



## IN THIS ISSUE

*This special issue focuses on The Order of Saint Luke's 2016 sessions of Convocation in the United States and the Philippines.*

*The regular format of The Font will resume with the January-February 2017 issue.*

**The Font**  
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## THE CALL TO SERVICE

### *Musings on becoming Abbot*

By Abbot Elizabeth Moore, OSL

In the ninth chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Luke, we find Jesus deep in conversation with his disciples. He turns to them and asks, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" They tell him that some people get him confused with John the Baptist. Other people think that he is one of the prophets who has returned to earth. And then he asks them a more personal question, "But who do you say that I am?"

Jesus needed to know if the disciples had really grasped his identity. And Peter, who so often in the gospels struggles to understand, got it right this time. He knew that he was following the Messiah.

Each of us will, at some point, wonder about our own identity. We will ask ourselves, "Who do you say that I am?" We can be assured that are in good company when we ask that question. The scriptures tell us that Jesus asked it. More recently, Dietrich Bonhoeffer asked it from his prison cell. One month before he was executed, he wrote:

*Who am I? This or the other?*

*Am I one person to-day and to-morrow another?*

...

*Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions of mine.*

*Whoever I am, Thou knowest, O God, I am Thine!*

"Who do you say that I am?" Or even more poignantly, "Who do I say that I am?" Am I this or the other? Life teaches us that



**Sr. Abbot Elizabeth Moore receives the abbot's crozier, a sign of authority and service, from Br. Daniel Benedict, outgoing abbot.**

us that there is no static answer to that question. Who we have been is not, by the grace of God, who we will become. Our identity is not suddenly bestowed upon us for all time. It is a journey.

My question for all of us in the Order of Saint Luke is, who do we say that we are? How are we to understand our identity?

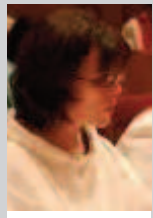
Since we are members of the Order of Saint Luke, there are some assumptions that I can safely make. We see ourselves as children of God. We are Christians. We have been baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ. We have accepted our baptismal covenant to renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, to resist evil, injustice and oppression, and to serve Christ through his church.

We, or our parents, made those promises as we began our Christian journey. But they were promises made not just for a moment, but for a lifetime. A covenant was made between God and us that endures even when we stumble. And so I was quite surprised when Sr. Joyce Ann Zimmerman, who led our recent convocation pro-

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## IN THE COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS

Sr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson, OSL



Faith communities have frequently kept necrologies of those saints who have gone before us. In this manner The Order of Saint Luke remem-

bers these sisters and brothers:

Nov. 4 Br. Norman Smith (2006)  
New Jersey

Sr. Fran Ballinger (2016) New  
Jersey

Nov. 18 Br. Jim M. Farrell (2002)  
Ohio

Nov. 19 Sr. Ann Parker Albrecht  
(2005?) Northern Illinois, Canon  
of OSL

Nov. 24 Br. Jim Darling (2008)

Nov. 30 Sr. Mabel Doser (2015)  
North Carolina

Dec. 13 Br. O. Ray Fitzgerald  
(2014) Baltimore; California-Pacific

Dec. 15 Br. Millard Byrd Knowles  
(2011) West Ohio; Maryland

Dec. 16 David Howard Tripp (2007)

Dec. 18 Br. David W. Yingling  
(2015) Michigan

Dec. 20 Br. Rick Lyddon (2007)  
California; Arizona; Nevada

Dec. 22 Br. David Lyman Taylor  
(2008) Illinois; North Carolina

Dec. 24 Br. Wallace P. Blackwood  
(2005) Louisiana

Dec. 29 Sr. Deena McGuire (2015)  
Illinois

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 at [hjosselyn@hotmail.com](mailto: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

gram, asked us the question, "Who here was baptized?" We all dutifully raised our hands, only to have her response be, "Wrong!" She challenged our usual understanding that we have been baptized and suggested that we are being baptized. I could debate her position on theological grounds, but she certainly did get my attention. We only get baptized once, but that doesn't mean that God is done with us. From the moment that the baptismal water touched us until today, we have been on a journey toward our own identity.

That journey has led to the Order of Saint Luke.

But what does it mean to claim this identity? A quick look back in time may shed some light on that question.

In the introduction to the Rule of Life and Service in 1962, the Order defined itself this way: "The Order of St. Luke is a fellowship of Methodist ministers and seminary students devoted to liturgical and sacramental study and practice."

Methodist. Clergy (or preparing to be clergy). Men. They were to promote worship that was both relevant to present-day life and in continuity with historical tradition. But there was controversy. Some people in the Order insisted on clerical dress and held rigid attitudes about what constituted "good liturgy." This gained them the dubious title of "liturgical police." This image was an unfair characterization of many members of the Order, but it was accurate enough to taint the Order in the eyes of many people. In our zeal to promote what we believed was the only true way to worship, we cut ourselves off from the very people

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we wanted to influence.

An interesting insight into the conversations that were taking place at that time can be found in our archives. Our records include an Evaluation Report dated April 19, 1971. A committee of five members of the Order, led by Br. Don Brown of blessed memory (a dear friend and mentor of mine) was asked to develop a position paper on whether the Order of Saint Luke should be maintained or modified, or even abandoned altogether.

The evaluation was done by sending out questionnaires to the members. One brother (they were all brothers at that time) responded to a question about the concern for the Order's image this way:

"More than image, I think is this day we need to go much more interdenominational, much more lay-oriented, and confront the fact that it is not liturgical renewal that we are after, but *renewal of the people of God through liturgy*." (emphasis added)

Interdenominational. Lay-oriented. Focused less on liturgy in its historical abstract, and more on liturgy as a means of the renewal of God's people.

The Evaluation Report may not have caused a revolution, but the conversations and controversies that were taking place at that time did start us on a journey to where we are today. They opened us to more clearly defining our purpose. They opened us up to questions about membership. They pulled us into a reflection on what it means to be the Order of Saint Luke.

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## Musings on Becoming the Abbot

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How should we characterize where we are on this journey after 45 years?

Our membership today is very different from what it was in 1962. Today we have almost 600 vowed members of the Order. About one quarter of our members are women. About 20% of our members are lay persons. Over 70 members live outside the United States.

We began in 1946 as an Order within the Methodist church. Today almost a quarter of our members are from denominations other than United Methodist. We represent a wide range of theological perspectives. We intentionally do not demand uniformity of opinion on particular social or theological concerns, but we are very clear that we any differences we may have will be treated with respect.

As you can see, we were founded seventy years ago, but our identity has not remained what it was at our beginning. Throughout our history, wise leaders and times of deep introspection have moved us beyond this grasping of what is the only “right” way to worship to an openness to the moving of the Spirit. As a result, we have gained a vision of ourselves as a community whose identity is shaped by its understanding of sacramental living.

One pivotal step along our journey was the decision that we were not just to be a club for like-minded people, but we were to be a religious order. We were not asking people just to “join up,” we were asking them to discern whether they could commit themselves to the purpose of this community and take vows to af-



The international nature of The Order of Saint Luke presents new challenges, including building relationships and communication. Newly invested Abbot Sr. Elizabeth Moore and immediate past abbot Br. Daniel Benedict forged new bonds in November with a convocation visit to the Philippines. With them outside Martyrs Memorial United Methodist Church are their hosts, Br. Oliverio Pinero (left) and Br. Benson.

firm that commitment. We were not so much “members” as we were a family living under a rule of life and service. This commitment to understanding ourselves as a community is one of the primary reasons that the Order decided not to use our academic or religious titles when we address one another, but simply use the titles “brother” and “sister.”

By the year 2000, we had reached a place on our journey that led us to modify our Rule of Life and Service to begin with the following statement, “The Order of Saint Luke is a primary means of spiritual formation by which all members covenant to live.”

A means of spiritual formation. As sisters and brothers in the Order, we covenant with one another to be formed spiritually by study, service, gifts and practice. As part of our spir-

itual formation we will live the sacramental life and allow ourselves to be shaped by the Daily Office. We will hold to the apostolic hope. We will continue our commitment to serious liturgical scholarship. We will support the church of Jesus Christ. We will accept the call to service. Even though we are dispersed, we will live as a community. And, most importantly to me, we will continue to magnify the sacraments. We will do this not by berating those who do not do it “our way,” but by lifting up the sacraments, beautifully administered, as a gateway to God’s grace for all believers. As our brother said back in 1962, we will offer the sacraments as a means for the renewal of God’s people through liturgy.

The Order of Saint Luke is a spir-

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# Convocation 2016 : A Time of New Beginnings

By Br. Dan Benedict, OSL

Every four years the Order of Saint Luke gathers for its Convocation, a gathering required by our constitution. This year we met in a familiar setting, St. Paul of the Cross Monastery and Retreat in Pittsburgh, where we are frequently guests of the Passionist order in the intervening years. The Convocation and the retreats are celebrations of our common life, occasions for rejoicing in coming in from the “cold,” and conducting necessary business of the Order.

## Investiture of Sr. Abbot Elizabeth Moore

The highlight of the convocation was the investiture of our new abbot **Sr. Elizabeth Moore**. In the 70-year history of the Order, Sr. Abbot Elizabeth is the first female to serve as our abbatial leader. She occupies the cathedra bringing an intimate knowledge of the life and work of the Order and all of us smiled joyfully as she blessed the community with the “Abbot’s Commendation” at the end of the service of investiture. Along with her, **Br. George Crisp** was invested as Prior General, **Sr. Jeanette Block** as Chancellor General, and **Sr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson** as Provincial General.

The Order’s Constitution calls for the election of the General Officers. Other officers are appointed by the abbot.

## Featured Presentations

**Sr. Joyce Ann Zimmerman, C.P.P.S.**, of the Sisters of the Precious Blood, was the featured Convocation presenter. Sr. Joyce Ann is director of the Institute for Liturgical Ministry, Dayton, Ohio.



Photos Courtesy of Br. Daniel Benedict, OSL

General officers for The Order of Saint Luke for the 2016-2020 term are (from left) Br. George Crisp, Prior General; Sr. Elizabeth Moore, Abbot; Sr. Jeanette Block, Chancellor General; Sr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson, Provincial General.



Sr. Joyce Ann Zimmerman, C.P.P.S. was the featured presenter.

She offered three lively addresses: “St. Luke’s Call to Live Community”, “St. Luke’s Invitation to Hospitality”, and “St. Luke’s Witness to Mercy”. As a religious for over 50 years, she blessed us with insights about our Lukan community and what she observed of our life together. She noted that we were a community well along in the life of prayer and she challenged us to engage in stronger formation of those who seek to enter the Order, forming them in our values and spirituality.

She was especially affirming of our practice of reflecting on our liturgies as a way of discovering what God is doing in our midst.

## The Service of Profession

At the service of profession, six made first public vows: **Sr. Rebecca Harmon**, **Br. Bruce Gowe**, **Sr. Laura King**, **Br. Daniel “Blake” Gulley**, **Br. Jonathan Hehn**, and **Br. Chuck Wolfram**. **Sr. Carol Gathagan**, (without scapular) is Companion to Inquiring and New Members and is standing on the left of the new members. She has a Facebook “Secret” Group page for inquirers and new members, and she has nurtured several of the new members who took their vows in Pittsburgh (see the photo on Page 5).

## Compline and Transitus

Wednesday at Compline, we included the Transitus rite from *The Book of Offices and Services*, memorializing those who died during the previous year with a witness and

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# Convocation 2016: A Time of New Beginnings

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lighting a candle for each: **Br. Bill Kintner, Br. Richard Santella, Br. Hoyt Hickman, Sr. Marjorie Erickson, the Rev. Dr. Laurence Hull Stookey** (friend of the Order), **Sr. Mabel Doser, Br. David Yingling,** and **Sr. Deena McGuire.** There was both laughter and tears as we heard stories and recollections of their lives. **Br. David Eichelberger** and **Sr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson** officiated.

Throughout the Convocation we were blessed with music and led by **Br. Geoffrey Moore, Br. Bob Jarboe, Sr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson,** and **Sr. Elise Eslinger.** **Sr. Alice Kay Lovelace,** our Chaplain General, and **Br. Rusty Beals,** sacristan, gifted the community with coordinating the planning of all liturgies and seeing that our holy hardware and other needed resources were available for every one of the fourteen services. As always, our gathering to celebrate Word & Table and to pray the offices reminded us of who we are before God as those gathered and sent for the life of the world.

## General Chapter Meeting

During the business portion of the General Chapter meeting, we learned that current membership is 577, including 57 life-vowed members. Br. Scott Alford, retiring Chancellor General, gave us the following demographic picture of the Order of Saint Luke:

454 clergy, 123 lay (21%)

474 United Methodist, 103 other denominations (18%)



Photo Courtesy of Br. Daniel Benedict, OSL

Making their first profession of vows at Convocation 2016 were (from left): Sr. Rebecca Harmon, Br. Bruce Gowe, Sr. Laura King, Br. Daniel "Blake" Gulley, Br. Jonathan Hehn, and Br. Chuck Wolfram. Sr. Carol Gathagan, (without scapular) is Companion to Inquiring and New Members and is standing on the left of the new members.

439 male, 138 female (24%)

505 United States, 72 other countries (12%)

The General Chapter approved the 2015 minutes and adopted the proposed 2016/2017 budget.

Br. Abbot Dan, before retiring, led the community in a time of listening for the remainder of the General Chapter meeting, inviting members to speak as they were prompted for the good of the Order, especially to those to be invested as general officers.

## Next year's retreat

The 2017 Retreat will be held at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, Ariz., Oct. 16-20. The spring meeting of the Council will be held at the same venue, May 8-10. The Daily Office Revision Team (DORT) will meet there May 10-12. Retreats and convocations are sometimes held in other parts of the country to be accessible to members who live in the mid-west and far-west of



Franciscan Renewal Center, Scottsdale, AZ

the United States. We hope eventually to have members from countries in addition to those who come from the United States and Canada. Retreats and convocations are always open to non-members who want to experience the Order's gathered life or to attend because of interest in the presentations. Registration will be available online as well as by snail mail. Watch for more information.

Br. Dan Benedict, immediate past abbot of the Order of Saint Luke, lives in Hawaii and Virginia. He will assume a role in OSL Publications under appointment of the abbot.



# The Call to Service: Musings on Becoming the Abbot

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itual home to which we have vowed to be faithful. We enter into this community with a willingness to be transformed.

As I assume the awesome responsibility to serve as the Abbot of the Order of Saint Luke, I ponder the question of where will our continuing journey lead us. What will strengthen us in our spiritual formation? How will we live together as brothers and sisters, even when we are separated by great distances?

Our patron, Saint Luke, gives us a wonderful image of life together in the second chapter of the Book of Acts. The developing Christian community “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers... Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.”

When we come together in retreat or at our Council meetings, we get a small taste of that fellowship. We worship and we pray. We gather around the Lord’s table, and around tables of learning and fellowship. And our hearts are glad. Some of us live where we can participate in a local chapter and experience that fellowship throughout the year. Many of our brothers and sisters live where such physical contact is very difficult. How can we help these brothers and sisters sense that they are part of our community?

As we become increasingly an in-

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**O**ur commitment to the Order of Saint Luke will be a means by which we live out our baptismal covenant.

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— Sr. Abbot Elizabeth Moore

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ternational Order, how do we connect to one another?

We are learning to use technology to build bridges among ourselves. We meet by phone and by computer to pray the Daily Office together. We chat and debate and ask for prayers on Facebook and in the Cyber Chapter. One challenge we face on our journey forward is to find more ways for us to be in virtual community when physical community is not an option. How can we care for and connect with a brother or sister who feels isolated? How can we encourage spiritual friendships that can both offer encouragement and hold us to accountability?

One of the great gifts that the Order has provided to our members is our Daily Office resources. In 1988, Abbot Michael O’Donnell called Br. Dwight Vogel to service to prepare a Daily Office organized by the liturgical year for the Lukan community to use. Today we are in the midst of revising the Daily Office. It will be available to you as a web-based resource, making it easier for people around the globe to access and use it. As we use these resources each day we are reminded that our prayers are not just personal acts of devotion, but they are the voice of the church being lifted up to God.

It is my vision... It is my prayer... that Luke’s description of

the early church will also describe this community. Our commitment to the Order of Saint Luke will be a means by which we live out our baptismal covenant. Our Rule of Life and Service gives specificity to that covenant which can guide our actions. We will devote ourselves to scholarship and fellowship. We will devote ourselves to the prayers and to the breaking of the bread. We will magnify the sacraments.

I pray that our actions in fulfilling this covenant, more than any words we might say, will lead to the renewal of God’s people. For it is by this, and by God’s immeasurable grace, that we, too, will have glad and generous hearts.

Who do we say that we are? What identity do we claim? We are a community of people, formed by the Holy Spirit, who proclaim the Apostolic hope, magnify the sacraments, and embody Christ’s healing grace for all creation. Across the miles and throughout the years may this identity sustain us and guide us on our ongoing journey.



# Abbot's Visit a First for Philippines Convocation



Photos Courtesy of Br. Daniel Benedict via Facebook

At the Profession of Vows Service at Martyrs Memorial UMC in Manila, Philippines.



Sr. Abbot Elizabeth Moore greets Br. Jong, a pastor, and Sr. Fe, a pastor and an optometrist, along with Br. Daniel Benedict, immediate past abbot. Below left, Br. Dan meets Sr. Joyce Torio, a lay member of the Philippines Chapter. Below right, the worship schedule for Martyrs Memorial United Methodist Church, with services in Tagalog and English.



The Order of Saint Luke marked a first for its growing international identity Nov. 17-18 when Sr. Abbot Elizabeth Moore presided at Convocation 2016 in Manila for the Philippines Chapter. She was accompanied by immediate past abbot, Br. Daniel Benedict, OSL, who provided reports of the event on Facebook.

The convocation took place at Martyrs Memorial United Methodist Church near the Manila airport. The church is named for its history, which dates back to 1901. In World War II it was bombed on a Sunday and 77 worshipers were killed as "collateral damage" by American bombs against the Japanese. The current building was erected in 1950.

The Philippines Chapter observed the Feast of Saint Luke (transferred) on Nov. 17 and held Profession of Vows and Investiture of Officers on Nov. 18. A major highlight of the Profession Service was the reception of 15 Life Members who have been waiting for the Abbot's presence to complete their vows!

Sr. Abbot Elizabeth presided at Eucharist on both days. She also gave a talk on "Magnifying the Sacraments," looking specifically at the rubrics. Br. Dan spoke on the Rule of Life and Service.

In one of the online posts, Br. Dan said: "We hope to have time with at least one of the bishops to learn of his concerns related to the liturgical life of the churches. We'll share more of the tensions that has led to so many professing vows and numbering themselves among us."

We rejoice in this major milestone for the Order of Saint Luke and pray for closer connections in the future!

- Compiled by Sr. Cynthia Astle, Font Editor



## December

T	1	Nicholas Ferrar & Rosa Parks B/P
F	2	B/P
S	3	B/P
<b>S</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Advent B/P</b>
M	5	Clement of Alexandria B/P
T	6	Nicholas B/P
W	7	Ambrose of Milan B/P
T	8	B/P
F	9	Wesley Branch Rickey B/P
S	10	B/P
<b>S</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Advent B/P</b>
M	12	B/P
T	13	B/P
W	14	John of the Cross B/P
T	15	B/P
F	16	B/P
S	17	John Stewart & Lazarus B/P
<b>S</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4th Sunday of Advent B/P</b>
M	19	William Wesley Van Oradel B/P
T	20	Capt. Thomas Webb B/P
W	21	Thomas R Comm. John Newton
T	22	B/P

## THE ORDO

Prepared by Br. Jack Fahey, OSL

F	23	B/P
S	24	B/P <b>Christmas Eve W</b>
<b>S</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Christmas Day W</b>
<b>M</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Stephen R</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>John W</b>
<b>W</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>The Holy Innocents R</b>
T	29	W
F	30	W
S	31	W <b>Eve of Epiphany (options) W</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.

## Meditation Moment



**“When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’”**

**– Luke 2:15**

Wikimedia Commons Photo from Yuvachyov's book "Pilgrimage to Palestine" (1904).