



The Font

Fostering connections within the Order of Saint Luke

March/April 2010

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Circumstances can suddenly change our lives and this morning is one of those times. "Tsunami" is its name for us and the 2 AM call from our daughter in law ended our sleep and launched our activity to evacuate our coastal home. Fortunately, we are prepared and are ready to load our car and leave for higher ground. (Higher ground reminds me of a gospel song, "Lord, lift me up, and let me stand....")



The people of Haiti, and now Chile, remind us of how small we and at risk we are in this very seismically alive planet. We have fifteen hours of warning. They had none.

Sr. Sue Moore reminded me in an email on Thursday that my letter for the *Font* was due and could I please get it to her by the weekend. I was going to write it after Sunday worship and pastoral work at Parker UMC where I am acting as supply for three months while Br. Gilbert Stones is on renewal leave. I am dashing this off because I don't know when I will be able to connect to the internet again! I am anticipating being cut off for an indeterminate period.

By the time you get the *Font* it will all be history, but we are living this side of immediate history! As Christians we live *this side of history* in the confidence that whatever the proximate history will be we are already embraced within the ultimate story of grace, redemption and consummation. As the liturgy of Lent, Holy Week and Easter remind us we live in all circumstances into the Paschal mystery.

It is easy to grow complacent when one day blends into the next in more or less routine patterns. But then...the heart attack, the screech of brakes, the tsunami, the drunk driver, the pink slip...and we are awakened to hold on to the strong cord of apostolic hope.

I commend you to God and to the Word of God's grace which is able to give you a *Paschal* inheritance with all the saints.

For the life of the world,

Br. Abbot Daniel+

From the Prior General's Office

Sr. Sue Moore, OSL esmoore@alum.mit.edu



Plans are underway for the May meeting of the Council of the General Chapter of the Order of Saint Luke. That is quite a title, isn't it? "The Council of the General Chapter of the Order of Saint Luke." But, many of you might ask, just what *is* this council? Who does it include, and why do they need to meet?

Article VI of our Constitution (concerning Governance) defines the Council this way:

Section 6 - The Council of the General Chapter

The Council of the General Chapter (The Council) is composed of the elected and appointed officers of The Order, any Canons of the Order as may be named, a representative (with vote) from each properly chartered Local Chapter and Association, and the immediate past Abbot. The Council exercises legislative functions *ad interim* between Plenary meetings of the General Chapter of The Order. The Council meets semi-annually, in the Spring and in the Fall, prior to the Plenary meeting at retreat or Convocation.

That means that Brs. Daniel, Brent, and George, and Sr. Sue (the four officers that you all elected), plus the people who have been appointed to offices by Abbot Daniel (e.g., the Chaplain General, the Provincial Companions, etc.) plus our Canons (people appointed by the Abbot and confirmed by the Council in recognition of their past service to The Order), plus Br. Abbot Mark Stamm are all part of the Council. In addition, local chapters are entitled to a representative. This is usually, but not always, the Prior. [Note: Local chapters are expected to pay the cost of their representative to attend this meeting.]

The precise agenda of the Council meetings varies, but it always includes a review of the financial state of The Order and an update on the activities OSL Publications. A preliminary budget for the upcoming year is presented for review by the council, in preparation for its adoption at the October meeting of the General Chapter, which takes place in conjunction with the October Retreat. (All members of The Order in good standing are members of the General Chapter and are eligible to vote at this meeting.)

This year's meeting of the Council of the General Chapter will be held at Saint Paul of the Cross, Pittsburgh, May 18-20, 2010. Rooms will be available on Monday night for any who want to arrive on that day. **Please notify Sr. Sue Moore** if you will be attending this meeting – and let her know what nights you will need a room at the monastery.

COMING THIS OCTOBER!
2010 Order of Saint Luke Retreat
Reconciliation and Healing
Dr. Ruth Duck, leading
October 25-28, 2010

Saint Paul of the Cross, Pittsburgh PA



From the Provincial General

Br. George R. Crisp, O.S.L., revgrc@yahoo.com



We received encouraging news from two regions in recent weeks. Br. Joseph James (South Carolina) reported the success of a new OSL group that met in late January. They had 18 persons present and another seven interested but unable to attend the first gathering. A follow-up meeting was set for March 5. Meanwhile, Br. Julio Vargas-Vidal (Puerto Rico) has been working to reactivate their small chapter, which has been inactive since May 2007. They were scheduled to meet February 13, at which point they were going to set additional dates to meet. Please pray for these two groups.

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 move to a new assignment or change your internet service provider (AOL, MSN, Yahoo, etc.), please be sure to provide the Provincial General with updated contact information.

Chapter news will continue to be drawn from reports made to the Provincial General last October. However, chapters are always welcome to provide the latest information (or corrections) about their events by directly submitting an article to *The Font*. Here is the Chapter / Association news we have for this reporting period:

Sr. Sharon Bailey, Prior of the **Gatch Farms Table Chapter** (at Asbury Seminary), reported that their group meets every Tuesday and Thursday during the semester. We use the Service of Word and Table patterned after the service in the UM Hymnal most times, but a couple times per semester we have an Anglican service with a local priest serving. This past year we've been blessed with clergy representatives from the Disciples of Christ and Assemblies of God. We sometimes conduct Morning Prayer services when ordained clergy is unavailable to preside over the Lord's Table. We've only begun this semester to hold services with eleven new people participating thus far with promises from many on campus to come, as they are able. In addition, 20 different people have agreed to preside over the Word and Table or offer Morning Prayer and Worship; more will be added. Participants, which are students, retired faculty, faculty and staff, are both males and females. Dr. Lester Ruth and Dr. Mike Pasquarello serve as faculty advisors.

The **Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter** meetings have two parts: 1) Service of Word and Table, and 2) Discussion about a topic related to the work and mission of the Order. Sometimes someone outside the Order leads the discussions with expertise in the topic being discussed. From time to time, we have also sponsored conference wide workshops. Officers are: Br. Lloyd Speer, Prior; Br. Art Rettew, Sub-Prior; Br. David Knotts, Secretary/Treasurer and Formation Officer.

One of our newest groups, the **New Jersey-Pennsylvania Latino Chapter**, was chartered in October 2009. From their Covenanting Document the following report was shared last Fall: "[The ten members of this group] have been meeting for at least a year on a monthly or bimonthly schedule and meetings rotate among the member's churches. [We meet] first for Eucharist, followed by business meeting or discussion of a topic, and closing with lunch. We

have conducted evening Eucharist in order to encourage persons to become members and to publicize the Chapter's charism, vision, and activities.

At the present time [we are] studying *This Holy Mystery* in Spanish. The various sections were assigned to members. The purpose is to better familiarize ourselves with the denomination's official document, and also to continue to foster Eucharistic spirituality among the members.

We have begun a project which involves collecting original liturgical texts or resources created by members of the chapter with the hope that in a near future we can published a compilation of these resources for the benefit of Latino congregations and beyond. At each meeting members take turns to serve as liturgists, musicians, homilist and celebrants. This has encouraged among other things a deeper reverence and appreciation for the sacraments among the members.

Initial officers include: Br. Irving Cotto, Prior; Sr. Lydia Munoz, Sub-Prior; Manuel (Manolo) Sardinias, Chancellor; Joel A. Fernandez, Chaplain and Formation Officer.

As previously noted, the **Puerto Rico Chapter**, after being inactive for more than two years, is reorganizing under the leadership of Br. Julio Vargas-Vidal

Br. George Martzen, of the **Singapore Association**, reported last October: "I'm in Berkeley right now. I forwarded your previous request to Sister Niam Kai Huey (Prior) to respond to you, or at least pass current info to me so I can do that. [She did not report.] If that doesn't come through I do know that there have been at least two meetings since last time, a send-off lunch for me on May 25, and a regular meeting August 21 with a program by Lim Swee Hong – "Re-Tuning Charles Wesley." I am not up-to-date on membership. I'm on a half-year study leave, cum mission itineration, starting a DMin at PSR."

New Chapter under Development in Pittsburgh

Br. David Eichelberger, O.S.L

On February 2, 2010, 4 OSL members gathered in the Friendship neighborhood of Pittsburgh to begin a new work of the Order in our region. One additional person hoped to attend but sent his regrets due to a ministry emergency. We discussed our shared experiences in living the sacramental life. We joined in praying the OSL daily office and in the Holy Eucharist. On the recommendation of Br. George Crisp, we are going to continue to meet and spread the news of our progress in the hope that others from our region might find us and help to form a new and vital chapter in the region. We would then come to the October Council Meeting to request the recognition of our group.

Our next meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on March 2 in West Newton, PA. We will recognize both the feast of St. David (March 1) and of John and Charles Wesley (March 3), transferred. Br. Erik will host and Sr. Tricia will facilitate our having a spiritual exercise using a labyrinth in the Chartres design. We will also worship together and share in the Holy Eucharist. If any can come early at 9:30 a.m., you may be asked to assist with the assembly of the labyrinth fabric. The West Newton location is handy to the PA Turnpike via I-70 and to travelers on Rte. 51. For more information, contact Br. David at davideosl@yahoo.com



From the Pastoral Care Officer

Bro. Tom Beveridge, OSL tandaosl@yahoo.com

Sisters and Brothers:

Thirty-five years ago this summer, during a unit of clinical pastoral education, my supervisor commented one day that it seemed to him that I thought too much. I didn't know quite what to make of that back then. I still think that, in a world so awash in reactivity, thoughtfulness is a good thing. But I don't think that was what my supervisor was getting at. Rather, he was trying to encourage me to live less in my head and more in my heart; to go deeper into what it means to be with people as a *human being* rather than as a *human doing*. I didn't get it, then, but perhaps I'm finally beginning to all these years later.

During Lent, I am starting each morning's session at my computer by reading a daily meditation that's furnished by the Merton Institute. www.mertoninstitute.org A few days ago, this is what I found:

Merton's Voice: The solitary life is above all a life of prayer.

We do not pray for the sake of praying, but for the sake of being heard. We do not pray in order to listen to ourselves praying but in order that God may hear us and answer us. Also, we do not pray in order to receive just *any* answer: it must be God's answer.

Merton, Thomas. *Thoughts in Solitude*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999, p. 104.

It's easier said than done, of course; silencing all that talk in our heads. And when we pray; well, don't you just love to listen to what you're trying to say to God? I must confess that I do! And yet, just this week, years after his death, there was Thomas Merton standing in my path on a Tuesday morning, saying, in effect, "Brother Thomas, you think too much! Try listening, for a change."

It was no accident that my old supervisor planted a seed for me to contemplate down through the years. So, here I am, finally starting to understand:

- That being a pastor, a shepherd of souls, begins with allowing myself to be sought after by the Good Shepherd.
- That the *labora* (labor) of ministry begins with the *ora* (prayer) of contemplation.
- That deep listening to others begins with the Mystery who speaks to me in the sound of sheer silence.
- And that in the end, when my physical powers must inevitably decline, I am really only at my beginning; ready, at last, to discover how *ora* and *labora* become one.

As always, I offer you these reflections for the good of the Order, and in great appreciation for the pastoral community that we are ever in the process of becoming.

Some news of our community follows, including some examples of ways our sisters and brothers are striving to link *ora* and *labora*. Do be in touch with me when you have news you wish to

share or if you desire pastoral conversation with me. This is particularly important if you do not participate in the Cyber Chapter, as that is an important, but incomplete, source for news. Write me at tandaosl@yahoo.com or PO Box 891, Bloomfield, CT 06002-0891. Or call me at (860) 243-3388. For the sake of accuracy and to protect confidentiality, I make every possible effort to check all items ahead of time with the brother or sister concerned.

Peace,

Br. Tom Beveridge, Pastoral Care Officer

“All are to be welcomed as Christ.”

The Rule of St. Benedict

News:

Please be in prayer for **Br. Anthony Carr** and his family. He recently began a year’s deployment as a chaplain with the U.S. military, to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, ministering to the guards at the prison there. carrat@earthlink.net

Br. Jason Constantine has been approved for ordination as an Elder by the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. He will continue in his current appointment to the Union Chapel and Chestnut Grove UMCs in Mocksville, NC until he is mobilized and deployed with his Navy Reserve Unit (Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 28) later this year. Following deployment, he intends to remain on active duty.

Jason.m.constantine@gmail.com

Br. Wade Powell is a member of the Hilda UMC in Mason County Texas, and also the district lay leader for the San Angelo District of the Southwest Texas Conference. He has posted a website at www.layleaderwade.com. Check it out for great pictures, and much more. Among several links is one to articles he has written about Baptism and Holy Communion, and another to information about The Order of Saint Luke. arcwade@gmail.com

Br. David Eichelberger retired on January 1, 2010, after serving as pastor of the Fourth Street UMC in Aurora, Illinois. Br. David has moved to Pittsburgh, where he is sharing life with an old friend, **Br. Howard Cherry**, in early 1900’s-built house, complete with lovely stained-glass windows. He writes that his *Aunt Betty Snyder* has died and that he was “thrilled that my retirement meant that I was here in Pennsylvania and able to attend her funeral;” also that “I’m finding that even though I’m retired there is so much to do and so little time.” Among other things, it will come as no surprise to any of us who know Br. David that he is already taking part in a new chapter that’s in the process of forming in Pittsburgh. DavidEOSL@yahoo.com

Br. French Ball will retire from full-time ministry at Annual Conference, 2010. He is completing 29 years as an Elder in the East Ohio Conference, and concluding 5 years as pastor of **First UMC in Bucyrus**, Ohio. Beginning July 1, 2010 he will become half-time pastor of the Caledonia UMC near Marion, OH, while continuing to live at his home in Bucyrus.

fball@bright.net

Sr. Cynthia Astle is being intentional about linking *ora et labora* (prayer and work) in some important ways. She crochets baby blankets and caps for Newborns in Need, an organization that provides baby clothes for indigent mothers who give birth at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, TX. And she is discovering a combination of physical work and spiritual awareness as she tries to reduce her household's carbon footprint by becoming "locavores," growing food for her family, trying to do a better job of caring for Mother Earth. Sometimes, when especially energized, she sings hymns while digging in the hard clay soil. cbastle@as-tex.net

Sr. Wendy Stiver writes that she strives to link *ora* and *labora* by caring for those who would otherwise have no place to be. These include "disabled dogs, the mentally ill 'foundlings' who are now my 'children' in fact if not in DNA, a family friend who was left jobless/homeless due to the housing crash, and whoever else God brings us." She goes on: "The secular world thinks I'm crazy, getting used, should kick out the misfits, etc. My response is to look to the example of Jesus, who sat down with the whores, the sinners, and the lepers---not to mention St Benedict who tells us to say a blessing when anybody comes through our doors." wstiver@pacbell.net

Sr. Sarah Flynn describes how she links *ora* and *labora* as follows: "My own labora includes my share of the housework and grocery shopping and other such chores. I have some church responsibilities that I do. I also do some lobbying for trans people concerns and for the mentally ill, and run a support group for transfolk. Doesn't seem like very much, but it seems to be all I can do to do now. (Ed: Sr. Sarah, God may yet reward your faithfulness over what seems "little" to you by giving you even more to do in the form of prayers for others at their labor.) saraflynn@yahoo.com

Br. Brian McKee strives to link *ora* and *labora* this way: "I visit the local rest home and play the piano and conduct Hymn Sing-alongs with patients. I deliver Meals on Wheels to the elderly. In addition I volunteer my time as organist/music director at church." bmckeesar@yahoo.com

Sr. Wendy Stiver writes that she strives to link *ora* and *labora* by caring for those who would otherwise have no place to be. These include "disabled dogs, the mentally ill 'foundlings' who are now my 'children' in fact if not in DNA, a family friend who was left jobless/homeless due to the housing crash, and whoever else God brings us." She goes on: "The secular world thinks I'm crazy, getting used, should kick out the misfits, etc. My response is to look to the example of Jesus, who sat down with the whores, the sinners, and the lepers---not to mention St Benedict who tells us to say a blessing when anybody comes through our doors." wstiver@pacbell.net

Br. John Hope died on August 12, 2009, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was a retired Episcopal priest, living in Florida. Many of us who attended the retreat of the Order in Cullman, Alabama several years ago remember him well. Please be in prayer for his wife and family. Condolences may be sent to his wife Mona Hope, at 20954 SW 85th Pass, Cutler Bay, FL 33189-3326. Also, as recently as mid January, she was using his email address: drjohnsr@gmail.com

Please be in prayer for **Sr. Lorinda Hoover**, and for her husband *Jim Mossman* in the death of his father *James Frank Mossman* on January 13, 2010. She writes that he was "a man of great

faith,” and goes on to say that, “I find much peace in the assurance that he is held by God.” She appreciates our prayers and support. hoovmoss@mac.com

Please hold our **Br. Michael O'Donnell** and **Sr. Colleen Gilrane** in your prayers at this time. Very recently, in Nevada, Br. Michaels' sister *Karen* and her significant other *Lou* were rear-ended by a teenage drunk driver and died at the scene. At Karen's daughter *Veronica's* request, Br. Michael led the service. He writes that Sr. Colleen “did all those wonderful behind the scenes things she does so well, so I could concentrate on the message.” And he goes on to hold up Karen's family's “shining example of love and grace” in the midst of such devastating circumstances. Please also hold Veronica, her husband *Kevin*, and their children *Jordan* and *Grace* in your prayers. mjodonnell@gmail.com

Br. John R. Miller died on January 2, 2010. He had served as a part-time local pastor to several churches in the West Virginia Annual Conference; more recently was a member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Moundsville, WV, and an associate member of Simpson UMC attending with his wife, Carol Miller. Please be in prayer for his wife and family. Condolences may be sent to his wife and family c/o Carol Miller 415 Alta Vista Ave. Glen Dale, WV 26038.

From the Historical Task Force

Br. David Eichelberger, O.S.L. davideosl@yahoo.com

It is that time of the year when many folks begin to have the urge for spring cleaning. If you come across items from our OSL heritage please don't toss it in the recycle bin. Send it instead to the Methodist Center at Drew University/United Methodist Archive and History Center. We are now over 60 years old and some of our memories are fading. Pictures, letters, bulletins, minutes, etc. can help to fill the gaps in our knowledge of how we have grown as an organization. Our collection in Madison will one day enable researchers to have important resources to trace the history of the 20th century liturgical renewal in the UMC. We played an important role. It is vital that we leave a rich legacy of materials for the ages. If you have the ability to interview long term members in your region, please be intentional about recording them and transcribing that information sooner than later. Important historical figures are leaving the scene or becoming unable to tell their story. Please make this effort part of your personal and chapter's priority this spring!



Ordo for the Order of Saint Luke

MARCH

M	1	P
T	2	John Wesley W
W	3	P
T	4	P
F	5	William Me Kendree P
S	6	P
S	7	3rd Sunday in Lent P
M	8	P
T	9	Gregory of Nyssa P
W	10	Harriet Ross Tubman P
T	11	Thomas Ware P
F	12	Gregory the Great P
S	13	P
S	14	4th Sunday in Lent P
M	15	P
T	16	Lucy Rider Meyer P
W	17	Patrick P
T	18	Cyril of Jerusalem P
F	19	Joseph, Mary's Husband W
S	20	P
S	21	5th Sunday in Lent P
M	22	Jonathan Edwards P
T	23	Martin and Henry Boehm P
W	24	Ida Bell Wells - Barnett P
T	25	The Annunciation W
F	26	Richard Alien P
S	27	P
		Eve of Passion/ Palm Sunday R/P
S	28	Passion/ Palm Sunday R/P
M	29	Monday of Holy Week R/P
T	30	Tuesday of Holy Week R/P
W	31	Wednesday of Holy Week R/P

APRIL

T	1	Holy Thursday R/P, W for Eucharist
F	2	Good Friday R (stoles only)
S	3	Holy Saturday R/P-am (stoles only) W - pm Vigil of
		Easter
S	4	Easter W
M	5	Easter Monday W
T	6	Easter Tuesday W
W	7	Easter Wednesday W
T	8	Easter Thursday W
F	9	Easter Friday W
S	10	Easter Saturday W
S	11	2nd Sunday of Easter W
M	12	Charles Wesley W (Transferred)
T	13	W
W	14	W
T	15	W
F	16	W
S	17	W
S	18	3rd Sunday of Easter W
M	19	Philip Melancthon W
T	20	W
W	21	Anselm W
T	22	W
F	23	W
S	24	Samuel Wesley W
S	25	4th Sunday of Easter W
M	26	Mark R (Transferred)
T	27	Peter Bohler W
W	28	W
T	29	Catherine of Sienna Laura Askew Haygood W
F	30	W

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.

- 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*

**The Font**

The Order of Saint Luke
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White Sulphur Springs WV 24986

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Sr. Sue Moore, Editor
esmoore@alum.mit.edu

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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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 May/June 2010 issue of <i>The Font</i> is April 20, 2010.
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