

The Font

Fostering connections within the Order of Saint Luke

September/October 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.

Our annual retreat will take place October 17-20 at St. Bernard's Abbey in Cullman, Alabama. Br. Stanley Tanner has planned an excellent retreat for us, and I look forward to seeing many of you there. Gathering together—for retreat, for Council and chapter meetings—reminds me of the important gift we give the church, and each other, by remaining true to our vocation as a religious order.

I attended my first Executive Council meeting at Louisville, Kentucky in May 1992, representing the Boston University Chapter, and then I attended my first retreat at Pittsburgh in October 1994. At that 1992 meeting, I remember being told that we were not a caucus group for the enforcement of a particular sacramental agenda—for instance, to make the church celebrate the Eucharist in a particular way on a particular schedule. That rebuke was difficult for me to swallow—because I wanted very much to do exactly what I was told we did not do—but over time I've come to see the wisdom of such restraint. It is not particularly effective for us to go about as a cranky posse of liturgical police. I am convinced that we make our biggest impact (on denominations, on congregations, on individuals) by going about our work of committed sacramental practice in a generally positive and non-anxious manner. We make our witness and then we go to the ballpark (or read a novel, or tend our roses, or whatever we do for Sabbath time). Ours is to teach and make witness; it is up to God to do any changing that needs done.

Maintaining this identity as a religious order--and not a liturgical caucus group—allows us to maintain Eucharistic fellowship in the midst of the sometimes-fractious arguments that divide the church. Commitment to this *koinonia* is a wonderful gift and a great strength, both for our own edification and for the sake of the church. The Order has been a place where persons who represent many different perspectives have emphasized not the things that divide us, but those things that unite us. I pray that we may continue to model such a radical center, based on Christ's simple, yet profound commandment, "Do this in remembrance of me" (1 Corinthians 11:24).

Your brother,

Mark W. Stamm, O.S.L.

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

Here is the next installment of chapter reports that were shared at the May Council meeting in Memphis. These reports are provided on a rotation basis. Each chapter or association is welcome to provide the latest information about your chapter's events by submitting an article to *The Font*. In mid-September, I will be asking for chapter updates prior to our Retreat in Cullman, Alabama. Remember, as you move or update the technology you use [i.e., change your internet service provider (ISP)], please advise your brothers and sisters in the Order.

Chapter News

Last May, Br. Christopher Rodkey reported that the **Drew University Chapter** is inactive and awaiting student interest. Chris continues to serve as a local area contact. Did you catch his fine article, "Turning Away from Our Dead: A Candlelight Ritual for All Saint's [sic] Sunday," in the latest edition of *Sacramental Life*?

The **Houston Chapter** meets on the second Tuesday of each month. They rotate their meeting times such that one month we share Morning Prayer, the next we share Mid-day Prayer and the next, Evening Prayer. [Ed. Note: What a clever idea!] Each meeting begins with fellowship and minimal business, then concludes with worship, including Communion. Officers are Sr. Cheryl Smith, Prior and Sr. Ann Arnett, Sub- Prior.

The **Memphis/Memphis Theological Seminary Chapter** meets monthly for worship and discussion on topics, books, articles, etc. Officers are: Scott Alford, Prior and Barry Bryant, Sub-Prior.

Br. Tom Ream, the Prior and only officer of the **North Indiana Chapter** reported in May that the chapter is currently inactive but a meeting was being planned for this summer. The topic for the meeting we are planning will be discussion of Dr. Stookey's *This Day: A Wesleyan Way of Prayer* and the companion study guide/class meeting workbook. We have also begun some discussion about the possibility of a chapter retreat. Because we are few in number and dispersed across a fairly large area it is difficult to find a central meeting place that doesn't require a significant amount of travel. [Ed. Note: A common challenge for many chapters!]

The **Rocky Mountain Chapter** is meeting monthly. Sr. Kathy Haley, Prior notes, "Our activities have included the following: study of *This Holy Mystery*; discussion on feeding ourselves spiritually during Lent; discussion on the ordination process; presentation at Iliff School of Theology, plus Eucharist. In addition to Sr. Haley, the officers include: Sr. Kerry McCormick (formerly Therp), Sub-Prior; Br. Paul Murphy-Geiss, Sec/Treas.

In May, Br. Mark Mashburn reported that the **Sarum Chapter (W North Carolina)** has met infrequently over the last year. Meetings always entail a celebration of Eucharist, homily, and prayers for the Order and individual needs as shared by those in attendance. There are no elected officers at this time. Br. Mashburn serves as a convener.

Another of our inactive chapters may be showing signs of new life. Br. David Durham has volunteered to work toward the reactivation of the **Western New York Chapter**. If you are in this area, you may wish to give Br. Durham a call.

A new group within the Order, the **Philippines Association** was chartered in October 2004. The Association meets once a year (October 18) for Eucharist, a business meeting and fellowship; additional meetings are to be scheduled. Officers are: Gilmartin Guerrero Convener; Br. Joel Bengbeng, Formation Officer. A chartering certificate was sent to the Philippines Association through Br. Noah Panlilio.

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

Sisters and Brothers:

I am both honored and humbled by Br. Mark's appointment of me to serve as the Order's Officer for Pastoral Care. It will take a while to give shape to this ministry and I covet your prayers but also your input. I would like to see this reflect our collective discernment. My immediate goal is to enable communication among us of pastoral concern for each other.

To begin with, I plan to be in regular contact with you through The Font. Among other things, this appointment stems from conversation at last October's retreat in which some were concerned that sometimes our members experience important passages in their lives without the rest of us being aware of it. To address that concern, I would ask that you include me in news of such things as weddings, births or adoptions, graduations, ordinations and commissionings, books or articles published, changes in pastoral appointment, other changes in work, passages in the lives of children and grandchildren, retirements, deaths and so on. If you will send such information to me with your permission to publish it, I am prepared to be a conduit for getting the word out through The Font.

I am also available for pastoral conversation with those who desire it. You are welcome to e-mail me at ta891josl@aol.com, to call me at (860) 243-3388 or write me at PO Box 891, Bloomfield, CT 06002-0891. Or to request that I call you. (I have unlimited calling within the continental US for a flat rate, which may help.) Given the complications of schedules and time zones, however, I would suggest starting with an exchange of e-mails to allow us to set an appointed time for such a call. It goes without saying that I will respect confidentiality for your calls and other communications.

Peace,

Tom Beveridge, Officer for Pastoral Care

“Worship as World Making,”
St. Bernard's Abbey, Cullman, Alabama
October 17-21, 2005

You are hereby invited to attend the 2005 Retreat of The Order, We will gather at Saint Bernard's Abbey in Cullman, Alabama 17-20 October, with the Council continuing until the 21st. Our retreat will focus around the theme of "Worship as World-Making" Please join us as our presenters, Dwight and Linda Vogel and Br. Taylor Burton-Edwards lead us in thinking and sharing about approaches to this subject.

As always, our worship together will be a major emphasis, celebrating the Feast Day of Saint Luke, keeping the Hours, sharing the Eucharist daily, praying for and with each other.

Worship As World-Making
The 2005 Retreat of The Order of Saint Luke

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

☐ Please register me for the *Retreat only* (5pm on Monday, October 17th through lunch on Thursday, October 20th) in a *semi-private* room at a cost of \$230 per person.

My preferred roommate is: _____

☐ Please register me for the *Retreat only* (5pm on Monday, October 17th, through lunch on Thursday, October 20th) in a *private* room at a cost of \$260 per person.

☐ Please register me for both the *Council meeting* and the *Retreat* (2pm on Monday, October 17th, through breakfast on Friday, October 21st) in a semi-private room at a cost of \$305 per person.

My preferred roommate is: _____

☐ Please register me for both the *Council meeting and the Retreat* (2pm on Monday October 17th, through breakfast on Friday, October 21st) in a *private* room at a cost of \$360 per person.

☐ I have special mobility and/or dietary needs and have described them in detail on the reverse side of this sheet.

☐ My check is enclosed.

☐ Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Expiration Date: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Signature: _____

Please return this form, with your payment no later than September 15, 2005 to:

The Order of Saint Luke
25 Tressel Street
White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986-2568

Ordo for the Order of Saint Luke

SEPTEMBER

T	1	G
F	2	G
S	3	Samuel Checote G
S	4	16th Sunday after Pentecost G
M	5	G
T	6	James Bradley Finley G
W	7	G
T	8	G
F	9	Mary Bosanquet Fletcher G
S	10	G
S	11	17th Sunday after Pentecost G
M	12	G
T	13	Anthony Bewley G
W	14	Holy Cross Day G
T	15	G
F	16	G
S	17	G
S	18	18th Sunday after Pentecost G
M	19	G
T	20	G
W	21	Matthew R
T	22	G
F	23	G
S	24	G
S	25	19th Sunday after Pentecost G
M	26	Freeborn and Catherine Garrettson G
T	27	John Dickins and Alejo Hernandez
G		
W	28	G
T	29	Michael and All Angels W
F	30	Jerome and George Whitefield G

OCTOBER

S	1	G
S	2	20th Sunday after Pentecost G
M	3	G
T	4	Francis of Assisi G
W	5	G
T	6	William Tyndale and Jennie Fowler Willing G
F	7	John Woolman G
S	8	G
S	9	21st Sunday after Pentecost G
M	10	G
T	11	G
W	12	G
T	13	G
F	14	G
S	15	Teresa of Avila G
S	16	22nd Sunday after Pentecost G
M	17	Ignatius of Antioch G
		Eve of Luke R
T	18	Luke R
W	19	G
T	20	G
F	21	G
S	22	G
S	23	23rd Sunday after Pentecost G
M	24	James of Jerusalem R (trans.)
T	25	G
W	26	G
T	27	G
F	28	Simon and Jude R
S	29	G
S	30	24th Sunday after Pentecost G
M	31	G
		Eve of All Saints W (traditional)

<p>Have you considered a gift to the Order of Saint Luke in your will?</p>
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The Order of Saint Luke
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

More Ways to Stay Connected

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

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.

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 November/December issue of <i>The Font</i> is October 15, 2005.
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