The Font

Fostering connections within the Order of Saint Luke

From the Abbot's Prayer Desk

Dear Sisters and Brothers.

I am grateful for your prayers as I live with the privilege and demands of serving as your abbot. When you receive this the Council of the General Chapter will be set to meet at St. Paul of the Cross Monastery in Pittsburgh for three days of worship, discernment and

prayer for the life and work of the Order. I could have said, "for doing the business of the Order," but that is to diminish the sense of the Holy Spirit manifesting the life of the risen Christ among us as we use the

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means of grace together.

As with a local church, all of us are members of a peculiar, distinctive, singular community. The Order is not Benedictine, Franciscan, Cistercian, or the Order of Elders in "X" annual conference. Of course we learn much from them with appreciation. Still we are this unique community of dispersed men and women, lay and clergy, Asian, Caucasian, Latino and other racial ethnic folk, who find something drawing us to living a Rule of Life and Service in a peculiarly

Lucan way. AND, we are, like a local church made up of a specific group of people with a certain constellation of ministries. We are never generic members of the Order! We are all members of this Order, in this here-and-now world.

For this reason, I think it is appropriate to name here some of the issues that will be on the agenda of the Council as it meets on your behalf. There will be many, but I simple list a few of what I think are particularly significant:

- 1. The reorganization of Order of Saint Luke Publications in the face of economic downturn and changing culture (people are reading less, hence buying fewer books)
- 2. Redesign and upgrading of the Order's website
- 3. Consideration of revision of our Book of Offices and Services
- 4. Consideration of beginning a lengthy and substantive revision of our *Daily Office*
- 5. Review of our periodicals ministry (*The Font, Sacramental Life*, and *Doxology*) and how we carry on this ministry in more effective and more financially viable ways
- 6. Abbatial appointments that will have consequence for the ongoing life of the Order. Those names will be posted in the next issue of the Font and on the website shortly.

MO and I pray Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer each day and remember before God with all of you, the Order and our common life of sacramental piety and scholarship. Recently we have begun to pray for each of you, reading 12 or 13 of names at each office from the directory. (By the way, you can access and download the directory from www.saint-luke.org/ website in the Members section). It is amazing to read a name in Nebraska, then another in Singapore, and another in Puerto Rico and feel a sense of our connectedness in the heart of God who knows the needs and aspirations of each, though in most cases we do not. Let us pray for one another and for the work of the Order in 740+ places of our diaspora, all within the shaping force of our Rule of Life and Service, and in the "marvelous peace of God." (Hymnal 1982, no. 661)





May/June 2009

One last thing: I know that you will appreciate that the council participants are, perhaps for the first time in a number of years, coming to the spring meeting at their own expense. Our check book is just that flat! This is at considerable sacrifice for many, some of whom are coming from long distances. I had suggested to the Council that we not meet, and do our work by email or conference call. The strong response was, "No, we need to be together to break the bread, hug each others necks, and to pray." So we meet. Pray with us on May 13-15, will you? (By the way, I want to remind all of you that council meetings are open to anyone in the Order and you are welcome to attend, so long as you make appropriate reservations with the chancellor, Brent Sturm.)

We need each other in our common life, in time, use of spiritual gifts, prayer and support. *I ask that you respond to the promptings of the Spirit in stepping forward to serve and to give*. Financial tithes and offerings should be sent to our chancellor. If you want to serve in some capacity, contact the prior of your chapter, me or one of our general officers.

And now I commend you to God and to the word of God's grace which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance with all the saints.

Brother Abbot Daniel+

OSL Publications

Br. Gregory Hayes, O.S.L - Publisher

Looking for a good read? Here are some books that you might be interested in purchasing from OSL Publications. Go to <u>www.upperroom.org/bookstore</u> or call 1-800-972-0433.

Title	Order Code	Author	Price
Ordo: Bath, Word, Prayer, Table			
Twelve ecumenical colleagues write essays in honor of Gordon W. Lathrop,			
Professor Emeritus at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Their			
tribute honors the impact of Lathrop on liturgical theological and ecumenical			
dialogue.			
Contributors include Edward Schillebeeckx, Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, Don			
Saliers, Anita Stauffer, Samuel Torvend, Gail Ramshaw, Dirk Lange, Melva			
Wilson Costen, Gláucia Vasconcelos Wilkey, Dwight Vogel, and Herbert			
Anderson.			
Abbot's note: This is a really good read and provocative for what you do in	550150	Dirk G. Lange,	• • • • • •
your situation. I commend it!	DRSL52	Dwight W. Vogel	\$19.95
Poetic Justice - Meditations on Year A			
In this volume of poetry Wilson ponders the biblical text, inviting the reader			
into deeper dialogue with the lectionary passages. Poetic Justice offers			
opportunities for individual prayer and reflection, small group lectionary study,			
and deeper reflection for sermon preparation.	55015/		•••
	DRSL56	Jim Wilson	\$24.95
Two Ways of Praying			
It may come as something of a surprise to some readers to hear that there are			
at least two ways of praying - with different concepts of what prayer itself is.			
So dominant has one particular spirituality become in nearly all Christian			
traditions today that many people are completely unaware that there might be			
such a thing as a liturgical spirituality or another way of understanding or	DRSL59	Paul F. Bradshaw	¢10.05
organizing their worship and prayer life.	DKSL09	Paul F. Blaushaw	\$19.95

From the Provincial General Br. George R. Crisp, O.S.L, revgrc@yahoo.com

As we celebrate the Great Fifty Days of Easter, we are gathering reports from each chapter and association of the Order. These reports will be shared with the Council at our May meeting in Pittsburgh. In the meantime, here is the chapter news (following our usual pattern of rotation), drawn from reports made to the Provincial General last fall, and updated with spring reports that have already been received. Your chapter is always welcome to provide the latest information (or corrections) about their events by directly submitting an article to *The Font*.

As reported last fall, the **Boston University Chapter** had become inactive. Several chapter members attended the wedding of Sr. Sarah Mount and Joseph Elewononi. For this wedding Sr. Cheryln Gates served as deacon, baking the communion bread, reading scripture and assisting the pastor. Br. Abraham Waya was also present and offered grace at the wedding banquet. More hopeful news about the chapter may come about after a meeting planned for April.

The **East Ohio Chapter** meets monthly, except for the summer months. They enjoy fellowship (eating), Eucharist, formation, and are currently studying the OSL publication *Earthly Good* by Martha Sterne. The chapter is participating in another discussion this year based on their reading the book, *Good Lord, Deliver Us* by Rowan Crews (OSL Publications). Chapter officers are: Br. Steve Sullivan, Prior; Br. O. French Ball, Sub-Prior; Br. David Powell, Formation Officer; Br. Dan Doty, Chancellor.

There is a mixed report from the **Louisiana Chapter**. A successful gathering was held at Annual Conference last June; they celebrated Eucharist and shared lunch. A fall meeting was planned for the end of October, but the group did not get together and there is considerable question as to whether or not they are able to call themselves a chapter. Individual members live out the rule of life as best they can in their various locations, and some find ways to share that with the larger church. For example, Br. Juan Huertas has led training sessions using *This Holy Mystery* at several workshops around the Louisiana Conference, and Sr. Monica Monk continues to serve on the Annual Conference Worship Committee. Br. Stephen Fife has agreed to coordinate our annual gathering at the 2009 Annual Conference session, but has had difficulty in getting that scheduled.

The **New York Annual Conference Chapter** meets annually at Annual Conference and in sub-chapter groups throughout the year. Recent meetings (2009) have dealt with a study of Br. Dwight Vogel's recent book on *Ordinary Traditions & Practices of the Order of St. Luke*. Also, we continue the distribution of copies of *By Water & the Spirit* and *This Holy Mystery* to those studying for the ministry. Officers are: Br. John P. Fahey, Jr., Prior; Br. Joseph Piccirillo, Sub-Prior (Connecticut); Sr. Agnes Saffoury, Sub-Prior (New York).

This year has been a transition from the activity of the previous two years at the **Perkins Seminary Chapter.** The chapter continues to lead Wednesday morning prayer at Perkins Chapel, but most of its members have graduated and moved on to other chapters, or are out on internships. Our fellowship dinners have ceased. Several members were able to attend the retreat in October, but other than staying in touch via email and telephone, we've been inactive. Br. Scot Bontrager is prior. He is graduating with his M.Div in May (2009), but will continue at Perkins in the Ph.D. program working on systematic theology. Br. Scot will continue to be the contact person for the chapter. Sr. Laura Browning is sub-prior and also will be graduating in May with her M.Div. This office will change in the fall.

The **St. Paul School of Theology Chapter** sponsored a two-day spiritual retreat for the seminary campus and the city community. The guest speaker was Br. Mark Stamm. Meetings have included integrating

more opportunities for spiritual focus among the school schedule, creating a permanent outdoor labyrinth for the campus. Our officers are: Br. Andy Whitaker Smith, Prior; Br. Jeff Jaekley, Sub-Prior; Br. Christopher Eshelman, Chancellor; Susan Hoover, Chaplain; Sr. Susan Smith, Faculty Advisor.

One of our newly chartered groups is the **Southeastern Ohio Chapter**. They meet on the second Saturday of each month. We alternate meetings between St. James Episcopal Church, Zanesville, and St. Saviour by the River Anglican Church, Eagleport. On St. Saviour months we have sung Morning Prayer, potluck luncheon, and a spiritual formation session/workshop. On St. James months we have the Eucharist, celebrated by guest celebrants from OSL (Steve Sullivan, O. French Ball, and others that have offered), followed by a luncheon together at a restaurant. Chapter officers are: Br. Brian McKee, Prior; Br. Robert Howell, Sub-Prior; Br. Farris Wilhite, Chancellor, Sr. Elissa Wilhite, Spiritual Formation Officer.

The **West Virginia Chapter** met in January to discuss general chapter business and celebrate the Eucharist. Our retreat was held March 20-21 at Hawk's Nest State Park in Anstead, WV. Addressing the topic of "Our Favorite Heretics," we discussed the positive and negative aspects of heresy in the life of the Church. Officers include: Gregory Hayes, Prior; Mark Smith, Sub-Prior; Jim Reed, Chancellor. The election of officers is held during our Annual Conference gathering in June.

Perpetual Reminder: If the contact person for your chapter or association changes due to an election of new officers, or if you are the contact person and you <u>move to a new assignment</u> or <u>change your internet</u> <u>service provider</u> (AOL, MSN, Gmail, Yahoo, etc.), please be sure to provide the Provincial General with updated contact information.

From the Officer for Pastoral Care

Bro. Tom Beveridge, OSL tandaosl@yahoo.com

Sisters and Brothers:

Now, it is Eastertide. It is also a season of transitions – big ones for some of us. There are the satisfactions of achievement mixed with knowing that a chapter is done and cannot be rewritten. For those of us in academic settings, it will soon be commencement time. Though I left academia behind some years ago (finally escaping the fate of becoming a terminally professional student), this year I'm more than usually reminded of campus comings and goings; the formation of friendships, some of them to be lifelong; the goodbyes to students (if you're faculty) and classmates (if you're graduating). This year, my niece, the youngest of our clan, is a college senior. I haven't talked with Margaret recently, but I'm sure the transition is much in her thoughts, not to mention the thoughts of my sister and brother-in-law.

There are other transitions, of course. For all United Methodists in our community the time of annual conference sessions is rapidly approaching. Even now, some of our lay brothers and sisters are in the process of saying goodbye to their pastors, knowing that within a week of the leave-taking another pastor will be there to bid a welcome to. Meanwhile, for those of us who are pastors about to move are in this too – with the additional uprooting of families from homes and communities and the prospect of a rapid transition to setting up, settling in and getting to work again. All this unless, of course, it is time to retire – another big transition. Transitions may be welcome – even a relief in some cases – or not at all welcome. Either way, there is grief. Because that is how it is when what has been is over and what will be is ... ?

Simultaneous with all these transitions, Eastertide will be leading us to Pentecost, the Great Fiftieth Day when we are reminded of the Spirit who moves with us, who leads us through all the seasons and

changes of our lives AND gives us each other to be companions in the Way. Who in the words of Charles Wesley,

Bids us build each other up, And gathered into one, To our high calling's glorious hope We hand in hand go on.

It is a precious gift to be a community, dispersed to be sure, and shifting though the parameters of our dispersion surely are. By the grace of God who is the Author of our community, "In life, in death, in life beyond death ... we are not alone. Thanks be to God."

Some news of our ever-transitioning 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. I am especially interested in hearing from those of you who do not participate in the Cyber Chapter, as that has been my major, but incomplete, source for hearing from folk. Write me at <u>tandaosl@yahoo.com</u> or PO Box 891, Bloomfield, CT 06002-0891. Or call me at (860) 243-3388. For the sake of accuracy and to protect confidentiality, it's my practice to check all items ahead of time with the brother or sister concerned.

Peace,

Br. Tom Beveridge, Officer for Pastoral Care

News

Br. Eric Frey has asked prayers for himself and his wife *Antonina* and their newborn son *Pierce*. Baby was born on Sunday, April 19; initially appeared healthy but has been transferred to Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh because his blood is not clotting properly. Please hold baby Pierce and his parents in that special place in your heart where you pray for little ones and those who love and worry for them. <u>eefrey@gmail.com</u>

Br. Chris Rodkey was installed on March 15, 2009 as the pastor of Zion "Goshert's" UCC in Lebanon, PA. <u>cdrodkey@yahoo.com</u>

Sr. Candace Barron will be commissioned as a probationary Elder in the Arkansas Annual conference in June. She is a 2007 graduate of Perkins School of Theology and a D.Min. candidate at the Houston Graduate School of Theology. She currently serves as the Associate pastor of the Trinity UMC in Little Rock, AR. <u>BarronCandace@aol.com</u>

Sr. Janet Hinton is making an outdoor prayer labyrinth at her church, St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Ozark, Alabama. The labyrinth will be available to everyone. <u>janethinton@centurytel.net</u>

On May 11th, **Br. Bill Olewiler** will receive his Doctor of Ministry degree from Wesley Seminary. His thesis is a study of the 13 years of an online Cyberparish as a form of gathering in the presence of God for prayer, mutual assurance, and the sharing of the love of Christ. Congratulations, Br. Bill! <u>billrev@comcast.net</u>

Br. Tom Scovel was a Lay Leader of the Courtland/Oakfield UMCs in Rockford, MI when he took his OSL vows last fall at the retreat in Pittsburgh. He writes, "This was a culmination of a two year journey to see how the Lord wanted to use my gifts. I decided to become a Licensed Local Pastor. On Dec 4, 2008 my district committee approved and I am working with a mentor. I have never had such a deeply spiritual experience as that which occurred in Pittsburg. Thanks to all the Brothers & Sisters at OSL." tomscovel@sbcglobal.net

Sr. Virginia Ford reports that since her surgery last October she has continued in her role as Lay Leader of the Westchester UMC in Los Angeles. Speaking remains difficult and she remains homebound. But she is in regular email contact with her pastor and others, and maintains the church website. "So," she says, "I still feel like I am contributing to the mission of the church." She goes on, "What I tell others who come to see me is that we are all members of the Body of Christ and it takes all of us to make it whole." She thanks us for our prayers and concerns, and concludes, "Life may never be the same as it was, but there are still things to do!" virginiaaf@aol.com

Sr. Cindy Loomis-Torvi's husband *John Torvi* has been accepted into an accelerated degree program at Southern Alberta Institute of Technology with full scholarship <u>and</u> stipend for his six months of study! And Sr. Cindy has met a woman who shares her energy for beginning a new ministry of wholistic healing and guidance for women – The LYDIA Network of Anglican Women Assisting Other Women in Crisis Situations. <u>annaughswell@yahoo.com</u>

On May 3rd, **Br. Bill Hunter** will observe his 50th anniversary in Elder's Orders with a special celebration at St. James UMC, Kingston NY, where he and his wife *Shirley* attend and where our NY Conference met during that ordination. For most of his ministry he has served in churches along the Hudson River Valley. Br. Bill has been a member of our Order since 1957 and is a prior Prior of the New York Conference Chapter. <u>BillHunter@juno.com</u>

Sr. Inga Freyer-Nicholas has recently returned home after her fifth hospitalization since last July – this for additional wound care for what was determined to be a MRSA infection. She is improving but continues in constant pain. In spite of it all, her husband **Br. Ron** writes that "we've been buoyed by a visit from our son and one of our granddaughters. Inga's spirit is strong, but the prayer support she receives definitely helps. Thank you." <u>ashes2fire@cfl.rr.com</u>

Sr. Amy Beveridge will require further surgery sometime in May or early June, to restore the sight in her left eye. The retina that was reattached in February is staying in place; however, a membrane is growing in front of the retina, blocking her vision. That's just something that happens in a small percentage of such cases. The miracle is that there is something that can be done about it! tandaosl@yahoo.com

Sr. Colleen Gilrane was recently honored for receiving the coveted Outstanding Teacher Award at the University of Tennessee- Knoxville. She was one of four (out of a 1400 member faculty) to receive this award. This year she has also won her college's Outstanding Faculty Research Award. gilranec@bellsouth.net

Prayers, please for **Sr. Carolyn and Br. Stanley Tanner** in the death of Carolyn's mother *Irma Bristol*, in late March, in Aurora, Nebraska at the age of 93. <u>stanosl@aol.com</u>

Br. Perry Parker joined the Church Triumphant on Monday of Holy Week following a brief illness. A Service of Death and Resurrection was held on Maundy Thursday, April 9th, in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. Condolences may be sent to his wife *Betty Parker* at 442 Parrish Hill, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

Br. Abbot Daniel, in his spare time outside the Order, is busy preparing for the 2009 Annual Gathering of NAAC (the North American Association for the Catechumenate) August 3-6, 2009 in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. He is secretary of the NAAC Board of Directors and will be leading a workshop. Missional church and helping with the journey of faith formation continues to be a passion for Br. Dan in his "retirement." For more information go to <u>www.catechumenate.org/</u>

Ordo for the Order of Saint Luke

	Ordo for the
F 1 S 2	MAY Philip & James the Less R Athanasius W
S 3 M 4 T 5 W 6 T 7 F 8 S 9	4™ Sunday of Easter W Monica W Olof Gustav Hedstrom W W W Julian of Norwich W Gregory of Nazianzus W
F 15	W 2 W
M 18 Bethur T 19 W 20	ne W W W Eve of Ascension W Ascension Day W
Ascer M 25 T 26 W 27 T 28 F 29	

S 31 Pentecost R

Please note the following:

- All Sundays, Solemnities and Feasts are in **bold** type and followed by the proper liturgical color for the day or part of the day.
- Commemorations are noted but the seasonal color is kept. Those who wish to solemnize a particular commemoration should use Red for martyrs and Holy Cross Day and White for all others.

		JUNE
M T W T	1 2 3 4	The Visitation W (transferred) The Martyrs of Lyons G G G
F S	4 5 6	Boniface G G Eve of Trinity Sunday W
S M	7 8	Trinity Sunday W G
T W	9 10	Columba & Aidan G G Evo of Thanks giving
т	11	Eve of Thanksgiving for Holy Eucharist W Thanksgiving for the Holy Eucharist W *
F S	12 13	G G
S M T 1 W T	15 6 17 18	2 nd Sunday after Pentecost G Evelyn Underhill G G G Matthew Simpson G
M T 1 W	15 6 17	Evelyn Underhill G G G
M T 1 W T F	15 6 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Evelyn Underhill G G Matthew Simpson G G G 3rd Sunday after Pentecost G Alban G G Nativity of John the Baptist W

• The color code is: W- White, R- Red, B-Blue, P- Purple, G- Green. Gold may be substituted for White.

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

2009 Annual Retreat of The Order of Saint Luke

"Life of the Sacraments and the Sacraments of Life"

The Order of Saint Luke will gather in **Retreat** on **October 12-15** at **St. Paul of the Cross, 148 Monastery Ave, Pittsburgh PA**.

The retreat leader will be **Dr. Heather Murray Elkins**. Dr. Elkins is Professor of worship, preaching and the arts at <u>The Theological School</u> and <u>Caspersen School of Graduate Studies</u>, <u>Drew University</u>. Her teaching and research interests include liturgical theology, arts and liturgy; feminist studies in liturgy and homiletics; and Appalachian studies. She is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church.





Dr. Elkins began her teaching career as an instructor in the first bi-lingual independent school on the Navaho Reservation. During her pastoral career she has served as a local church pastor, a truck stop chaplain, a university chaplain, and an academic dean. She taught Liturgical Theology at Ewah Woman's University in Seoul Korea, and offers a cross-cultural course in Appalachian Studies every other year. Her current research is in the area of cultural studies, liturgy. and preaching.

Dr. Elkin's book, Holy Stuff of Life: Stories, Poems, And Prayers

About Human Things, published in 2006, has been described as "A narrative 'treasure hunt' for the implicit holiness of human things and a quest for a transformative encounter that turns consumption into consecration."

Dr. Elkins will lead us through story and reflection and conversation to consider anew the ways we as individuals and as an Order are called to see holiness and to turn consumption into consecration.

Those attending the Council Meeting (Elected officers, appointed officers, chapter priors, and provincial companions) should plan to arrive by noon on Monday, Oct. 12. Those just attending the retreat should arrive in time for dinner on Monday. The retreat will end with lunch on Thursday, Oct. 15. Those staying on for the remaining session of the Council meeting should plan to leave on Friday morning.

The registration form for the Retreat is included in this issue of the Font. Please complete the form and send it to **Sr. Sue Moore, Prior Genera**l. (Note: Sr. Sue will coordinate the registrations and forward your checks to the Chancellor – this is a change from last year's process.)

The 2009 Retreat of The Order of Saint Luke "Life of the Sacraments and the Sacraments of Life"

October 12-14, 2009 St. Paul of the Cross, Pittsburgh PA

NAME:
ADDRESS:
E-MAIL: PHONE:
Are you an OSL member? Yes No
Is this your first time attending an OSL retreat? Yes No
Your first name as you'd like it to appear on your Nametag:
If you have any encould distant or medility needs, please note them in detail on the reverse

If you have any special dietary or mobility needs, please note them in detail on the reverse. Please note that most rooms in the retreat center are private with hall baths.

Please register me for the **2009 Retreat** (dinner on Monday, October 12th, through lunch on Wednesday, October 14th) at a cost of \$200.00.

Please register me for the **2009 Retreat and Council meeting** (dinner on Monday, October 12th, through lunch on Thursday, October 15th) at a cost of \$235.00.

Please reserve a room for me for me on Sunday, October 11th for an additional \$30.00.

I anticipate arriving in Pittsburgh by air, rail, or motor coach. Please have the local transportation coordinator contact me concerning ground transportation.



Registration deadline is September 15, 2009.

Please return a completed registration form for each individual attending to: Sr. Sue Moore, O.S.L., Prior General The Order of Saint Luke PO Box 6 Durham Pa 18039-0006 U.S.A.

You may request additional information or ask questions by contacting Sr. Sue Moore ar <u>esmoore@alum.mit.edu</u>. or by calling 610 749 0845.



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Join the cyber chapter: Send a message to <u>osl-subscribe@yahoogroups.com</u>, with "subscribe" as the subject line

Information for *The Font* can be sent to me via email: <u>esmoore@alum.mit.edu</u>, or to:

P.O. Box 6, Durham PA 18039.

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

Grace and Peace, Sr. Sue Moore

Deadline for submissions for the July/Aug 2009 issue of The Font is June20, 2009.