



# THE FONT

MAY - JUNE 2014

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS WITHIN THE ORDER OF SAINT LUKE

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## THE CALL TO SERVICE

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and our dying and rising with him in baptism and the ongoing sacramental life are at the heart of our life in the Order. His death and Resurrection are always lived out concretely, specifically, personally. And so there are always consequences in the family, in the church, the nation, the world, and even in our inner being. You sing your "Alleluias" too loudly and I'm irritated. I lean toward silence and solitude and you want to talk. As Charlie Brown famously said, "I love mankind ... it's people I can't stand!"

Look no further than our Order.

Let me illustrate. For me following the risen One includes participating in a protest of the Keystone XL Pipeline to be held in Washington D.C. on April 26. (I intend to do this as a personal act, not as abbot of the Order). Imagine the upcoming Council meeting in Pittsburgh. At breakfast I share my participation in the protest. A brother or sister sitting across from me bristles and says, "I think the Keystone XL Pipeline is necessary. My goodness, it will bring oil from Canada instead of the Middle East. I take issue with your stance."

The point is not the right or wrong of how we obtain the energy society needs. I agree that the issue is murky and risky whichever way you slice it. All the paths have consequences that can be and are perceived differently. The question I'm raising is how do we live the Resurrection in community? How do we follow Jesus when

often we do so in very different ways? How do we sing the same "Alleluia!" when sent into the world we follow Jesus differently. I suppose the divided church is witness to the fact that we haven't yet figured out how to do that. The tensions exist in every embodiment of Christian community, even in the intrapersonal community of our many "selves"!

Fr. Martin L. Smith, a retired Episcopal priest and former superior of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist (Cambridge MA), was resident with the Cathedral Church of Saint Andrew, Honolulu, for the first four weeks of Lent. In a series of talks on the implications of monastic life for life and ministry today, he asserted that monastic rules (Benedict's for example) were ways of regulating life together. Whether in the monastery, or the nation, the global community, or the community of the multiple selves within each of us, there is a great need to discover the rhythms and practices that pledge to protect and honor those who otherwise will get shifted to the margins. Without a constitution or common rule (regula), the dominant forces and voices will overwhelm and dishonor the quieter ones.

My first response to Fr. Smith was: "The Order of Saint Luke's Rule of Life and Service doesn't have anything that establishes rhythms and practices to protect and honor those who could be marginalized by the more powerful members." And then it came to me: true, the stated "Rule" doesn't but our constitution, by-laws, and our Customary do offer such practices and protections.

For example, the Constitution, the section on membership states:

*Membership in The Order is open to all*

Please see The Call to Service, Page 2



Br. Abbot  
Daniel Benedict

*The Font*  
The Order of Saint Luke  
5330 Park Avenue  
Memphis, TN 38119

Published bi-monthly,  
beginning July/August 2003

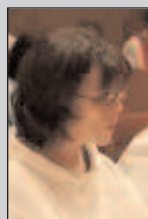
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## IN THE COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS

By Sr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson, OSL  
hjosselyn@hotmail.com

Traditionally, Christian religious communities have kept necrologies of their members in order to remember each brother or sister on the date of his or her death. Such a commemoration displays the community's belief that Christ is victorious over death. Those we remember in May and June are:

May 12 **Br. John Dornheim**  
(2013) New York  
May 18 **Br. Larry Seybold**  
(1999)  
June 2 **Sr. Kimberly Ann Echols**  
(2002) California  
June 5 **Br. Gerald Mann** (2007)  
June 12 **Br. Clark A. Walz**  
(2004) Pennsylvania  
June 16 **Br. Jerry Wilson** (2009)  
West Virginia  
June 19 **Br. Richard Hoffmann**  
(2008) Florida  
June 20 **Sr. Karen Chrisley**  
June 27 **Br. Kenneth Hill**  
(2004) Indiana  
**Br. Stephen Fraser-Soots** (2009) Michigan



Sr. Heather  
Josselyn-  
Cranson

A request: If you or your chapter are aware of other deceased members of the Order, I'd be grateful if you could send me information (hjosselyn@hotmail.com) so that they may be included in the list of siblings for whom we give thanks to God.

## THE CALL TO SERVICE

Continued from Page 1

*Christians, regardless of denomination, who seek to live the sacramental life in accordance with our Rule of Life and Service, in community with and acceptance of their brothers and sisters in the Order.*

In our Customary's section on "Inclusive Membership" it states: "All those who can affirm these vows, and who can accept all others who affirm these vows as their brothers and sisters, are welcome in the Order of Saint Luke." The section continues and offers this concrete instance that heightened our awareness of what this honoring and protecting of one another means:

*"... if Easter is about the 'new creation' then how we instantiate community is indeed bound up with the way we love one another as a foretaste of glory divine."*

"During Abbot Dwight's tenure [as abbot], tensions within the church over theological and social issues were reflected in the Order. An unforgettable image of the nature of the Order for Abbot Dwight is that of two members of the Order from widely divergent theological and social perspectives sharing the same hymnal. Rather than specifying positions on particular social or theological concerns, the council of the General Chapter affirmed that accepting all others who affirm our vows as their brothers and sisters would constitute the only limitation to inclusivity."

I suspect that reading our basic documents looking through this lens we may find much more that governs our practices and protections so that all are honored and all our many gifts are welcomed and encouraged.

This may seem far from the Easter theme with which I started this let-

ter. However, if Easter is about the "new creation" then how we instantiate community is indeed bound up with the way we love one another as a foretaste of glory divine.

Recently one of our brothers withdrew from the Order. Why? When I called him he said that the primary reason was a shift in his sense of priorities. "But," he added, and then he went on to tell me that he also found himself at odds with

what he perceived to be the general tone around sexual orientation in the Order. He said that he felt he could not in good conscience affirm it and that he had

chosen to leave us. I loved him for his honesty and for his integrity. Note: As an Order we do not state a position on sexual orientation. That is problematic for some. At the same time, it allows each to stand within his or her present and emerging truth. We each work on this issue in other arenas.

I will be working with the Council to explore the implications of a broader understanding of our "rule" for our life together and on how we might understand our Constitution, By-laws, Customary, and even our Book of Offices and Services as constituting our *regula* or "rule."

I welcome your thoughts and reflections on this matter of rule of life in our Lukan context.

The peace of the risen Christ be with you,

+Brother Abbot Daniel

# REPORT OF THE PASTORAL CARE OFFICER By Br. David A Eichelberger, OSL

## Joys

**Sr. Jeanette Marie Block** announced that our Prior General, **Sr. Sue Moore**, would lead the discussion on the Rule of Life and Service at the May 6-8 retreat of the New Jersey Chapter met in Mendham, NJ.



Br. David  
Eichelberger

**Sr. Heather Josselyn Cranson** reported that her church recently held a benefit dinner patterned on Biblical meals, specifically the Marriage Feast at Cana to raise funds for refugees from the recent conflict in South Sudan. Donations for the cause may be sent to The Church of the Savior, 530 Arizona Ave. SW, Orange City, IA 51041. She did not share what they were planning to do with the surplus wine.

**Br. Stephen B. Ball** asked recently for prayers of blessing for the artist/sculptor named Mason who is preparing the rings for Br. Stephen's upcoming wedding to his "Beloved" Patricia Hughes.

**Br. Ron Nicholas** announced that he and his fiancée **Joyce** would be joined in a Holy Union in Florida in April. There will be a blessing of their union in May in North Carolina. We continue to hold them in prayer as they move closer to their being joined in marriage.

**Br. Chris Rodkey** had a number of joys to share. A book featuring a chapter he penned has been published by the SUNY Press. The book is titled: *Resurrecting the Death of God*. He was also recently named to the Board of Directors of the North American Paul Tillich Society, and

was named a Fellow of the Global Art & Ideas Nexus. He is recuperating from a sore "trigger finger" from taking more than 1,000 pictures during his recent trip with the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar to the Holy Land. He was sent on the pilgrimage by the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania.

**Br. Brent Sturm** shared the good news that **Br. William Boyd Grove**, retired Bishop of The United Methodist Church, is making a good recovery following recent surgery to remove a damaged eye.

**Br. Eric Hoecke** recently asked for prayers for his mother-in-law who was admitted to the ICU. He is happy to report that she has made progress and is recuperating. He also announced that he is moving to a new appointment in July and will be the pastor of Avery United Methodist Church in Washington, PA.

**Br. Greg Hayes** announced the birth of a new granddaughter, **Alice**, born to his son and daughter-in-law, **Scott and Amy**.

## Concerns

Among our concerns this month, we pray for the soul of our **Brother Stan Winter**, who joined the ranks of the Church Expectant in February (see obituary on Page 6). Br. Stan was a longtime member of the East Ohio Chapter. **Br. David Eichelberger** was able to represent the Order at his funeral in Newcomerstown, OH. Please keep Br. Stan's children **Suzanne** and **Steven** in your prayers.

**Sr. Jeanette Marie Block** has asked for ongoing prayers for **Sr. Shirley Mitchell** who has been admitted to the hospital in critical condition.

**Br. Abbot Daniel Benedict** has asked for prayers for recuperation for **Sr. Mary O Benedict** who is recovering from a recent bout of bronchitis which had her in the hospital.

**Br. David Eichelberger** and the members of the Order in the Pittsburgh area ask for your prayers **for the students who recently were attacked by another student** at the Franklin Regional High School in Murrysville, PA, just east of Pittsburgh. One student is still in critical condition. We also lift our prayers for **those who were injured or killed in the bus accident in California** where many students were killed.

We remember the **soldiers at Fort Hood who were recently attacked and killed or wounded by another soldier**. Let us continue to keep our veterans and our military personnel in prayer.

Our Brothers and Sisters in the Philippines invite us to **remember their country as they recover from the typhoony devastation which afflicted their land**.

**Sr. Cynthia Astle** asks for continuing prayers as she receives treatment for age-related macular degeneration. Her eyesight has improved thanks to the treatments!

**Sr. Liz Curtis** has asked for prayers for her best friend, **Bridgette Melhorn**, who was recently diagnosed with cancer and also for Bridgette's daughter whose best friend recently committed suicide.

**Br. Tom Beveridge** has asked for prayers for +Tom Shaw, the Episcopal Bishop of Massachusetts, who is battling brain cancer.

**Sr. Lucy Porter** asked for prayer for healing and comfort following

Please see Pastoral Care on Page 6



## FROM THE PROVINCIAL GENERAL

How are things in your chapter or association? Some chapters have



Br. George Crisp

regularly scheduled meetings and focus on a Lectionary or book study as their program. Other chapters, especially newer ones, study

or review the Order's Rule of Life

and Service and our official interpretive comment related to the Rule. Here are two additional suggestions.

**For our seminary chapters,** this is the time to focus on the recruitment of new members and new leadership for the years beyond those who may graduate this year. We have lost some seminary chapters because nothing was done to invite new students to the Order, and once the leadership graduated it becomes difficult to reorganize a chapter. And yes, I understand the need to prepare of finals and local church pressures around the Easter season.

**For those chapters that come together at annual conferences,** this is a good time to hold an informational meeting so that others can learn about the Order. Over a meal at Conference, invite those interested in the sacraments and liturgy, or the otherwise curious, to join you for one of the daily offices.

Shortly after Easter, I'll be asking local chapter leaders to provide reports on their chapter's activities to share with the General Council when it meets in May. And now, without further ado, here is the news from the local chapters and associations, based on reports received at Retreat time last fall (October 2013):

**The Cyber Chapter** now has, in essence, two forms. There is the email version, hosted by Yahoo!Groups, and started in 1996 by its Prior, **Br. Taylor Burton-Edwards**. It stands at 540 members from around the world. Recent topics have been prayer requests, online communion, World Communion Sunday, and matters related to our new website, our upcoming Retreat and connecting persons to local chapters. There is also now a vibrant Facebook group, "The Order of Saint Luke," with 375 members. Recent conversations there have been about Louis Weil's book, *Liturgical Sense*, as well as Online Communion, prayer requests, and resources for praying the daily office.

Br. Taylor is the primary contact person for both forums of our Cyber Chapter life. **Sr. Sue Moore** functions as "Prior Suffragan" to handle subscription matters for the Yahoo!Groups forum when Br. Taylor is unavailable. There are also several others with administrative roles for the Facebook group (**Sr. Anne Ferguson, and Brothers French Ball, Stephen Ball, Jason Constantine and Scot Bontrager**, who actually started the group).

**The Louisiana Chapter** reported: "We have met twice so far this year (2013), with our retreat scheduled for November which will be our third meeting together. We met for Morning Prayer at Annual Conference this year and shared a breakfast together. We discussed the need for more intentional prayer times at Annual Conference, and one of our members set up a chapel for the use of anyone at Annual Conference to use for quiet reflection and prayer.

"This year at Annual Conference

Br. George R. Crisp, OSL, Provincial General  
revgrc@yahoo.com

we also sponsored a Book Swap Table to help people trade books for other books, and as a way to let more people know about our Order and what we do. Our Fall Retreat is scheduled for Nov. 7-8 at the Mother of the Redeemer Monastery outside of Opelousas, LA. At the Fall Retreat we will be praying together, electing new officers, and encouraging one another to maintain a daily prayer life. Our officers are: **Br. Stephen Fife, Prior; Br. Daniel Hixon, Sub-Prior; Br. Simon Chig-muria, Chancellor; Br. Ray Owens, Jr., Chaplain.**

**Br. Daniel Diss** reported: "The Northern Illinois Association has met three times in the past year and sponsored Holy Communion at Annual Conference. However, the Northern Illinois Chapter of the Order of St. Luke should be considered dormant at this time. We have only had three persons attend gatherings, little or no response from written contact, and difficulty even find a date and time at which to gather. Those of us who continue would best be described as a fellowship rather than a chapter; we will continue to sponsor Holy Communion daily in the name of the Order at our annual conference sessions since Br. Daniel continues to hold the position of Chair of Daily Procedure. Br. Daniel would appreciate status as an Association of the Order." (Provincial General's Note: The request for status as an Association was approved at the October 2013 meeting of the Council.)

**The Oklahoma Chapter** meets semi-annually. A recent meeting was at Annual Conference and discussed a Facebook presence as well

Please see Provincial General on Page 5

## FROM THE COMPANION FOR INQUIRERS AND NEW MEMBERS

This month's Council meeting will mark the fourth year that I have served the Order as the Companion for Inquirers and New Members. I have been enjoying the work very much. It puts me in contact with other members and inquirers around the world, which has been a challenge and a delight. It has required me to face and understand some of my quirks, and find ways to do the tasks taking those into account.



Br. Matthias Tanner

I have been able to respond quickly to email contacts, usually within hours. The new member packets have been mailed out within a day of being informed of Br. Scott's receipt of their Affirmation Form. This includes notifying

Provincial Companions and nearby Priors of the new member. I have sent a monthly blog to our new members by email, and some have reported that they find it helpful. I have made phone calls to some by prior arrangement of day and time, including calls to Great Britain and Singapore. For an old country boy, that's still astonishing!

Part of the understanding about this office was that I would be formally committed to maintaining contact for the first three years of membership. One of the things that means is that a number of members, who joined before May 2011, have been taken off the list for the monthly blog. That became a necessity, also, to placate Gmail, which thought I was spamming. I'll be happy to talk to anyone by phone or email, but my focus will be on those

within their first three years of membership.

Since my last report to Council, I have sent packets to 24 new members and responded to 27 inquiries.

**Br. Matthias Tanner, OSL**  
**24 Parsons Way**  
**Poland, ME 04274-5695**  
**Phone 207-998-5654**

## PROVINCIAL COMPANIONS

*Please contact these sisters and brothers with questions about the Order.*

Br. Tom Beveridge (tandaosl@yahoo.com) New England  
 Sr. Jeanette Block (revblock@aol.com) New Jersey  
 Br. Guy Camp (gooeey3@embarqmail.com) Pennsylvania  
 Br. J. David Roberts (mlpmchurch@gmail.com) Maryland, Delaware, Washington D.C.  
 Br. Steve Sullivan (revstevesullivan@gmail.com) Ohio  
 Br. Bob Jarboe (jarbear1974@yahoo.com) Indiana, Michigan  
 Br. Ted Mitchell (tedduke89@gmail.com) Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin  
 Br. Jack Hofmockel (jack.hofmockel@yahoo.com) Iowa, Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri  
 Br. Mark Parsons (pastthewishing@gmail.com) Virginia, West Virginia  
 Br. Gary Smith (garysmith46@gmail.com) Kentucky, Tennessee  
 Br. Stephen Ball (stephenball@mindspring.com) North Carolina  
 Br. Joseph James (jrjamsjr@umsc.org) South Carolina, Georgia  
 Br. Steve McGucken (oslguick@aol.com) Alabama, Mississippi  
 Br. Bill Olewiler (billrev@comcast.net) Florida  
 Br. John Taylor (jetvct@att.net) Northern Texas, Oklahoma  
 Sr. Celia Kitchens (pastorcelia@gmail.com) Southern Texas, Louisiana  
 Br. John Caro Russell (jruss1010@aol.com) New Mexico, west Texas  
 Sr. Julie Nygaard (jnygaard@venturecomm.net) The Dakotas, Nebraska  
 Sr. Kathy Haley (silverwolf13@comcast.net) Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Utah  
 Sr. Mary Beth Klaehn (maryklaehn@gmail.com) Arizona, southern Nevada  
 Br. Perry Polk (perry.polk@aol.com) N. California, N. Nevada  
 Br. Gilbert Stones (gilert@aol.com) S. California, Hawaii  
 Br. Doug Morrison-Cleary (doug.mc@hildormen.org) Pacific Rim, Philippines, Singapore

## PROVINCIAL GENERAL

Continued from Page 4

as the future of the chapter. The number of members is unknown, but our officers are: **Br. David Mingus, Prior; Br. Don Whitman, Sub-Prior.**

**The Singapore Association** meets two to three times a year. Our last meeting was August 15 at the Methodist Centre (Methodist Church in Singapore) with the topic "Liturgy of the Missional Church." Our officers are **George Martzen, Prior and Gabriel Liew, Chancellor.**

**Perpetual Reminder . . .** Please notify the Provincial General: (1) if the contact person for your chapter or association changes due to an election of new officers, (2) if you are the contact person and you if you have updated contact information, (4) if you have additional news to share about your chapter or association, and (4) if you change your e-mail address.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/4308956173/>



## FROM THE PRIOR GENERAL Sr. Sue Moore, OSL

It is not too soon to get ready for next October's retreat. What? you say. That's months away! Very true – but that gives you time to do some reading and contemplating and praying so that your time at retreat will have even deeper meaning.

The retreat this year will recognize the urgency and timeliness of our human-earth relationship and explore the Judeo-Christian tradition, including our sacramental life, for a robust earth spirituality overlooked in the west, especially since the enlightenment and the rise of industrialization. Several touchstones will ground our reflection. One is the joint United Methodist and Roman Catholic statement on the Eucharist and Ecology titled

"Heaven and Earth Are Full of Your Glory" You can find this report, contained on the United States Catholic Bishops' site, by going to <http://tinyurl.com/k64h94x>.

Another is our OSL collect that includes our intent to embody Christ's healing grace for all creation.

Br. Abbot and I have been in conversation with Dr. Susan Muto, who is currently writing about this very topic. Based on those conversations, we have invited her to be our primary speaker at the retreat. You can find a brief biography of Dr. Muto, as well as information about the Epiphany Association (which she directs), at <http://www.epiphanyassociation.org>

If you want to do some reading before the retreat, there are two

"Berry's" you might pick. The first is Thomas Berry, Catholic priest of the Passionist order, cultural historian, ecotheologian and author of *The Christian Future and the Fate of Earth*.

The other is Wendell Berry, American novelist, poet, environmental activist, cultural critic, and farmer, whose *Collected Poems and Mad Farmer Poems* speak to this topic.

***Heaven and Earth Are Full of Your Glory: Embodying Christ's Healing Grace for all Creation***

**October 21-24 2014**

**Saint Paul of the Cross  
Pittsburgh, PA**

Registration information will be published as soon as costs are finalized.

## PASTORAL CARE Continued from Page 4

recent major oral surgery and bone grafting.

**Br. Brent Sturm** shared the news that his coonhound Chloe who had been with his family a number of months disappeared from their home on a cold and snowy night. After diligent searches were made, the family has found consolation from her loss by adopting a Beagle named Abby, who has made herself at home.

Brothers and Sisters, as we lift up these joys and concerns in our prayers let us always remember that many petitions are never shared in print but are nevertheless sincerely offered up to God in our personal devotions. Let us be steadfast in this one very important ministry of our Order. It is also necessary at times such as these to remember the Officers of the General Chapter who do so much on behalf of our Order behind the spotlight of public attention. We pray too for **Br. Taylor Burton-Edwards** and his ministry at the UMC Board of Discipleship

Section on Worship.

Gracious and life giving God, as we enter into the joy and celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, keep us ever mindful of the joyful privilege we have of being intercessors for the needs of the world. We thank you that in Christ Jesus we have encountered the Prince of Peace, for we are desperate for your Shalom to be established here on earth; As we remember how he broke the bread and shared the cup with his disciples to feed them and us with his body and blood, we recollect that the world is teetering on the edge of catastrophe because so many are starving and dying of thirst. We joyfully have greeted his resurrection, while others in the world are all too aware of atrocities and devastation. Gift us anew with your Holy Spirit that we as your people may live out our lives as instruments of your peace and reconciliation. We ask this as your Easter and

## IN MEMORIAM

**Br. W. Stanley Winters:** Born September 10, 1942 in Dover,

Ohio, Br. Stanley served as an Elder in the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church until his retirement of service. He



**Br. Stanley Winters, OSL**

was a member of the East Ohio Chapter of the Order of Saint Luke, faithfully participating in the activities of the Chapter. On February 20, 2014, Br. Stanley passed into the Church Expectant. The memory of the saints is blessed forever. Amen.

– **Br. Matthias Tanner**

# THE ORDO

Prepared by Br. Jack Fahey, OSL

## MAY

T	1	<b>Philip &amp; James the Less R</b>
F	2	Athanasius W
S	3	Thomas Coke W
S	4	<b>3rd Sunday of Easter W</b>
M	5	Olof Gustav Hedstrom W
T	6	W
W	7	W
T	8	Julian of Norwich W
F	9	Gregory of Nazianzus W
S	10	W
S	11	<b>4th Sunday of Easter W</b>
M	12	Lee Su-jong W
T	13	W
W	14	W
T	15	W
F	16	William Nast W
S	17	Harry Hosier W
S	18	<b>5th Sunday of Easter W</b>
M	19	W
T	20	W
W	21	W
T	22	W
F	23	W
S	24	William Edwin Robert Sangster Aldersgate Day W
S	25	<b>6th Sunday of Easter W</b>
M	26	W
T	27	John Calvin W
W	28	W
		<b>Eve of Ascension W</b>
T	29	<b>Ascension Day W</b>
F	30	Joan of Arc W
		<b>Eve of the Visitation W</b>
S	31	<b>The Visitation W</b>

## JUNE

S	1	<b>7th Sunday of Easter W</b> <b>Ascension Sunday (optional)</b>
M	2	The Martyrs of Lyons W
T	3	W
W	4	W
T	5	Boniface W
F	6	W
S	7	Chief Seattle W <b>Eve of Pentecost R</b>
S	8	<b>Pentecost R</b>
M	9	Columba and Aidan G
T	10	G
W	11	<b>Barnabas R</b>
T	12	G
F	13	G
S	14	Basil the Great G <b>Eve of Trinity Sunday W</b>
S	15	<b>Trinity Sunday W</b>
M	16	Jabez Bunting G
T	17	G
W	18	Matthew Simpson G <b>Eve of Thanksgiving for the Eucharist W</b> <b>Thanksgiving for the Holy Eucharist W</b>
T	19	G
F	20	G
S	21	Thomas Bowman Stephenson Reinhold Niebuhr G
S	22	<b>2nd. Sunday after Pentecost G</b>
M	23	G
T	24	<b>Nativity of John The Baptist W</b>
W	25	G
T	26	G
F	27	G
S	28	Irenaeus, Peter Jones or Kahkewaquonaby G
S	29	<b>3rd. Sunday after Pentecost G</b>
M	30	<b>Peter and Paul R trans.</b>

### Notes on The Ordo:

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.





## THE FONT

The Order of Saint Luke  
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### *FIRST CLASS MAIL*

## FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

By Sr. Cynthia B. Astle, OSL, Editor

I've heard one constant lament in the six years that I have been a member of The Order of Saint Luke: *We miss the benefit of face-to-face contact with our brothers and sisters.* This is especially true for those of us who have been blessed by our annual Retreat, or who live too far distant from other OSL kindred to make chapter or association meetings. Being a dispersed ecumenical order also poses significant challenges to our sense of community, as Br. Abbot Daniel Benedict writes in this issue (see "The Call to Action" on page 1).

While there isn't anything I can do personally to bring us physically together more often, as the new editor of *The Font* I can restore a feature that Sr. Sue Moore has previously used: first-person



stories about our spiritual journeys, especially how we came to OSL and how we practice our spiritual disciplines in diaspora.

Taking an inspiration from another order I once belonged to, the Masonic youth organization called The Order of Rainbow for Girls, I've decided to name this feature "For the Good of the Order." Something that's "for the good of the order" would be brief histories of our OSL involvement; affirmations of where we see God at work

in the world today; and other inspirational content that will help us build stronger connections with one another.

If at all possible, the maximum word count should be around 500 words. Truly extraordinary stories can be given more space at the editor's discretion. If you're a visual person, send us a photo that tells your story. Photos will help us put faces and places together with the names we see in our OSL Directory.

Please email your texts and photos to me at [spirit60cba@gmail.com](mailto:spirit60cba@gmail.com) with "Good of the Order" in the subject line. Please send text and photo as separate file attachments. Please **don't embed** your photo into the text, because then the photo can't be extracted for publishing. Email me with any questions.