

The Font

Fostering connections within the Order of Saint Luke

November/December 2004



From the Abbot's Desk

Contact the Abbot Mark Stamm, O.S.L. at MWSTAMM@comcast.net

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Grace to you, and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord. I hope this letter finds you well.

I am grateful for those who have mentored me and those whom God has used to give gentle nudges in the right direction. During my freshman year at Shippensburg University, my advisor in the English Department, Dr. Robert Kalmey told me that I should remain open to the possibility of doing doctoral level studies, and that I should plan in such a way that my options remained open. I filed the thought, but never forgot it. Two years later, during a very exceptionally full junior year that included seventeen credit hours each semester, local pastor's school, engagement to Margie and plans for an August wedding, Bob handed me two books one day and said, "Here, you might want to take a look at these." What were the books? *Liturgies of the Western Church* by Bard Thompson and *Early Christian Fathers* as translated and compiled by Cyril Richardson. I read, and I was fascinated.

Already, I had an uncommon interest in the Eucharist and the worship life of the church, especially in its charismatic forms, and my advisor knew that, but his nudge made a major contribution to my eventual discernment of a vocation to liturgical scholarship. I am grateful for what he was able to see and that he acted upon it.

Whom has God called you to mentor? A right word here or a fitting gesture there, the right book given; these can help people discover the delights both of liturgical practice and serious reflection on the same. May God grant you both the opportunity and the boldness to do such work. Now that *This Holy Mystery* is available to us, we have even more opportunity to discuss the sacraments.

Your brother,
Mark W. Stamm, O.S.L.

Reminders from the General Chapter meeting:

If your email address changes, please notify the Chancellor-General at chancellor@saint-luke.org and the Font editor at esmoore@alum.mit.edu in order to keep our records accurate. Thank you.

The Order of Saint Luke web site (<http://www.Saint-Luke.org>) has a "members only" page. Access to this page is restricted to protect the privacy of members' personal information. The password can be requested from the Chancellor General, Br. Brent Sturm. Please DO NOT provide this password to anyone outside the Order. (Note: Our Cyber Chapter has subscriber's who are not members of the Order, so please don't share the password via this list.) Thanks for your cooperation.

Ordo for the Order of Saint Luke

NOVEMBER

M	1	All Saints Day W or G (optional)
T	2	Phoebe Palmer G
W	3	Richard Hooker G
T	4	G
F	5	G
S	6	G
		Eve of All Saints W (optional)
S	7	23rd Sunday after Pentecost G
		All Saints Day W (optional)
M	8	G
T	9	G
W	10	Leo the Great G
T	11	Martin of Tours & Soren Kierkegaard G
F	12	G
S	13	Sarah Peters G
S	14	24th Sunday after Pentecost G
M	15	G
T	16	Margaret Queen of Scotland G
W	17	Philip William Otterbein G
T	18	Hilda G
F	19	G
S	20	G
		Eve of Christ the King W
S	21	Christ the King W
M	22	G
T	23	Clement of Rome G
W	24	Eliza Garrett G
T	25	Isaac Watts G
		Thanksgiving Day W (optional)
F	26	Sojourner Truth G
S	27	G, B/P-pm
S	28	1st Sunday of Advent B/P
M	29	B/P
T	30	Andrew R

DECEMBER

W	1	Nicholas Ferrar B/P
T	2	B/P
F	3	B/P
S	4	B/P
S	5	2nd Sunday of Advent B/P
M	6	Nicholas B/P
T	7	Ambrose of Milan B/P
W	8	B/P
T	9	B/P
F	10	B/P
S	11	B/P
S	12	3rd Sunday of Advent B/P
M	13	B/P
T	14	John of the Cross B/P
W	15	B/P
T	16	B/P
F	17	John Stewart B/P
S	18	Thelma Stevens B/P
S	19	4th Sunday of Advent B/P
M	20	Captain Thomas Webb B/P
T	21	Thomas R
W	22	B/P
T	23	B/P
F	24	B/P
		Christmas Eve W
S	25	Christmas Day W
S	26	1st Sunday after Christmas W
M	27	Stephen R (trans.)
T	28	John W (trans.)
W	29	The Holy Innocents R (trans.)
T	30	W
F	31	W

ORDO prepared by Br. Jack Fahey

Have you considered a gift to the Order of Saint Luke in your will?

*From the Prior General,
Br. Stanley Tanner. O.S.L., Stanosl@aol.com*

The **2005 OSL Retreat** is scheduled for **17-20 October 2005**, focusing on the topic of Worship as World-Making. We will be looking at the ways in which the shape and content of our worship life, personal and corporate, affect the world view of persons of all ages. The major presenters will be Br. Dwight and Linda Vogel. Br. Dwight is recently retired from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Linda Vogel is currently a professor at GETS.

The site of the Retreat will be at **St. Bernard's Abbey in Cullman, Alabama**. More information will unfold as the year progresses.

*From the Provincial General,
Br. George Crisp. O.S.L., revgrc@prodigy.net*

At the Fall meeting of the General Chapter, it was a pleasure to report that we have 31 active Chapters or Associations in The Order. We have seven inactive chapters, five of them awaiting student interest at seminaries. Most of our chapter contacts have been by E-mail, but I did receive two telephone updates and one chapter report via "snail mail."

There are chapters in formation – Middle Tennessee and Tyler, Texas – and interest in The Order at Northeastern Seminary (NY), Singapore, and the Philippines. There are three chapters whose status is unknown – the Little Rock, Western New York, and the Wisconsin chapters. Perhaps the contact information we have for these chapters is out of date. If you are a member of one of these chapters, please contact me with an update.

We ask for these updates twice a year, prior to our Spring and Fall General Chapter meetings. This helps us keep our records up to date, lets us gauge the strength of an order in diaspora, keeps us aware of changes in chapter leadership, and fosters a connectedness with others in The Order. I am grateful for the improved response to our request for a Fall report.

Each Chapter or Association is welcome to submit an article to *The Font* to share the types of activities you are experiencing. However, in future issues I will be offering "Chapter News," on a rotating basis, culling the information from latest update I have received. (Thanks to Sr. Cheryl Gates of the Boston University Chapter for the inspiration.) Here is the first series:

Chapter News

The **Gatch Farms Table Chapter** (at Asbury Seminary) meets every Tuesday and Thursday morning in the Asbury Seminary community at 8:30 for celebration of the Holy Eucharist. We meet occasionally at other times as specially organized for other liturgical celebrations (like this year we will have a special All-Hallow's eve service in the local cemetery). Brs. Brian Rhea and Jeremy Sullivan are the chapter's co-Priors; Dr. Lester Ruth is their Faculty Advisor.

The **Dwight W. Vogel Chapter** (at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary) meets three times per week. Br. Vince Eller, Prior, reports that they have a Compline and Eucharist service for the

In April, Sr. Jo Hoover reported that the **Iowa Chapter** is no longer meeting, but she remains a local area contact person for The Order.

Likewise, Br. Philip Steele reported in May that the **Michigan (West) Chapter** is currently inactive while he is working on certification (CPE) as a chaplain, serving part-time in a local church, and is a chaplain on call at a medical center in Kalamazoo.

Sr. Linda Jean Harris, of the **Northern Oasis Chapter (New York)**, reported in August that the five members of the chapter (four women, one man), are “active in spirits” but have not met since the beginning of 2004.

Sr. Mollie McGee, Prior of the **St. Benedict Chapter** (at Candler School of Theology), filed this report: Our chapter currently meets twice a month with a focus on enhancing personal and corporate spirituality among our student body. We have recently held meetings on prayer and a joint meeting with Candler’s Children’s Initiative on children’s spirituality. We are also planning an OSL-led worship service at Candler as well as a Spirituality Seminar for the fall. Br. Don E. Saliers is their Faculty Advisor.

Sr. Barbara Lee, of the **St. Francis Chapter** (West Ohio), reports: “We are considering uniting with the chapter at **United Theological Seminary**. Preliminary discussions are in process with Sr. Lynn Labs the prior. We are hoping that this will strengthen both chapters.”

On being Filipino and being Lukan by Br. Gilmartin T. Guerrero, O.S.L.

I grew up at Knox Memorial United Methodist Church in Manila, which is one of the oldest Protestant churches in the Philippines. Among my earliest memories were going to church, singing hymns and attending Sunday school. Early on in my life I developed a love for traditional worship. Even though I am open contemporary “praise and worship”, I’m still a traditionalist by heart.

I first heard about The Order of Saint Luke in the Book of Worship, during the beginning days of my ministry. I resolved to use the Book of Worship at services in my first assignment, a very small church in Cavite province.

Sometime last year, I found a copy of the Book of Common Prayer at a local bookstore. There, I discovered praying the Daily Office. I found that the Daily Office gave me discipline in my scripture reading and prayer life. The monastic rhythm gave me the backbone to order an otherwise undisciplined devotional life.

Some years passed until I heard about the Order again in the website of the GBOD. A few clicks led me to the OSL website. I immediately e-mailed Br. Brent Sturm, our Chancellor, to inquire about membership. I lost no time in taking the Affirmation of Life and Service and submitting my application form to the Chancellor.

I also discovered the OSL “Cyber-Chapter” where I became an active poster. I found the topics posted interesting and the discussions stimulating. I definitely learned a lot of things there. I also made some valued friendships in the Cyber-Chapter.

Thorough the Cyber-Chapter I also found out that I am not the lone Filipino Lukan. Br. David Eichelberger told me that Br. Noah Panlilio, an ordained elder, is also a member of the Order. (See the last issue of The Font.) It was also in the Cyber-Chapter where I met Br. Joel Bengbeng, who is studying at Union Theological Seminary (Philippines).

Br. Joel and I recently met and shared our stories in joining the Order. He also told me of some seminarians who are interested in joining. We also laid the groundwork for a proposed "Philippines Association". As of this writing, we are currently writing the documents to charter the Association.

As some people in the Cyber-Chapter said, they feel a fresh breeze coming from the Philippines. Please pray for us as begin our walk with Christ in the Order of Saint Luke.

(Editor's note: At the meeting of the General Chapter in Oklahoma City, the Philippines Association was officially recognized. Welcome!!)

Sr. Margie Stamm Recognized for her Work

Sr. Margaret Stamm, O.S.L., was recognized by Baylor Specialty Hospital in Dallas, TX as a "Partner in Spiritual Care." Sr. Margie, a Registered Nurse, is a nursing supervisor at Baylor Specialty, a rehabilitation unit. The nomination by her chaplain said, "A typical example of Margie's effectiveness as a partner in spiritual care can be seen through a story about a time when she alerted me to a patient whose husband died while she was hospitalized at BSH. Can you imagine a more crushing blow than the one this person received on that day? Margie's sensitivity to this woman's need and her proactive effort to get chaplaincy involved enabled me to provide care at an absolutely crucial moment in this woman's life."

The Abbot's Sermon (delivered at the Service of Profession, October, 2004)

"The call to take up the cross and follow Jesus calls us into the very heart of the Paschal Mystery, into continuing participation in the dying and rising of Christ. That pathway leads to life, even if we arrive there by way of discipline and even struggle.

Ecclesiastical vows, like those we take in the Order of Saint Luke, have always provided a vehicle for obeying this call. They provide a way that leads to life, not an easy road but the way of the Paschal Mystery.

- They are family vows; thus you bear one another's pain, and you let others bear yours.
- In your prayers, you bear the pain of the world.
- You bear your vocation, even when misunderstood. Yes, we're a merry band of sacramentarians dropped in the middle of free church America. But, here we are magnifying the sacraments, seeking the sacramental life, promoting the corporate worship of the church, and it's OK, even when we're not understood, because God promises life, even if we have to struggle a bit.

So what if we are criticized? God gives us delight in this odd vocation and there are people who need our gift. Today we claim our unique giftedness and boldly commit ourselves to our task yet again, God being our helper."

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The Order of Saint Luke
25 Tressel Street
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Published bi-monthly, beginning July/August 2003
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

More Ways to Stay Connected

Visit us on the web: <http://www.Saint-Luke.org>

Looking for a good gift idea? The O.S.L. Publications resources for “The Daily Office” would be great to give or to receive. Check it out at <http://www.saint-luke.org/dailyoffice.html>

Join the cyber chapter: Send a message to osl-subscribe@yahoogroups.com, with “subscribe” as the subject line

Information for *The Font* can be sent to me via email: esmoore@alum.mit.edu, or to:
P.O. Box 6, Durham PA 18039.

Grace and Peace,
Sr. Sue Moore

Deadline for submissions for the January/February issue of <i>The Font</i> is December 15, 2004.
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