

The Font

Fostering connections within the Order of Saint Luke

November/December 2006



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 want to thank Brothers Stanley Tanner and Tom Beveridge along with all of those who led us in our recent retreat on the Psalms. It was time well spent in an excellent location—the Saint Joseph Center of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, whose staff have been good hosts to us on three separate occasions. We were there at the peak of fall color, which was a treat for this former Pennsylvania resident. Indeed “the trees of the field (clapped) their hands” (Is. 55:12), joining us in the praise of God.

In the profession service, I used the set of lessons from the “Various Occasions” section of the *BCP* entitled “For the Ministry III” (*BCP*, 929: Exodus 19:3-8, Psalm 15, I Peter 4: 7-11, and Matthew 16: 24-27), which seemed to speak to our call within the Rule of Life and Service. I preached on the Gospel text, Matthew’s version of Jesus’ call for disciples to “deny themselves and take up their cross and follow ...” I said that Disciples take up the cross in many ways, including praying the Psalms without ceasing and without amendment.

So, within the daily office, we pray all of the Psalms, one through one hundred fifty. We do so, in part, to expand our own range of expression, moving beyond a docetic denial of our own pain, and conversely, disciplining ourselves to give thanks even when we don’t feel like it. Yet, there is more to it than that. We are a priestly people. As we pray the Psalms, even the raw ones, we offer thoughts that some would never think about speaking, and we pray them on their behalf. We dare to enter the rage of those who have been unjustly attacked, bombed indiscriminately, ridiculed and misrepresented. We dare give voice to the prayer that roils within them: “Happy shall they be who take your little ones and dash them against the rock!” (Ps. 137:9). Expressing such rage is difficult, but someone has to go there, and those who are committed to praying the daily office have answered that call.

Conversely, we offer thanksgiving for all of those who haven’t taken the time to do so, or who just never thought about it. We are priests on behalf of the ungrateful and the preoccupied, praying the Psalms on their behalf as well: “Young men and women alike, old and young together! Let them praise the name of the Lord ...” (Ps, 148: 13).

Such prayer is our vocation, and it is, indeed, a carrying of the cross. At the least, that cross is heavy and demanding; but those who empty themselves in such praying will meet God in the midst of it. It is my privilege to join you in this work.

Your brother,

Mark W. Stamm, O.S.L.

From the Provincial General

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

The summary of chapter reports, printed in *The Font* on a rotation basis, continues with this issue (updated as of October 2006). To provide the latest information (or corrections) about your chapter's events, you may directly submit an article to *The Font*. Reminder: If you are the contact person for your chapter or association, and you move to a new assignment or change your internet service provider, be sure to provide your Provincial General with updated contact information.

Chapter News

Faculty Advisor, J. Warren Smith, reports that currently the **Duke Chapter** of OSL is inactive. The excellent leaders of the past two years have graduated and no next generation of students has taken up the cause.

The **Illinois Great Rivers Chapter** is in the process of reorganizing. Br. Rusty Beals, Acting Prior has reported that the chapter meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month for morning prayer, a program and Eucharist.

"There is not an active chapter at **Methodist Theological School of Ohio**," reports Robin Knowles Wallace, Faculty Advisor.

The **Northern Illinois Chapter** has an annual retreat with the John Wesley Theological Institute, and occasional meetings plus Annual Conference. Activities include worship, discussion on worship topics, and occasional prayer meetings with other religious for Christian Unity, according to Br. David Eichelberger, Prior.

The **Sacred Heart Chapter** in Western North Carolina has been inactive for over a year now and is now discontinued. Those in the area who are interested in the Order are encouraged to contact Br. Jesse J. Carswell (jessecarswell@aol.com).

Br. Guy W. Camp III, Prior, reported that there is nor formal organization of a chapter, but what we lovingly refer to as the **Susquehanna "Chapter"** meets weekly for a lectionary study at First UMC, in Chambersburg, PA., and celebrate Eucharist on the first Wednesday of each month.

The **Wyoming Conference Chapter** is currently not meeting due to conflicts in scheduling and the recent retirement of Br. Richard A. Santella. Attempts will be made to reactivate the chapter, and interested members in the area should contact Br. Richard (RSantella@aol.com).

From the Officer for Pastoral Care

Br. Tom Beveridge, O.S.L. ta891josl@aol.com

Sisters and Brothers:

I was so very impressed with the conversations we had this year at our retreat in Pennsylvania. My part in this, as you know, was to lead us in discussion of the "Censored Psalms" – that is, the ones so full of hurt, so eloquent in their expressions of anger and lament that they are neither found in most denominational hymnals nor heard (as a rule) in Sunday worship. What moved me so deeply during the course of the workshop I led was the level of sharing we reached.

Such speaking together is sacred!

These “raw” psalms express prayer from the depths. As we spoke together we were surprised by Grace – at the way in which, when we go to that level of honesty before God, the Light does, indeed, shine in the darkness. I am deeply honored to have had the privilege of leading that experience. I also need to say that, as one who has walked in darkness and, in fact, continues to do so much of the time, I felt the warmth of *koinonia* as we explored that experience together.

I wasn't sure how to capture in a concise way my experience of this retreat until the closing service on Sunday morning. (After the close of the retreat itself, some stayed for the Council meeting on Saturday afternoon and shared in a service of Word and Table before going on our way on Sunday.) Br. Guy Camp, who experienced the Pennsylvania floods first-hand earlier this year, had already shown me his hymnal, its pages all swollen and wrinkled. He had described how he had to use a pen knife to slice each page apart at the edges from its neighbor. As Br. Bill Doser and I assisted him at the Table, I realized he was reading the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving from that same book. When I saw that, what flashed through my mind instantly was this well-known paraphrase of Psalm 46:

*A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper, he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing ...*

It had rained hard on my drive to Greensburg. The cloud I drove through just west of Altoona was so thick that, even though it wasn't exactly raining, I had to keep the windshield wipers going and grope my way through the murk to get over the mountain and back down safely. The metaphor, I now realize, was perfect. So much in life is just that way. Nevertheless,

*... though this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.*

That assurance of God's Light is made known to us when we support one another with concern and prayer. May this dispersed community called OSL continue faithfully in doing just that.

Some news of our community follows. As always, do be in touch with me if you have news you wish to share or if you desire pastoral contact with me. Contact me at ta891josl@aol.com Call me at (860) 243-3388. Or write me at PO Box 891, Bloomfield, CT 06002-0891. For the sake of accuracy and to protect confidentiality, items are read and OK'd for publication by each brother or sister concerned.

Peace,

Tom Beveridge, Officer for Pastoral Care.

News:

Br. Curtis Goforth and his wife Jennifer welcomed the birth of their very healthy baby girl named Cora Estelle on 8/22/2006. revgoforth@yahoo.com

Br. Bill Olewiler participated in a WomensPriest ordination service aboard a riverboat in Pittsburgh, PA on July 31. Invited by an ordinand, he shared in introducing her to the assembly, in vesting her in chasuble and stole and in the blessing from the people. Information about Womenpriests, also links to several videos of the ordination service, are available at www.romancatholicwomenpriests.org
billrev@crosslink.net

Congratulations to **Sr. Carolyn Tanner** on publication by OSL Publications of her study guide for children and youth for *This Holy Mystery*. A review of this is now available at the GBOD worship homepage: www.umcworship.org
CKTann@aol.com

Br. John Haselton was diagnosed at the beginning of September with a cancerous tumor on his pancreas. He has asked our prayers for himself and his family, saying, "Help me pray in Spirit and in Truth that the Lord's will would be done and the name of Jesus glorified in all of this!" Evnglstjon@aol.com

Br. Jerry Wilson is undergoing treatment for leukemia. Please be in prayer for him and his wife **Sr. Ruth Wilson** during these difficult days. Sr. Ruth may be reached at: rjwil@charter.net

Please also remember **Br. Brent Sturm** and his parishioners at Emmanuel UMC in White Sulphur Springs, WV in your prayers. The Wilson's are very active members of Emmanuel. Br. Brent is carrying a very heavy pastoral load in that not only is he providing pastoral care for the Wilsons; there are one and possibly two other parishioners there who are battling leukemia. He asks for God's strength to help him be a non-anxious presence in these days. Br. Brent also gives thanks for the ministry of **Br. Fred Marvel** who provided front-line pastoral care for Br. Jerry while he was hospitalized in Roanoke, VA (about a 90 minute trip away). wbsosl@verizon.net

Br. Todd Stepp has announced that after twelve years as pastor of the Greencastle (IN) Church of the Nazarene, in mid-October he and his family moved to Evansville, IN where he has begun a new pastorate at the Grace Church of the Nazarene. tstepp@tds.net

Sr. Cindy Loomis and John Torvi were married September 16th in Walled Lake, Michigan, with folks attending from Canada, the US and UK. Their wedding service included elements of Methodist, Episcopal and Finnish-Scottish traditions. For the present, Cindy and John are commuting between Michigan and Calgary, Alberta, Canada. So, time to see each other is the priority now and Cindy missed our October retreat for the first time in ten years. She sends love to all with gratitude for what the Order has meant to her. annaughswell@yahoo.com

By the time you read this, **Br. Jeffrey Cox**, who is a member of the Boston University Chapter, should be back from his tour of duty in Iraq. Welcome home, Br. Jeffrey. jeffrey.cox2@comcast.net

Br. Jason Bryant and Ms. Rebecca Bryant ask prayers for their son Gabriel Asher, age 7, who has been experiencing and undergoing tests for what doctors think is a severe neurological condition called Sydenham Chorea, or Saint Vitus' Dance. reverendjlb@hotmail.com

Br. Edwin Pun asks our prayers as he starts a worship group/centre on the little island in the Philippines where he lives. 12 people attended the first gathering – this on an island where there are only 300 Christians in a population of six thousand souls. pun.edwin.p@gmail.com

O.S.L. Publications

Phone or FAX (330)836-1100

Sr. Nancy Bryan Crouch

Did you receive the first OSL Publications e-catalog this summer?

Once a quarter, you can receive an update on new titles from our publishing ministry, featured publications and special sales. If you did not receive the e-catalog this summer and would like to added to the mailing list, please send a note to Sr. Nancy Bryan Crouch at books@saint-luke.org.

Provincial Companions

Have you ever wondered what a “Provincial Companion” does? When I joined the Order, I must admit that this title threw me. It sounded a bit like someone who would go to Saskatchewan or Ontario with me. Why did we need such a person?

With time, I learned that Provincial Companions are dedicated people who reach out to members of the Order – especially to those whose membership vows have lapsed, and remind them that we value them and miss them. Sr. Mabel Doser is our Provincial Companion for Georgia and South Carolina. When Sister Mabel finds out that one of our brothers or sisters has not sent their reaffirmation of vows to the Chancellor General for two years, she sends the following letter. I commend it to you as a model.

Dear (Name),

As Provincial Companion for South Carolina and Georgia members of the Order of Saint Luke, I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ. Have you made contact with Bro. Brent Sturm, Chancellor-General of the Order requesting membership information? His e-mail address is:
Chancellor@Saint-Luke.org.

My husband, Bill Doser, (a retired Methodist minister), and I have both been members of the Order since 1996 and have been privileged to attend every Council Meeting in May and every Retreat in October (with one exception) since then. It is very important to both of us. We both have professed life vows.

We are very fortunate to have a local chapter in our area. Bill is Prior of the Saura-Piedmont Chapter. We meet monthly in Charlotte, N.C. , take a bag lunch, enjoy fellowship and have business while we eat and then have a discussion - recently have been discussing "This Holy Mystery" We then go into the chapel and celebrate Eucharist.

Many members of the Order are truly in dispersion, and the cyber-chapter is a big help in communication with others. Granted some of the discussions go overboard at times. The members of the Order are a very, very diverse group of individuals but all have a common bond in seeking a deeper spiritual growth.

Welcome to the group, and if I can be of help in directing your requests to those who might have the answers, please let me know.

Grace and Peace,

Sr. Mabel Doser
605 South Poplar Street
Lincolnton, N. C. 28902

Tel. 704-735-5933 E-mail: [WrDoser @aol.com](mailto:WrDoser@aol.com)

In Memoriam

We remember and we celebrate:

Sister Ann Parker Albrecht

Born July 30, 1931

Served the church in Northern Illinois

Served the Order of Saint Luke as a Canon

She worked with God for healing and reconciliation,
and death found it had no dominion over her on November 19, 2006

Br. Wallace P. Blackwood

Born October 29, 1932

Served the church in Louisiana

He worked with God for healing and reconciliation,
and death found it had no dominion over him on the Eve of the Nativity of our Lord, 2005

Br. Thomas Davis

Served the church in Texas

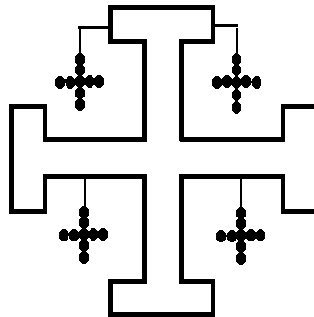
He worked with God for healing and reconciliation,
and death found it had no dominion over him on July 5, 2005

Br. Rhymes H. Moncure, Jr.

Born June 22, 1945

Served the church as a Bishop in Texas

He worked with God for healing and reconciliation,
and death found it had no dominion over him on August 19, 2006



Ordo for the Order of Saint Luke

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

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

*ORDO prepared by Br. John P. Fahey, Prior
New York Conference Chapter*

The Font

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 January/February issue of <i>The Font</i> is December 21, 2006.
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