own family and my parish family. Before I retired from teaching, all that I did followed those values. As a teacher I provided alternatives for students who were unsuccessful with standard class assignments that sometimes involved community work or simplifying their own lives.

My work today is both secular and church-based as deacon at St. Timothy's, Wilson, NC. I bridge the gap between the two by bringing the needs of those outside the parish family into the parish family to remind the church of our need to constantly go into the Galilee around us and work with those less fortunate to better their lives and ours. We simplify our way of life together by gardening, composting, canning and cooking in most evenings before we sit down to dinner together.

Whenever I go out, I preach the Gospel sometimes using words by consciously seeking those who would allow the Jesus in me to meet the Jesus in them so that we can travel our Way together guided by Francis and Jesus to meet the Father. I do so as an equal enjoying working out our lives together whether it's at the Woodchase Home Owners Association meeting, serving at the soup kitchen or a parish shared meal. (In addition to several projects that have been put off for 10 years or more, we have been working on more civil behavior

toward each member on the Board and toleration and respect for all homeowners in our community.)

RIP: Edna B. Lewis (1929-2015)

Alice Bangs, Bonnie Barnidge, Martha Knight, and Nancy Woodward

Delmarva Seesaw Fellowship keenly feels the loss of its oldest member, Edna B. Lewis, who died 13 December in Easton, Maryland. The Fellowship had tentatively planned to visit her December 12th, but in response to Bonnie Barnidge's inquiring phone call, Edna declined. This was most unusual for her, but also "telling," as her life energy was steadily diminishing.

During her early years in the Third Order, Edna lived in North Carolina, belonging first to San Damiano Fellowship (disbanded), then Wolf of Gubbio of which, according to Julie Goodin, she was an integral part and served as treasurer and bookkeeper.

She contacted Bonnie Barnidge, a tertiary in Seaford at that time, and spent overnights with her on those trips when Edna drove up to visit her mother in a Delaware nursing home. Bonnie spoke of wonderful, meaningful memories and of Edna's influence on her life.

In 2010 Edna joined Delmarva Seesaw Fellowship, having moved to Hurlock, Maryland to be closer to her daughter. She served as secretary until frailty obliged her to put down her pen. She hosted several meetings at her church, assisted living and nursing homes, always looking to our comfort. The first time she was to host a meeting, she suffered a medical emergency earlier in the day, but insisted the Fellowship celebration go on. Her daughter, Marianne, graciously and cheerfully filled in for her. It was like Edna not to disappoint anyone who came from varying long distances to see her.



She never complained, although on our last visit with her a year ago, she said that while she felt fine that day, she wouldn't have given ten cents for herself the day before! We were touched when she offered us Franciscan materials she was thinning out. For the past year our contact with Edna was by phone and cards, with the exception of two visits by Bonnie and her next door neighbor, Bernice "Skee" Kelly, who live within easy driving distance from Salisbury.

Edna was interested in the *Renew My Church* initiative within the Third Order. She voiced concern, though, that those like her who follow beloved and long familiar traditional praxis, might feel left out. Despite that concern, however, our Fellowship deeply felt Edna's spirituality, and her presence was a vital strength to us all. She looked as though a gust of wind would blow her over, but her spirit was as stalwart as an oak.

R.I.P.: Lee Wilson (1951-2016)

Stephen Schaitberger, Minnesota Fellowship Convener

Lee Wilson died of cancer on Sunday, 10 January, 2016. She was living among friends at the Episcopal Church Home in St. Paul, Minnesota until the disease progressed to a point where more professional hospice care was necessary. Our fellowship met several times at the Church Home and Lee participated fully. She took on a ministry of writing our fellowship newsletter that she called *Little Sparrow*. Lee was a woman of slight physical build but of large heart. It was her example of prayer and gentleness of spirit that inspired me to seek profession. Of course the Formation letters and counseling were important, but the vital witnesses were the members of our fellowship who embodied Francis and the Gospel for me

The saddest day in my Franciscan journey of 30 plus years was the day I learned of Lee's decision to ask Chapter for permission to be released from her vows. But thanks be to God she passed through these months of the "dark night" in which she fought demons of depression, broken relationships, and physical ailments.

Thus one of my happiest days in my Franciscan journey was to receive her phone call requesting to begin our Formation process again. Yes, she went through this process twice!! Her return happened at a time when our fellowship was in need of a grace infusion, and what joy we all felt believing that she was coming home. We celebrated as she, with God's grace, brought us joy.

Here is another paragraph from Lee's last written words to us in the Minnesota Fellowship. I think they might be inspirational to the wider order:

*It is important to remember that we are vowed as Third Order Franciscans not only to keeping our individual rules of life but also to living out those rules **in community**. We all live busy lives, yet within them, it is imperative that we remember that we are community and that we need to be together and share our lives with each other. Being in community increases the richness and the strength of our vocations as Franciscans.*

I will close with Lee's words to us in the Fall of 2015:

God is abundantly good, giving us this delightful season. I am reminded to notice all the beauty around me, to really take in deep within me the vast variety, and intricacy of creation. St. Francis lived in the conviction that all things reflect the love and abundance of our Creator God. Each flower, each blade of grass, each tree, each insect, each bird, squirrel, and rabbit reflect the enormous love of God. So take a walk. Breathe in the glory of it all and glorify God in all you do and in all you are—a unique, beloved, creation of an all-loving God. Dance with the unity of God's creation.

From Lee's Mother

Lee was born July 17, 1951 in San Jose, California, and she grew up in San Jose where we were attending the Congregational Church. When she was 14, she told me she couldn't see any reason at all for attending the Congregational Church. She then proceeded to visit different churches in the area alone. When she discovered the Episcopal Church, she fell in love with the liturgy, music, all of it. She found her Church at 14.

From the Funeral Home Obituary

She married the Rev. Ward Malloy and relocated to the Midwest where she resided the rest of her adult life. They divorced in 1984.

Lee completed her Bachelors degree from Saint Teresa College in Winona, Minnesota in 1988 and her Masters degree from United Theological Seminary in 2012. She was passionate about leading retreats, providing spiritual direction, and dedicated to the church. Her work and research interests included the spiritual care of the elderly and mental health advocacy. She preached and served in a range of ministries with a variety of parishes over her lifetime, most recently with St. Paul's on-the-Hill and The Episcopal Homes.

From Julia Bergstrom

Lee joined TSSF at an early age, in central California, where she grew up. She spent time at the Bishop's Ranch when that was still operating (a popular place for Franciscans in those days.)

Lee brought TSSF to Minnesota in the 70s, when her husband, Ward Malloy, a UCC pastor, came to Minnesota for more training. George and Mary Metcalf met Lee when she went on retreat at their House of Prayer, and both soon joined TSSF. Lee was convener of the Minnesota fellowship for many years and also served on Chapter.

Lee was a contemplative who felt very close to Francis and Clare. When asked what attracted her to Francis, she answered, "his passion." I think Clare may have been her prayer partner.

She suffered from ill health for many years, but listened to God when she heard an answer to her prayer, that God's grace was sufficient. She had a gift for preaching and writing. She communicated her lived understanding of God's love for us and our loving response.

If she were praying for you, you knew it.



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Editor

R. John Brockmann
Editorial contributions and all
correspondence send to:

R. John Brockmann
jbrockma@udel.edu

Editorial Staff

Alice Baird, Julie Goodin, Victoria Logue,
Anita Catron Miner, Cathleen Reynolds, and Stuart Schlegel

Where to Send

- Name and address changes
- Convocation Dates
- Profession & Novicing Dates
- Notification of Deaths

Send to Secretary of the Province:

Verleah Kosloske

3765 Keller Ave

Alexandria, VA

mt.alverna@gmail.com

For Chaplaincy Matters

Rick Simpson, Provincial Chaplain

16 St. Mark's Lane

Islip, New York 11751

frsmpson@yahoo.com

Brief Self-Introduction for Newly Professed Member

Nancy A. Chiafulio

I am in absolute awe of having been called to the Third Order, Society of St. Francis. God has been preparing and honing me for this ever since I left the convent over 37 years ago. What I was longing for all those years is now coming to fruition. As I read more and more about St. Francis and St. Clare, I can't help but see that what I hold dear and how I have grown to believe is contained in the daily Principles



as well as what guides are found in *Forming the Life of a Franciscan*. I thank and praise God daily for gently leading me to the Third Order. I feel elated when I realize that I will spend all eternity as a Third Order Franciscan. Thank you to my brothers and sisters of the Wolf of Gubbio section of North Carolina! Praise the Lord, Pax et Bono!

The Mystic, the Mourner, magnetic and strange. But, be realistic, he isn't sadistic.

Victoria Logue

It was somewhat cryptic, particularly to an 11-year-old. Either way, I was completely fascinated by this description

of my birth sign—Pisces. I found this “definition” of myself on a colorful book of matches and never forgot it. I liked the idea of being mystic (whatever that actually meant) and a mourner and magnetic and even strange. It is true that I am not sadistic but I never really liked the rhyme-ness of that second line.

As the years passed, I continued to be drawn to the mystic aspect of my sign, and, eventually, to the mystics themselves: Saint John and Saint Paul, Hildegard von Bingen and Teresa of Avila, Julian of Norwich and, needless to say, Saint Francis.

Evelyn Underhill, in her book, *Mysticism*, wrote: “Of all those forms of life and thought which humanity has fed its craving for truth, mysticism alone postulates, and in the persons of its great initiates proves, not only the existence of the Absolute, but also this link: this possibility first of knowing, finally of attaining it.”

Attaining knowledge of, and finally, union with, the Absolute is a journey along a different wilderness road. It is a long, and often arduous pilgrimage and not everyone who undertakes it will reach their final destination.

“Quid es ergo, Deus meus?” asked Saint Augustine.

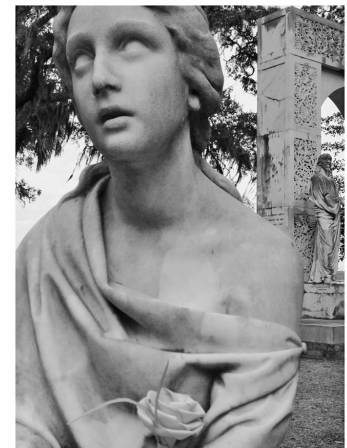
What art Thou, then, my God? He proceeded to answer with both the vision of the mystic and the genius of the philosopher, which, according to Underhill, “combined to hint something at least of the paradox of the intimacy and majesty in that all-embracing, all-transcending One.”

Highest, best, most potent [dynamic], most omnipotent [transcendent], most merciful and most just, most deeply hid and yet most near. Fairest, yet strongest: steadfast yet unseizable; unchangeable yet changing all things; never new, yet never old. . . . Ever busy yet ever at rest; gathering yet needing not: bearing, filling, guarding; creating, nourishing and perfecting; seeking though Thou hast no wants. . . . What can I say, my God, my life, my holy joy? Or what can any say who speaks of Thee?

Underhill said that the mystic knows his task to be the attainment of Union with God; that is, the Unitive Life, which, while it is often lived in the world, is never of it. The self is remade, transformed and has finally unified itself.

“Waiting is the joy of mystics and it is their penance,” according to Stephen J. Rossetti in his book *When the Lion Roars: A Primer for the Unsuspecting Mystic*. “It is a long,

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The Mystic, the Mourner (cont.)

sometimes painful calling. But as we learn to wait, we become alive to God who is always present. When we keep vigil, we become like him who is ever vigilant, ever present. In fact, it is not that we keep vigil because we are actually 'waiting for God.' *No, the truth is that in becoming vigilant, we become like him who said, 'I AM'* (Ex 3:14).

As T.S. Eliot wrote in the *Little Gidding* section of his *Four Quartets*:

We shall not cease from exploration

And the end of all our exploring

Will be to arrive where we started

And know the place for the first time.

This is clearly not an easy task yet one infinitely worth aspiring to."

New Names & Faces in Provincial Leadership

Tom Johnson, Minister Provincial

Here's an update on some new names and faces in our TSSF leadership. Last December, **Anita Miner** resigned as Provincial Secretary. She will be greatly missed, as she has contributed so very much to the Order in many different capacities over the years. (See related article in this issue on page 8.) To replace Anita, Chapter has elected **Verleah Kosloske** who has been working in JPIC and on the editorial board of the *Franciscan Times* to complete Anita's term as Provincial Secretary.

Nancy Chiafulio will be taking over responsibilities as Literature Coordinator from **Janet Fedders**, who has done such a wonderful job for the last several years.

I have named **Jim Hagen** Coordinator of Hispanic Ministry, and he has jumped in with great enthusiasm, setting up a Spanish Facebook page, among other outreach efforts.

I have also named a Communications Task Force which will be taking a look at all our outreach vehicles, including our brochures, website, etc.



Jim Hagen

Chaired by **Victoria Logue**, the Task Force also includes **Lucinda Dyer**, **Melissa Hudson Hall** and **Joseph Wolyniak**.

Pray for all these persons as they take up their new duties.



Verleah Kosloske

2015 Annual TSSF Justice Peace & Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Report

Joyce Wilding, JPIC Animator

Two new JPIC resources were posted on the website: month-at-a-glance JPIC readings and meditations and information about a new *Creation Care* certificate program at Sewanee University of the South. Funding for small projects from the annual JPIC \$1,000 budget was promoted in all the communications described above. Two groups responded to these promotions and each group was given \$500. Look for longer description of this JPIC work in the next *Franciscan Times* and on the JPIC TSSF link.

Energy Efficiency for the Climate and Poor - Amy Nicolson, North Carolina Land of Sky Fellowship

Helping the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized is a central tenet in the Christian gospel. The command to care for "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40) has fueled a novel, new energy program that cares for the least of these while caring for Creation. Brad Rouse, a self-proclaimed "climate warrior," joined the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in the small town of Hayesville, North Carolina in 2007. Rouse has inspired volunteers from the church to go out to the trailers and homes of disadvantaged families, perform an energy assessment, identify sources of free or low-cost materials, then fix the problem. Upgrades include such things as LED lighting, weather-stripping, insulation, and replacing inefficient heating and cooling systems. This hands-on and open approach has resulted in lower energy bills and reduced carbon emissions.

Rouse recognizes that limiting this work to Hayesville won't make a big difference. He wants to expand the program to make more of the "poorest of the poor, rich in energy efficiency." To do that, Rouse is getting the word out and looking for funding options. His hope is that more faith-based organizations will see the opportunity to do something that will address the climate and poverty and together they can create some momentum for real change.

GraceWorks — Frank Romanowicz, Alabama's God's Joyful Fool Fellowship

The GraceWorks summer ministry this year is now complete, and there are multiple projects that have been accomplished, especially these past couple of weeks. The completed outdoor projects include a greenhouse, a toolshed to contain the GraceWorks tools, machinery, and other supplies, a brick path from the sidewalk to the labyrinth (containing just over 2,000 bricks!), and the labyrinth itself.

There were several steps in completing the labyrinth: outlining the path, clearing the bushes and weeds, making molds with cement and pea gravel, laying and cementing the molds

down, sweeping the labyrinth, putting cement mosaics around it, and adding a cross in the center of the labyrinth made out of cement and rocks. These rocks were donated by individuals and Episcopal churches across the Diocese of Alabama, and we were grateful to be able to use them. We also visited other labyrinths, the most recent being the one at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Madison, AL, to learn more about the designs and the significance of these spiritual paths.

The completed labyrinth is back behind the church, and the community is welcome to use it.



The final celebration for GraceWorks occurred last Friday evening in the parish hall of Grace Church, where family members, friends, and supporters of the program gathered to be shown the efforts and accomplishments that were completed throughout the summer. On top of a meal and awards, there was also a time for everyone to walk the labyrinth and take part in a blessing conducted by Mother Robyn Arnold.

This ministry could not have been completed without the collective efforts of the facilitator, Ms. Kay Williams, volunteers, local churches, companies, and corporations, the participants, and other supporters. The visions of the ministry are to offer 12- to 15-year olds the opportunities to learn carpentry and landscaping skills, activities that encourage self-esteem, character development, community involvement, work ethics, conflict resolution, and spiritual inquisitiveness. Ultimately, the hope was and still is for all to act upon our calling emphasized in 2 Peter 3:18, "to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever. Amen."

**A video preview of Part 4
History of the Province of the
Americas
is available on YouTube at
<http://tinyurl.com/h9qpq4a>**

Franciscan Aid: Winter 2015–16 Newsletter

Sometimes small donations can make an enormous difference in situations of great need, particularly if Franciscan Aid can enable the work of locally based organisations. In the villages of West Mukoko in Uganda, Action for Children and Young People Uganda (ACYYP) has been able to use a grant from Franciscan Aid to help 22 desperately poor families to regain health and hope with practical measures such as mosquito nets and better sanitation, along with money for pigs and goats and support for education.

A letter from the West Mukoko Village Council reports:

With the food and animal support from Franciscan Aid, starvation will become just a bad dream in those poor homes of vulnerable children and adults especially who do not have the energy to grow food.



We have also received an encouraging report from Brother Christy in Sri Lanka. Brother Christy has sponsored a number of projects, mainly concerned with children's education. In this case, however, he had supported the application of a widow for startup funding to set up a small business. The



woman, pictured with her two children, is now able to run a small shop from her home. Brother Christy writes: *I thank you for your services to the poorest of the poor in the society and whatever we do will be*

Fundraising News

Our members have shown a lot of imagination finding ways to raise money for Franciscan Aid. Do support their efforts – by giving them publicity as well as donations – and let Peter Cannings know if you have any ideas of your own.

The Boudicca Sponsored Swim

Named after the legendary warrior Queen of the Iceni, the Boudicca Way is a long distance

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Franciscan Aid (cont.)

footpath which runs for 36 miles between Diss and Norwich in England. Running roughly parallel with the old Roman 'Pye' Road (now the A140), the route follows public rights of way and quiet country roads, stopping off in picturesque villages such as Pulham Market, Saxlingham Nethergate and Shotesham, and passing through the beautiful, unspoilt rural countryside of South Norfolk and the Waveney Valley.

TSSFer Angela Alexander will be swimming 36 miles from February 2016 to May 2016, three miles each week, to raise funds for Franciscan Aid. Please sponsor her, either by emailing angela.alexander@hotmail.co.uk or by going to her fundraising page at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/franciscanaidswim>

Holy Art Workbook

Artist and icon writer TSSFer Constantina Wood has produced an A4 booklet introducing the idea of using the making of art as an aid to prayer. She is making the workbook available free of charge but is inviting donations to Franciscan Aid. We hope to make the workbook available as a PDF download on the website but in the meantime you can request a copy from journal@artserve.org.uk.

Franciscan Aid Online and Continuing Communication

An exciting new venture is the development of a dedicated website for Franciscan Aid. This is being pioneered by our Chair, Peter Cannings, and should go live in the Spring. We hope that it will bring together information about the various projects, back copies of the newsletter and up-to-date news. It will also provide a central information point for fundraising initiatives for Franciscan Aid.

Raising awareness of the charity and its work continues in more conventional ways too. Peter has now visited 19 Areas of the Province, including a visit to Dublin in October. Other trustees will be joining him in this work in 2016.

Franciscan Aid: Chairman Peter Cannings (01572 821870, peter.cannings2@gmail.com); Secretary Angela Alexander (01953 887391, angela.alexander@hotmail.co.uk); Treasurer Roland Randall (01480 830233, rer10@cam.ac.uk); Newsletter Editor: Richenda Milton-Daws (01666 824029, richenda@ymail.com)

Buy Books & Support Your New Library

We are selling off books from our library that are in good condition but easily found elsewhere and outside our new strict focus on a Franciscan library. To get a copy of the list, please write to jbrockma@udel.edu. The cost of any book is \$3.00 each with an estimated \$2.72/book for media mailing. Please make checks out to TSSF.

A True Third Order Giant, Anita Catron Miner...Retires Again

Tom Johnson, Minister Provincial

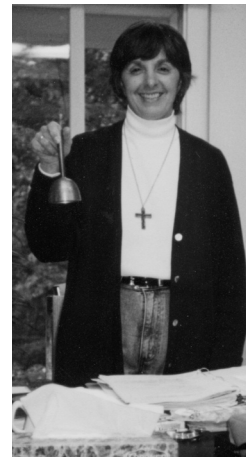
Of Anita Catron Miner's 33 years of Profession, over 75% of that time (some 26 years) have been served as a leader in one fashion or another.

In 1989 she became the second Fellowship Coordinator of the Province after Marie Webner was elected Provincial Chaplain and during the time of Dee Dobson's Minister Provincial terms. Anita was, in fact, very much a protégé of both Dee and Marie who did so much to shape the organization as we know it today. Along with Dee Dobson and John Scott, she was one of the Anglican representatives in the '80s to the Roman Catholic Congress (CIOFF) in Rome.



Fellowship Coordinator Anita Catron Miner and Minister Provincial Alden Whitney on the steps at Little Portion

In 1995, Alden Whitney encouraged her to head up the first Provincial Convocation to be held in over a decade. That very successful New Orleans Convocation led to similar leadership a few years later at the Santa Barbara Convocation in 2002.



Anita Catron

Miner Calling Chapter to Order at Little Portion

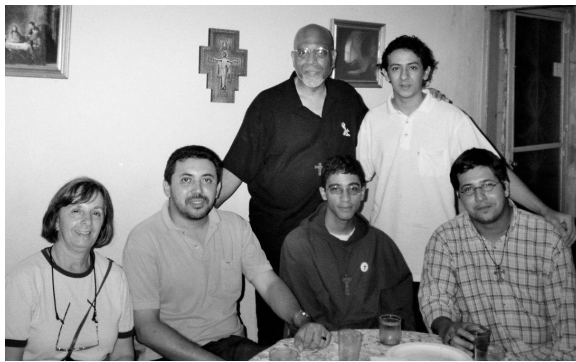
Anita served two terms as Minister Provincial from 1996 to 2002, during which time she represented TSSF:

- On preaching mission trips to Mexico along with SSF and CSF in 1999 and 2000;
- As the first TSSF representative to NAECC (National Association of Episcopal Christian Communities) in 1999;
- At IPTOC (Inter Provincial Third Order Chapter--highest legislative council in the Order) in Brisbane, Australia in 1999;

• In establishing deep connections with OEF (Order of Ecumenical Franciscans) and OFS (Order of Franciscans Secular);

• Along with Carol Tookey, CSF, and SSF in promoting the Justice and Peace Chapter Focus Group, which eventually became JPIC;

• Beginning the selection process of the first Bishop Protector solely for TSSF in the Province of the Americas, the final act of our independence as a Province;



Left: Minister Provincial Masud Ibn Syedullah, Anita Catron Miner, and Cezar Alves, with Franciscan brothers at The City of God, Rio de Janeiro.



Right: Anita with Graciela Alvarez y Fuentes TSSF in Mexico City

- Tirelessly promoting TSSF Latino ministry over many years, working to incorporate Franciscan groups in Brazil into TSSF, including living in Aracatuba, State of Sao Paulo, Brazil for 6 months in 2004; traveling in 2006 to Brazil with Dorothy Booker, TSSF Minister General, to encourage the relationship and to profess Novices who were ready; and again, in 2008 with Bill Breedlove to further the goals of the Covenant relationship.

Anita returned to Chapter in 2013 to become Provincial Secretary and in the last two years oversaw the renovation of Hot News and the Annual Directory and Intercession List, at the same time ably fulfilling the many usual duties of the office. For many years she has been – and will continue to be – the final editorial eye on the *Franciscan Times* prior to its going to press; and will continue as an AFD for the Hispanic Ministry.

We salute you, Anita, with a profound sense of gratitude for your many contributions to TSSF and wish for you a time of

Below: The essence of shared spirituality at Santa Barbara Provincial Convocation 2002: Rabbi Carlos Huerta, Jewish Chaplain and Professor of Higher Mathematics, The United States Military Academy, West Point, NY; Anita Catron Miner; Imam Mohamad Bashar Arafat, Founder & Director of Civilizations Exchange and Cooperation Foundation, Baltimore, MD; and Rev. Masud; Brother Robert Hugh in foreground; Minister General and Bishop-to-be Keith Slater in back.



Left: Br. Tom, Bp. Carranza, Br. Clark and Anita on a mission trip in Mexico

Below: National Association of Episcopal Christian Communities, 1999

3

2



1—Anita Catron Miner and Andrew Wilkes, TSSF

2—Congregation of the Companions of the Holy Spirit

3—Order of the Paraclete

4—Brotherhood of St. Gregory

5—Worker Sisters and Brothers of the Holy Spirit

5

5

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1

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Bursar for Brazil

Mara Dutra
Rúa Salomão Vergeira da Cruz, 1226
Piratininga 24350-120
Niteroi-RJ-Brazil
franciscanojulio@gmail.com

Bursar for USA

TSSF Province of the Americas
PO Box 121
Rahway, NJ 07065
lawsond44@aol.com

Bursar for Canada

Gordon Arthur
410-281 Holdom Ave
Burnaby, BC Canada V5B 3T9
Gordon@ecumenist.org

Bursar for Jamaica

Brenda Stewart
1 Calcraft Ave.
Kingston, 8, Jamaica
bmae12@yahoo.com

Bursar for Trinidad and Tobago

Jacqueline Richards
29 Opal Garden, Diamond Vale
Diego Martin, Trinidad
Phyllrich@yahoo.com

Bursar for Guyana

Clarence Narain
23 Prospect
East Bank Demerara, Guyana
narainclarence@yahoo.com

Nominations for Chapter (2016-8) Are Solicited from Professed Members

Verleah Brown Kosloske, Provincial Secretary

The terms of the Chapter members now in office will expire at the beginning of the 2016 Chapter meeting. In accordance with the Provincial Statutes, each professed member is entitled to nominate up to five eligible tertiaries to serve on the new Chapter. All professed members are eligible for nomination but please make certain that each person you nominate is willing to serve for a full term of three years. The current elected members of Chapter who are eligible to be re-elected and are willing to stand for re-election are: Masud Ibn Syedullah, Millicent Ramcharan, Stephen Schaitberger, and Joan Verret.

When you contact people to nominate, it might be helpful for them to know that the dates for Chapter this fall are October 11 – 14 at San Damiano Retreat Center, Danville, CA arriving before dinner on Tuesday and leaving after lunch on Friday. Chapter always begins after October 4th. The Order pays for all expenses associated with Chapter, including travel, lodging, and meals.

Please mail your list of nominees to me at the address in the letterhead by April 1st either by surface or electronic mail. You need not use the attached form. The ten members receiving the highest number of nominations will appear on the ballot as candidates for Chapter (or, in the case of a tie for 10th place, all their names shall appear). In addition, the Standing Committee may nominate up to four candidates to ensure geographical diversity. A ballot containing the names of the nominees will be mailed to you by April 15th and will need to be returned to me with the names of your top seven choices by July 15th. The names of the newly elected Chapter members will be announced to the membership by August 1st.

Please mail this form to Verleah Brown Kosloske, TSSF, 3765 Keller Avenue, Alexandria VA 22302 USA or send up

to 5 names to her electronically at mt.alverna@gmail.com by April 1, 2016.

Nominations for Chapter (2016-2018)

Nominate up to five professed members, all of whom have agreed to be nominated and to serve for a term of three years.

As a professed member of the Third Order, Province of the Americas, Society of St. Francis, I _____ nominate for the Office of Chapter, term to begin in October 2016, the following tertiaries:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

“Stand in Awe”

Diana Turner-Forte

Each day's a gift of light
Regardless of weather
Feet on ground, lungs expanding,
Blood pumping through the body.

Seasons need no nudging
Earth changes in its cycles
Sun rises, then it sets in a daily rhythm
Slivered arcs to full round circles, new moons continuously appear.

Our lives themselves unfold perfectly
Through joy and sorrow, laughter and tears
Each moment an opportunity
To reflectively respond or unreasonably react.

Living into our given lives
Vivacious, spirited, fully-embodied
Actively giving in dedicated service to
People, situations, events and causes.

I stand in awe
Of God's good mercy
Reflecting through our lives
Miraculously our Higher selves enjoy us to be all that we can BE.

“Francis, Rebuild My Church” *

Alice Baird

Francis, rebuild my church.
With nature's gifts—stone, wood and human hands—
he made the task his own.
Let us too rebuild: with sweat
and salvage from the material world,

let's clear the rubble of injustice,
make sanctuary for the dispossessed.

Francis, rebuild my church.

Dancing with brothers, sisters—sinners all—
he laid a new foundation for the Gospel life:
wood of the cross, impoverishment, joy.

Fools for Christ, together, let us too
rebuild His Church, rejoicing
shoulder to shoulder, our service unsparring,
our humbleness too radical for this vain world.

Francis, rebuild my church.

But first, before one stone be laid to stone,
before one hand console the sick
or word comfort the desolate,
let us aflame in prayer and love of Christ
demolish ego's empty mansions,
rebuild the temple of our souls.

The world has changed since Francis' time
and so has Christendom—but has it, really?

Instead of infidels in distant lands,
we battle terrorists, today
we chafe beneath the lordly one percent.
Corruption, prejudice, and bad religion
plague civic and ecclesiastic life.
Content with our comforts, we are
indifferent to the “least of these”:
the starving, homeless, and oppressed.
We are full of ourselves, not Christ.

So, let us recommit to the Franciscan way.

Poor in spirit, penitent of heart,
let us discard our vanities,
remake our very souls.

With Godly love, let us become,
ourselves, Christ's Church renewed today.
With kindnesses for stones, prayers for mortar,
hearts for holy altars, let us build
a sacred place of agape
with Francis ever dancing in its light.

* In our last issue we inadvertently left off the last few lines of Alice's poem. We reprint it here in its entirety.

Countdown to the End of the Franciscan Times in Print on Paper and Mailed: Only Two More Issues!

John Brockmann, Editor

“Gosh, this issue of the *Franciscan Times* is short!”
You're right, it is short. Its brevity is the result of a Chapter decision to move the serialization of the *History of the Province of the Americas: 1917-2017* primarily to online availability. Moreover, as of Winter 2017, Chapter has also decided that the whole issue will be primarily available on-

line. Moving primarily to an online publication will allow us to contain most of the costs of mailing and printing while enabling the use of color, extended-length issues, and improved timeliness of issues.

To download a copy of the newest part of *History of the Province of the Americas, Part 4* (all 28 pages), enter this into your browser: <http://tinyurl.com/jvb2xvn>
Even better, view a short video preview of Part 4 of our history on YouTube at <http://tinyurl.com/h9qpq4a>

Part 4 explores the era of John Scott, first TSSF Guardian, (1973-80), and the many controversies beseting the Province in those years (e.g., women's ordination in 1974). Part 4 also describes the creation of annual Provincial Convocations that included position papers circulated prior to the meeting which later became the focus of discussions at the Convocation. Thus Part 4 includes thought-provoking articles on religious poverty, as well as one on the essential Franciscan values offered by Brother Geoffrey, Minister General of the Society of St. Francis at that time.

Part 4 illustrates how the **American Province** became the **Province of the Americas** by describing the genesis of the Third Order in Trinidad, Tobago, and South America.

Part 4 includes the story of Hugo Muller, a tertiary serving amongst the Cree Indians in far northern Quebec. Muller wrote three books portraying the effects the white man upon the indigenous people of Northern Quebec with the advent of the James Bay Hydroelectric Projects. Tertiary Josiah W. Noel (Dean of the Cathedral in Newfoundland) offers a contemporary Canadian's view on Muller's work.

Part 4 has many pictures and illustrations including one odd artifact related to a play performed in Philadelphia in 1979, *Buckskin and Burlap: The Life of Christ According to Francis of Assisi Performed for Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show* (no script or any other artifacts of this play have been found). If anyone has any information about this play, please contact me.

Our first Provincial Chaplain, Robert Goode (“Gooch”) wrote this fitting epitaph for John Scott:

If you leave the office of Guardian with any mark upon us, it would be your effort to keep the gospel always before us. Your concern for the poor and oppressed has colored every Convocation and Chapter just as it has colored your priestly ministry. Indeed, you have proclaimed liberty to the captive.



**Third Order of the Society
of St. Francis
American Province Inc.**
c/o Anita Catron Miner
PO BOX 17016
Salt Lake City UT 84117

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Send in your contributions for the Summer 2016 issue by June 1

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