

2016 OSL Convocation

October 18-21, 2016 at St. Paul of the Cross Monastery and Retreat, Pittsburg PA

by Br. Dan Benedict, O.S.L.

Every four years the Order of Saint Luke gathers for its Convocation, a gathering required by our constitution. This year we met in a familiar setting, in Pittsburgh, St. Paul of the Cross Monastery and Retreat, where we are frequently guests of the Passionist order in the intervening years. The Convocation and the retreats are celebrations of our common life, occasions for rejoicing in coming in from the “cold”, and conducting necessary business of the Order.

Investiture of Sr. Abbot Elizabeth

The highlight of the convocation was the investiture of our new abbot,



HANDING ON THE CROZIER

Outgoing Abbot, Br. Daniel Benedict, handing on the crozier, to newly invested Abbot, Sr. Elizabeth Moore, just before she stood before the assembly to bless us with the Abbot's Commendation and Blessing.

Sr. Elizabeth Moore. In the 70-year history of the Order, Sr. Abbot Elizabeth is the first female to serve as our abbatial leader. She occupies the cathedra bringing an intimate knowledge of the life and work of the Order and all of us smiled joyfully as she blessed the community with the “Abbot's Commendation” at the end of the service of investiture. Along with her, **Br. George Crisp** was invested as Prior General, **Sr. Jeanette Block** as Chancellor General, and **Sr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson** as Provincial General.

OUR NEWLY
INVESTED
GENERAL
OFFICERS

Br. George Crisp,
Prior General;
Sr. Elizabeth
Moore, Abbot;
Sr. Jeanette
Block,
Chancellor
General; Sr.



The Order's Constitution calls for the election of the Genral Officers. Other officers are appointed by the abbot.

Convocation Presenter



Sr. Joyce Ann Zimmerman, C.P.P.S, of the Sisters of the Precious Blood, was the featured Convocation presenter. Sr. Joyce Ann is director of the Institute for Liturgical Ministry, Dayton, Ohio.

She offered three lively addresses: "St. Luke's Call to Live Community", "St. Luke's Invitation to Hospitality", and "St. Luke's Witness to Mercy". As a religious for over 50 years, she blessed us with insights about our Lukan community and what she observed of our life together. She noted that we were a community well along in the life of prayer and she challenged us to engage in stronger formation of those who seek to enter the Order, forming them in our values and spirituality. She was especially affirming of our practice of reflecting on our liturgies

as a way of discovering what God is doing in our midst.

The Service of Profession



At the service of profession, six made first public vows: (picture left to right in the OSL Habit) **Sr. Rebecca Harmon**, **Br. Bruce Gowe**, **Sr. Laura King**, **Br. Daniel "Blake" Gulley**, **Br. Jonathan Hehn**, and **Br. Chuck Wolfram**. **Sr. Carol Gathagan**, (without scapular) is Companion to Inquiring and New Members and is standing on the left of the new members. She has a Facebook

“Secret” Group page for inquirers and new members, and she has nurtured several of the new members pictured here.

Compline and Transitus memorializing the faithful departed

Wednesday at Compline, we included the Transitus rite from *The Book of Offices and Services*, memorializing those who died during the previous year with a witness and lighting a candle for each: **Br. Bill Kintner, Br. Richard Santella, Br.**



Hoyt Hickman, Sr. Marjorie Erickson, The Rev. Dr. Laurence Hull Stookey (friend of the Order), Sr. Mabel Doser, Br. David Yingling, and Sr. Deena McGuire. There was both laughter and tears as we heard stories and recollections of their lives. **Br. David Eichelberger and Sr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson** officiated.

Each year at retreat of convocation we remember and give thanks for those members who have died. Pictured here is the table with candle lit for those who died in 2015-16. Br. David Eichelberger, Director of Pastoral Care is seated near the table. (*Apologies for the poor quality of the photo*)

Throughout the Convocation we were blessed with music and led by **Br. Geoffrey Moore, Br. Bob Jarboe, Sr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson, and Sr. Elise Eslinger. Sr. Alice Kay Lovelace**, our Chaplain General, and **Br. Rusty Beals**, sacristan, gifted the community with coordinating the planning of all liturgies and seeing that our holy hardware and other needed resources were available for every one of the fourteen services. As always, our gathering to celebrate Word & Table and to pray to offices reminded us of who we are before God as those gathered and sent for the life of the world.

General Chapter Meeting

During the business portion of the General Chapter meeting, we learned that current membership is 577, including 57 life-vowed members. **Br. Scott Alford**, retiring Chancellor General, gave us the following demographic picture of the Order of Saint Luke:

- 454 clergy, 123 lay (21%)
- 474 United Methodist, 103 other denominations (18%)
- 439 male, 138 female (24%)
- 505 United States, 72 other countries (12%)

The General Chapter approved the 2015 minutes and adopted the proposed 2016/2017 budget.

Br. Abbot Dan, before retiring, led the community in a time of listening for the remainder of the General Chapter meeting inviting members to speak as they were prompted for the good of the Order, especially to those to be invested as general offices.

Next year's retreat



The 2017 Retreat will be held at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, Arizona October 16-20 and the spring meeting of the Council will be held at the same venue, May 8-10. The Daily

Office Revision Team (DORT) will meet there May 10-12. Retreats and convocations are sometimes held in other parts of the country to be accessible to members who live in the mid-west and far-west of the United States. We hope eventually to have members from countries in addition to those who come from the United States and Canada. Retreats and convocations are always open to non-members who want to experience the Order's gathered life or to attend because of interest in the presentations. Registration will be available online as well as by snail mail. Watch for more information.

Br. Dan Benedict, immediate past abbot of the Order of Saint Luke, lives in Hawaii and Virginia. He will be assuming a role in OSL Publications under appointment of the abbot.