

The Font

Fostering connections within the Order of Saint Luke

November/December 2005



From the Abbot's Desk

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

I thank all those who helped make this year's retreat, "Worship as World Making," a success. I'm especially grateful for Stanley Tanner, our Prior General and retreat master, who established the retreat theme and did much planning. I thank Dwight and Linda Vogel, and Taylor Burton-Edwards for their presentations, each of them showing how our worship shapes the world and us. I am grateful to Sky Lowe-McCracken for his work as Chaplain and to Brent Sturm, our Chancellor-General, for making arrangements, Colleen Gilrane for orienting us and reminding us of our call to hospitality, Stephen and Betsy McGucken for giving us tokens of welcome to their home state, and Kevin Higgs for arranging transportation. Together, you received the presentations, offered your prayers and your honest questions, and helped embody the alternate way of living that one finds in the Body of Christ. The Brothers of St. Bernard Abbey were very good to us, supporting us in many large and small ways. Again, thanks to all.

The Council and General Chapter did their necessary work of receiving reports and passing a budget. Along the way, we spent time in important discussions. During the General Chapter meeting on Wednesday afternoon, we had testimony time in which we responded to the question, "In what ways have we been faithful to our calling as expressed our Rule of Life and Service." We experienced an uplifting array of positive testimony: several members related how they had helped congregations move to weekly communion; others talked about their teaching efforts; another talked about observing *none* in a small evangelical college. Although we see problems in liturgical life, we realized that God has allowed many of us to participate in positive solutions, and we gave thanks for that. Much of this work happens on the local level and depends on local initiative. Br. Taylor Burton-Edwards, the newly installed Director of Worship Resources at the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, invited us to contact him about other ways that we might be involved in renewal efforts.

During our final Council session on Thursday afternoon, we heard from Sr. Monica Monk, prior of the Louisiana Conference chapter, who gave us a first hand report of the situation in her state in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. We heard sobering stories about villages that no longer exist, and stories about displaced people, including congregations and pastors. Such sharing was an important expression of our common life. Sr. Monica suggested that those who want more information and/or those who would like to explore other ways to help should check with the Storm Center that the Louisiana Annual Conference has established in Baton Rouge. You may contact them at www.la-umc.org

The *koinonia* that we shared over these four days was significant. I urge you to be part of its continuing life through your daily prayers and through the life of your local chapter. If you have no chapter, then start toward that goal by finding one other person with whom you can pray the daily office. I hope, also, that you will make your plans to join with us for next years' retreat to be held in Greensburg, PA, October 18-22, 2006. That retreat will focus on the Psalter.

In the meantime, may you be blessed with strength and courage for faithful witness.

Your brother,

Mark W. Stamm, O.S.L.

Publicity Materials Available on the Web Page

The following promotional materials about the Order of Saint Luke are available for printing directly from the web page:

- A Color Brochure describing The Order of Saint Luke (print on legal-sized paper)
- A new version of the Origin, Mission, Vision Brochure
- The Rule of Life and Service in a print-ready form to hang on your wall (print on legal-sized paper)
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Please consider printing copies of this material to share with colleagues who might be interested in the Order. You can access the web page at <http://www.Saint-Luke.org>. Click on the Members Only section. If you do not know the member name and password, you can obtain them from Br. Brent Sturm at chancellor@saint-luke.org.

From Sr. Nancy Crouch

Reminder: You have until the end on November to purchase vestments or books that belonged to Br. Timothy Crouch. Please check the Members Only page of the O.S.L. website to see a list of remaining available items. (<http://www.saint-luke.org/members/index.html>)

Geography Quiz

Q. Where is Greensburg PA?

A. The City of Greensburg sits on the Allegheny Plateau in the foothills of the Appalachian mountains, about 35 miles from Pittsburgh. U.S. 30, running east-west, bypasses Greensburg to the south. The Pennsylvania Turnpike's New Stanton exit is about five miles south of Route 119 where Interstate 70 splits from Interstate 76.

Q. Why would I want to know that?

A. Because the October 2006 O.S.L. Retreat will be held at the St. Joseph Center in Greensburg, and you definitely want to be there! (Where else could you go to sing "Happy Saint Luke's Day (transferred)"?)

Provincial General's Article

revgrc@prodigy.net

At our recently completed Council meeting in Cullman, Alabama, I reported that I am tracking 55 groups with OSL connections. We currently have 33 active chapters and six inactive chapters; this count includes our 11 seminary chapters. There are three active Associations of the Order, and eight local area contact persons for areas where there is no chapter or association. In addition, there are four chapters in formation.

The **Little Rock Chapter** (Arkansas) is the only chapter whose status is unknown. They were chartered in 2000 but have not “checked in” since that time. If someone from this chapter is reading this article, please contact me (Br. George Crisp).

If you are the primary contact person for your chapter or association, please remember to update your contact information with me if you move or change your internet service provider.

The following paragraphs are the latest installment of chapter reports that were shared at the Fall Council meeting in Cullman. These reports are provided on a rotation basis. Each chapter or association is welcome to provide the latest information about its chapter's events by submitting an article to *The Font*.

– Br. George R. Crisp, Provincial General

Chapter News

J. Warren Smith, new faculty advisor for the **Duke Divinity School Chapter**, noted that the student who is leading the chapter is Barry Bennett. They began the year by planning for the Feast Day of the Order of Saint Luke. In a message to Provincial Companion, Br. Ted Hoffman, Smith added: “We’d love to have you come visit the chapter and worship with us sometime. I don’t know how far away you are, but strengthening ties with the Order beyond the Gothic walls of Duke would be of great benefit to our chapter.”

The **Illinois Great Rivers Chapter** meets monthly for Morning Prayer, business, program (usually related to current liturgical concerns which include baptism, Eucharist, marriage, as well as items of personal interest), and concludes with Eucharist. We have also organized and assisted in the serving of Eucharist at Annual Conference the last three years. Chapter officers are: Ted Mitchell, Prior; Rusty Beals, Sub Prior, Jerry King, Chaplain, and Wes Wilkey, Scribe.

“We do not have an active chapter,” reported Robin Knowles Wallace, Faculty Advisor for the **Methodist Theological School in Ohio Chapter**. [Prov. Gen. Note: Are there any OSL members nearby who could help raise student interest in the Order and reactivate this chapter?]

The **Northern Illinois Chapter** meets officially for a joint retreat with the John Wesley Theological Institute each year at the end of February. Br. David Eichelberger, Prior, notes: “We additionally offer occasional meetings and meetings in conjunction with other Conference events. There are about 30 persons in our Conference who have expressed interest in the Order who are either professed or are considering profession. Members of the Order also met at the Order of Elders convocation, and Br. David will offer Compline Prayer each day at the Annual Conference session.

The **Sacred Heart Chapter** meets “Bi-Yearly” for worship, prayer and discussion. Officers include: Prior, Rev. Jesse J. Carswell; Sub-Prior, Phillip M. Canupp; Chancellor, Rev. Freida H. Hobson; Chaplain, Rev. David H. Hobson.

Although there is no formal organization of a chapter, the **Susquehanna Chapter** meets weekly for a lectionary study working a week and a half ahead. We celebrate Eucharist on the first Wednesday at First UMC, in Chambersburg, PA. Br. Guy Camp is the sole OSL member of the “chapter.”

The **Wyoming Annual Conference Chapter** (located in New York & Pennsylvania) meets on the second Thursday of each month from September through June. Currently we are discussing “This Holy Mystery.” Officers are: Richard A. Santella, Prior; Laurence Mather, Chancellor.

When the last report was filed in October 2004, the **Tyler, Texas Chapter** (tentative name) was still in formation. Br. Dariel R. Newman wrote: “We are continuing the processes involved in chartering; several of our prospective members are in the process of affiliating first with an existing chapter and/or the national body prior to changing affiliation to our prospective chapter. Existing members of the Order (myself being one) plan to move our affiliation from our current chapter affiliations following the chartering of the Tyler chapter. We have continued to meet almost weekly to pray and study the lection. We have plans to continue this pattern on a geographic rotation in the area following the chapter’s initial charter.

Important Dates in 2006 (Mark your calendar now!):

May 22-24, 2006: Spring 2006 Council Meeting, Ocean City NJ

Oct. 18-22, 2006: Fall 2006 Retreat, St. Joseph Center, Greensburg PA

“I Will Lift Up My Eyes to the Hills: Psalms as Prayer and Praise”

Registration information will appear in future issues of the Font.

From the Historical Task Force:

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We are beginning the important work of gathering significant documents from the early days of our founding. Several key figures already have been gathered home, but thankfully provisions were made for the Order to have access to their files. If you were active in the first 20 years of the Order and have archival materials to offer to the Order please contact Br. David Eichelberger at DavidEOSL@aol.com or at 630-661-3452. We will try to assist you in transferring your materials to the OSL archive at Drew University and the General Commission on Archives and History.

We are especially looking for correspondence between early leaders, sample services which were conducted, recollections of special meetings and what life was like in those early formative years. Those who have more recent information are encouraged to begin organizing those materials too and preserving them in a good location. If anyone has tape, video or film recordings of these early events, please let us know so that we might have them transcribed to a more permanent record.

Next year is our 60th anniversary. We will be having a special commemoration of our life together. If you know of some of the early leaders of the Order, please forward their names and contact information to Br. David so that he might contact them if you are not able to do so.

Br. David Eichelberger,
Chair of the Historical Task Force
Order of Saint Luke

From the Officer for Pastoral Care
Br. Tom Beveridge, O.S.L. ta891josl@aol.com

Sisters and Brothers:

“Life is short. Therefore, be quick to love and care for those who share it with you.” With these words, Br. Tim Crouch dismissed us a year ago in Oklahoma City at the conclusion of what would be the last service he would lead at an OSL retreat.

I believe that a pastor works best where the whole People walks in love and care with one another. That was certainly true for me last week in Cullman. I was privileged to be a part of several very moving pastoral conversations. I initiated some of these. Several times a brother or sister sought me out. And at least one of these conversations came directly out of the shared, mutual care for one another in our gathered community.

Br. Tim embodied in his life work what it means for such a community to draw its life from Word and Sacrament. He modeled the sacramental life that is the foundation of a pastoral community. Long before he knew just how quickly his time with us was passing, he taught us to be quick to love and care for one another. How wonderfully his work lives on!

I do have a few items in my mailbag: Br. Lee Monroe Ferdon has welcomed the birth of twin granddaughters Kaitlin and Amanda. Br. Stephen Ball takes pride as his wife Dr. Rebecca Ball and her partner have purchased their pediatrics practice. And Br. Doug Morrison-Cleary is beginning a new pastorate serving the Congregation of the Good Shepherd (federated Presbyterian and Lutheran) in Keewocin, MN. Also, through the Cyber Chapter we have just learned of the death of Sr. Cindy Loomis-Abel’s grandmother Pauline Vines. And that Br. Glen Obrien’s Ph.D. dissertation has been well received and approved by three examiners at La Trobe University.

Do please be in touch with me. If there is news you would like to share, I’d like to know about it. If you need to write or talk with me, I’m here for that. And what passes between us will remain confidential unless I have your permission to share it or you have already released it to our community in some other way.

Contact me at ta891josl@aol.com Call me at (860) 243-3388. Or write me at PO Box 891, Bloomfield, CT 06002-0891.

Peace,
Tom Beveridge, Officer for Pastoral Care

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.
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Brother Michael Topham took his life vows as a member of the Order of Saint Luke at our Retreat in Cullman. For those of you who could not share this event with us, we are pleased to be able to share Br. Michael's words with you here in the Font *Editor*

"Many of you got to know me at last years retreat in Okalahoma City, and know that I really am a very introverted person, who does not like to get up in front of people often. Having Brother Hoyt Hickman as the person who is taking you through the year long discernment is scary enough and while I was going through the discernment process with Brother Hoyt, he never mentioned to me that I would need to give a testimony at this time so I came unprepared to do so.

"I came into the ministry through the Course of Study process, where I began attending classes by correspondence and then taking classes at St Paul's Seminary. I first went there in my Second year studies and I remember the first year students who were taking a course in Worship talking about how their teacher, an Episcopal priest, had warned them to watch out who they learned their methods from and who they associated with, because there were a lot of weird and off beat groups out there, like the **Order of Saint Luke** whom they should steer clear of.

"I did not know a lot about that group so thought I was pretty safe in my beliefs and thoughts having grown up in a Mennonite church with two years of catechism behind me.

"Somehow I found the Cyber Chapter in 1996 and was intrigued by what I saw and heard. I asked my first question, that fall as many of you know I have done, not always to get an answer, but to generate dialogue many times on the chapter when the threads of conversation go dry. And to get us to thinking about many different things.

"As I prepared my paper on Liberation Theology, for my next class at St Paul in Theology I started to have difficulty in understanding what I was reading. That first question I asked, if any of you can remember that far back was "What is Liberation Theology?" I got over 20 personal responses from all over the country and found a group of people who could help me find my way. My first paper on the subject of Liberation theology started with this statement. "**When I started this course I did not now what Liberation Theology is, now I find that I ARE ONE.**"

"Over the last nine years, I have also through my mix of Neo-Orthodox and Liberation Theology views and the help of the Cyber chapter interaction and the love and caring of my Brothers and Sisters of this order come to a point in my life where I can say:

"That when I came into the order,

I did not know what it was all about.

**But I can now say I that I have found a home
and can also say with PRIDE**

**- I ARE ONE of those off beat animals also,
and always want to be one."**

Ordo for the Order of Saint Luke

NOVEMBER

T	1	All Saint's Day W (traditional) or G (optional)
W	2	Phoebe Palmer G
T	3	Richard Hooker G
F	4	G
S	5	G
		Eve of All Saint's W (optional)
S	6	25th Sunday after Pentecost G All Saint's Day W (optional)
M	7	G
T	8	G
W	9	G
T	10	Leo the Great G
F	11	Martin of Tours and Soren Kierkegaard G
S	12	G
S	13	26th Sunday after Pentecost G
M	14	G
T	15	G
W	16	Margaret, Queen of Scotland G
T	17	Philip William Otterbein G
F	18	Hilda G
S	19	G
		Eve of Christ the King W
S	20	Christ the King W
M	21	Anna Oliver G
T	22	G
W	23	Clement of Rome G
T	24	Eliza Garrett G Thanksgiving Day W (optional)
F	25	Isaac Watts G
S	26	Sojourner Truth G, B/P- PM
S	27	1st Sunday of Advent B/P
M	28	John Dempster and James Mills Thoburn B/P
T	29	B/P
W	30	Andrew R

DECEMBER

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

Would you like to join the cyber chapter? Send a message to osl-subscribe@yahoogroups.com, with "subscribe" as the subject line

The Font

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

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.

Grace and Peace,
Sr. Sue Moore

Deadline for submissions for the January/February issue of <i>The Font</i> is December 15, 2005.
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