



THE FONT

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2017

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS WITHIN THE ORDER OF SAINT LUKE

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ABBATIAL MUSINGS

By Sr. Abbot Elizabeth Moore, OSL

Br. Dan Benedict and I were blessed to spend a week in November with our brothers and sisters from the Philippines Chapter of the Order of Saint Luke and to participate in their 2016 Convocation. Flying into the city you are greeted by shiny new skyscrapers and a sea of standing cranes - signs of wealth. But on the ground you quickly see the reality that the wealth is held in very few hands and that the poverty is grinding. The typical salary for a pastor is a few hundred dollars per month. The purchase of books, especially if they are shipped from the US, is a luxury that few can afford. And yet, in circumstances that would make many of us feel mistreated, our brothers and sisters are serving with great joy. This is simply the reality in which they live.

I was impressed by the youth and passion of the members of the Order we met there. They include a medical student, seminary teachers, a bishop, several district superintendents, elders and deacons. There are a total of forty members in the chapter, over half of whom came to the convocation. (An amazing fact since it is a more than a 12-hour bus ride from northern Luzon, and a plane ride from Mindanao in the south.) All the members in the Philippines are United Methodists. They are concerned about the relationship of the Order to the UM Church. That connection is very important to them as they seek to establish the legitimacy of the Order in their context.

On the afternoon of the last day of the Convocation we celebrated the service of Profession of Vows and the investiture of the chapter's new officers. I was amazed to find that fifteen of the chapter's members



Sr. Abbot Elizabeth Moore and Past Abbot Br. Daniel Benedict pause with some of the members of the Philippines Chapter at their Convocation.

wished to take life vows. This is an action that typically requires the advance consultation with the Abbot and a period of preparation with a mentor who is already a life member. Many of those present had been ready to take life vows in previous years, but had waited with joy for the presence of the Abbot to make their profession. Br. Dan and I were blessed to be there to hear their vows. The new life-vowed members made a commitment to act as mentors for future candidates for life vows.

During our visit it became increasingly clear that we need to provide high quality liturgical resources to the pastors in the Philippines. While we were there I made a commitment to Br. Joel Bengbeng, the chaplain of the chapter, to send copies of many of our publications to him so that he could evaluate which books would be the most helpful to their chapter. When I got home, I drove to Camden TN and, with the help of Br. Dean, packed seventeen pounds of books into a shipping box to send to Br. Joel. I took my box of books to several international shippers, only to be dumb-

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The Font

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FROM THE PROVINCIAL GENERAL

By Sr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson, OSL
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A friend gave me a copy of Henri Nouwen's *The Inner Voice of Love* about a year ago, and while at OSL Council meeting last May I found myself reading the following from that book:

"It is important to remain as much in touch as possible with those who know you, love you, and protect your vocation. If you visit people with great needs and deep struggles that you can easily recognize in your own heart, remain anchored in your home community. Think about your community as holding a long line that girds your waist. Wherever you are, it holds that line. Thus you can be very close to people in need of your healing without losing touch with those who protect your vocation. Your

community can pull you back when its members see that you are forgetting why you were sent out.... Keep returning to those to whom you belong and who keep you in the light. It is that light that you desire to bring into the darkness. You do not have to fear anyone as long as you remain safely anchored in your community. Then you can carry the light far and wide."

The Order of Saint Luke is our anchoring community, keeping us where we belong and protecting our vocation. Our collect reminds us that we are called to bring God's healing grace to the whole world, and we can do that only with the support of a community of love and light. Our sisters and brothers in the Order remind us of that vocation, and tether us when we feel pulled into the chaos of the world's need.

The chapters of the Order of Saint Luke live out this community in a special way. Chapters covenant to meet together at least twice each year, to share in worship, and to foster the spiritual formation of their members. Currently, the Order has ten Chapters (not including the Cyber Chapter):

Cal-Pac Chapter
East Ohio Chapter
Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter
Illinois Great Rivers Chapter
New Jersey Chapter
Perkins School of Theology Chapter
Philippines Chapter
St. Francis Chapter (West Ohio)
Trinity Chapter (North Texas)
West Virginia Chapter

We also have several Associations: smaller groups of members. Our Associations are found in Northwest Iowa, in Singapore, and at Pfeiffer University. Please join me in praying for our chapters and associations. May they truly be communities that love us, know us, and protect our vocations.

But we have many areas of the country where many OSL members live in proximity to one another, but no chapter or association has yet formed. If you'd like to know if there are brothers and sisters living near you, please contact me at hjosselyn@hotmail.com. As the Provincial General, it is my task to support the life and work of our Chapters. I'd be happy to help you find your nearest siblings in the Order. I invite us all to consider how we can best anchor one another. Who can help anchor you as you live out the Rule of Life and Service? Who might need you to help keep them in the light?

IN THE COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS

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

Faith communities have frequently kept necrologies of those saints who have gone before us. In this manner The Order of Saint Luke remembers these sisters and brothers:

January 2 Br. John R. Miller (2010)
West Virginia

January 3 Br. Bill Kintner (2016)
California

January 17 Martha Hickman (2015)
Tennessee

January 29 Br. Don Brown (2013)
New Jersey (former president)

February 13 Br. Robert N. Terry
(2012) New York

February 20 Br. Stanley Winter
(2014) Ohio

February 27 Br. Forest Shue (2007)
New Jersey

March 11 Br. Marsden Kitley
(2008) North Carolina

March 19 Br. Thomas Frederick
Tracewell (2011) Alabama

March 20 Br. Paul Rogers (2003)
California

March 30 Br. Tim J. Crouch (2005)
Ohio

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 so that they may be included in the list of siblings for whom we give thanks to God.

FROM THE PRIOR GENERAL

Br. George R. Crisp, OSL
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The Hickman Award

By the time you read this article, letters will have been sent out to the seminaries that present the Hoyt L. Hickman Award on behalf of the Order. The award, in honor of our late brother, is presented to a graduating senior who has shown exceptional ability in liturgical scholarship and/or exceptional ability in leading worship.

The Hickman Award we offer comes with a certificate and the gift of a handmade ceramic chalice and paten set to the recipient. (If the recipient is not someone seeking ordination, an alternative gift of a ceramic bowl can be provided.)

Spring Council Meeting

In the spring, the Council of the General Chapter will meet at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, Arizona. The meeting dates are May 8 to May 10. The Daily Office Revision Team (DORT)

will meet following the Council meeting, from May 10 to May 12. In addition to the elected officers of the General Chapter, the Council consists of appointed officers and chapter priors (or representatives). Chapters are encouraged to provide financial assistance so that chapter priors may attend. The Order also provides limited financial assistance in accordance with our reimbursement policy.

2017 Annual Retreat

Later this year, we will hold our Annual Retreat the week of October 16. The retreat will also be held at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale. Our speaker will be Sr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson, who will help us explore the song of the church. A survey of potential attendees for which musical themes are of interest will be forthcoming as we get closer to the time of the Retreat.

This is the perfect time to set aside some of your continuing education funds, professional business expenses, or personal savings for this

retreat. More details will be forthcoming in future editions of The Font.

Blessings to all my sisters and brothers as we continue moving through Epiphany on our way to the journey we experience during Lent.

FROM THE CHANCELLOR GENERAL

By Sr. Jeanette Block, OSL
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Thank you for the trust you have placed in me as your new Chancellor-General. I am thankful to Br. Scott Alford for his wisdom and assistance during our time of transition. As I work through recording the many affirmations, changes will be made to our renewal forms so it will be easier for me to record our information. I will let you know when that occurs.

I am doing my best to ensure that receipts are issued and posted promptly. It is much easier for me to process payments by credit card than by check as I can forward to you a receipt for your records as soon as it is posted.

I appreciate your patience as I learn new software and find my way through the many files that have been delivered to my parsonage. I have a sense of peace about this new position; it is an honor to respond to the call to serve and to work with my colleagues and with all of you as we journey through our sacramental life.

Abbatial Musings

founded at the cost of sending the box to Manila. Every one of them quoted approximately \$380. After the initial shock subsided, I posted on Facebook that I needed to get these books to the Philippines, and our brother, Neal Peralta, wrote to say that his sister was traveling from California to Manila and would be glad to carry the box with her. I sent her the books for \$14, and with my immense gratitude.

It is clear that the solution is not in mailing books, but in finding ways to transmit them electronically and in having them translated into Tagalog and other Philippines languages by our brothers and sisters who live there. I believe that this is an important call to service for us all. I hope that the Council Meeting of the General Chapter in May can result in further support of this effort.

Sr. E

Continued from Page 1

FROM THE PASTORAL CARE OFFICER

By Br. David Eichelberger, OSL

Dear OSL Siblings:

It is a new year and we are journeying through Epiphany Season towards Lent. I pray that you and yours are being refreshed and renewed as you prepare yourself for the journey to Jerusalem and the Holy Triduum.

Please keep our Brothers and Sisters in prayer as we deal with a number of matters this season.

We rejoice with **Sr. Carol Gathagan** on her adoption of a new Dachs-hund puppy Trixie. If you follow Sr. Carol on Facebook you will be blessed with lots of cute pictures!

We learned that Wesley Theological Seminary has established a memorial fund to pay tribute to Dr. Larry Stookey.

We rejoiced to learn of the results of the journey by **Br. Dan Benedict** and **Sr. Elizabeth Moore** to visit with our Brothers and Sisters in the Philip-pines Chapter. Pray for our chapter there as their ministry blossoms.

We celebrate with the New Jersey Chapter on the installation of their new Prior, **Sr. Fran Laurie Noll** and join with them in mourning the passing of their previous Prior, **Sr. Fran Ballenger**.

We pray for **Br. Canon Brent Sturm** as he continues his work with Jobs for West Virginia Graduates. He has recently begun a fundraising campaign to raise \$250,000 to better support that ministry. Any and all financial donations are welcome. (I do not know if he recycles old automobiles like our local NPR channel

does.) He thanks all who have made donations.

We continue to keep **Sr. Carol Peck** in prayer as she recovers from her hip replacement surgery.

We also continue to pray for **Liz McCracken, Br. Skye's spouse** as she works through health issues.

We rejoice that **Sr. Meredith Sturm** continues to recuperate from her chemotherapy. She has learned that her particular cancer is due to a genetic mutation. Keep her twin sister Martha, her siblings and her sons in prayer as they are screened for that particular mutation and may have needed surgeries.

We rejoice with **Br. David Houdeschell** on his recent installation in a new parish setting.

We rejoice with **Sr. Cynthia Astle** and her husband John on their return to their home in November 2016 after extensive repairs due to water and mold damage that occurred during the last General Conference in May 2016. In addition to the struggle to replace their belongings, their Border Collie, "Sheena the Wonder Dog," underwent surgery to remove two non-cancerous tumors. Sheena is making a splendid recovery and is glad to give up wearing her special collar!

Br. Stephen McGucken has asked prayers in behalf of his aunt, Sarah Hudson, who suffered a heart attack and is hospitalized in Nashville, TN.

Br. David Eichelberger recently attended the funerals of his uncles, Eugene Eichelberger and Max Fix. He rejoices in their long lives (95 and

93 years) and many accomplishments. It was good to be there with many cousins.

O God of all the ages, we look to you for our strength as we begin this New Year. You have watched the rise and fall of empires and cultures. You have led your people Israel across the hills of Palestine, to Egypt, to Babylon and back to Jerusalem. Forgive us when we forget that we are in your hands and that it is in you that we live and move and have our being through your grace.

We lift our voices in prayer and praise. You are truly a God of Love and Compassion. Help us to model that love and compassion as we seek to be faithful disciples of our Savior Jesus Christ.

We thank you for the many blessings we have received. We intercede in behalf of those who are dealing with the challenges incident to our lives as humans in this world: those facing health challenges, those who mourn the loss of family members and friends, those who are anxious and fearful about current events and those who are refugees from violence, war, and natural calamities. Comfort all these we pray.

We look to you O God for the guidance we need to find our bearings as we journey through our days. Continue to watch over our Order that as we live according to our Rule of Life and Service that we may be useful to your eternal purposes. To you, O God, we lift up our prayers, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

FEBRUARY

W	1	Brigid of Kildare G
		Eve of the Presentation W
T	2	The Presentation W
F	3	Ansgar G
S	4	Cornelius the Centurian G
S	5	5th Sunday after Epiphany G
M	6	G
T	7	G
W	8	G
T	9	Hugh Price Hughes G
F	10	G
S	11	Fanny Jane Crosby G
S	12	6th Sunday after Epiphany G
M	13	Absalom Jones G
T	14	Cyril & Methodius G
W	15	G
T	16	G
F	17	Frances Elizabeth Caroline Willard G
S	18	Martin Luther G
S	19	7th Sunday after Epiphany G
M	20	Frederick Douglass G
T	21	Ezekiel Cooper G
W	22	Kanichi Miyama G
T	23	Polycarp G
F	24	Matthias R
S	25	Amanda Berry Smith G
		Eve of the Transfiguration W
S	26	Transfiguration of the Lord W
M	27	George Herbert
		Fred McFeely Rogers G
T	28	G

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, **Rs** - Rose (associated with Mary, Mother of Jesus). Gold may be substituted for White.

Use Lectionary Readings from **Year A** until Advent (December 2017) when Readings from **Year B** begin.

THE ORDO

Prepared by Br. John P. Fahey, Jr., OSL

MARCH

W	1	Ash Wednesday P
T	2	John Wesley P
F	3	Katherine Drexel P
S	4	Mary Ann Able Smith P
S	5	1st Sunday in Lent P
M	6	Purple
T	7	Perpetua and her Companions P
W	8	P
T	9	Gregory of Nyssa P
F	10	Harriet Ross Tubman P
S	11	Thomas Ware P
S	12	2nd Sunday in Lent P
M	13	P
T	14	P
W	15	P
T	16	Lucy Rider Meyer P
F	17	Patrick P
S	18	Cyril of Jerusalem P
S	19	3rd Sunday in Lent P
M	20	Joseph, Mary's husband (transferred) W
		(comm. Cuthbert of Lindisfarne)
T	21	P
W	22	Jonathan Edwards P
T	23	Martin & Henry Boehm P
F	24	Ida Bell Wells-Barnett P
		Eve of Annunciation
S	25	The Annunciation W PM – P/Rs
S	26	4th Sunday in Lent P/Rs
M	27	P
T	28	P
W	29	Charles Wesley P
T	30	P
F	31	John Donne, Francis Asbury P



Sojourn in the Sun with OSL!

Join your brothers and sisters in the Order of Saint Luke for one or both of this year's General meetings in beautiful Scottsdale, Arizona!

SPRING COUNCIL MEETING has been scheduled for May 8 to May 10. The Daily Office Revision Team (DORT) will meet following the Council meeting, from May 10 to May 12. In addition to the elected officers of the General Chapter, the Council consists of appointed officers and chapter priors (or representatives). Chapters are encouraged to provide financial assistance so that chapter priors may attend. However, any OSL member is welcome to attend.

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Watch for details in coming issues of The Font and in special emails!



Franciscan Renewal Center Entrance, Scottsdale, Arizona