



# THE FONT

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2017

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS WITHIN THE ORDER OF SAINT LUKE

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## FROM THE ABBOT'S DESK

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

What is a Life-Vowed member (and how do I decide if I want to be one)?



Sr. Abbot  
Elizabeth Moore

The Order of Saint Luke established Life Vowed membership in 1995. The decision to have Life-Vowed Members was made with the clear understanding that in creating this category we were not creating a hierarchy. There is no element of "superiority" to annual Vowed members. It is just a declaration that you intend to remain a member for life. Any office in the Order can be held by either a Life Vowed Member or an Annual Vowed Member, including the Abbot. Both Annual and Life-Vowed members are expected to be active participants in the Order, giving the gift of prayers, time, and financial support as they are able.

So how does a member of the Order discern whether taking life-vows is the right path for them? There is a well-defined process that is to be followed:

A person may choose to enter discernment about life-vows after living under annual vows for at least three consecutive years. Members seeking to enter the discernment process begin by writing a letter to the Abbot stating their request to begin this process. This request should be made no later than May for persons wishing to profess vows in October. The Abbot confirms with the Chancellor-General that the person has been under annual vows for three years.

The Convenor for Life-Vowed Members then, in consultation with the Abbot, ap-

points a "companion" for the person who is discerning a call to life membership. Traditionally that companion is a member of the Order who has taken life vows.

As part of the rite of profession, those seeking to take life vows will be asked the following questions. During the discernment process, these questions should serve as a guide to self-examination.

- While you have life and breath, will you seek to live according to the vows you have confirmed this day with your brothers and sisters in the Order of Saint Luke?
- Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
- Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, respect the dignity of every human being, and be a faithful steward of all that God has given you?

Working with the companion, the discerning member will be asked to do some or all the following, depending on his/her companion's recommendations:

- Keep a journal recording his/her journey toward life-vows.
- Engage in directed reading
- Engage in regular conversation with his/her companion.

In late summer, the discerning member, with the assistance of the companion, will write a letter to the Abbot sharing his/her sense of readiness for life vows. This letter will be followed by a conversation between the Abbot and the discerning member. Upon the approval of the Abbot, the discerning member will prepare a witness of

**Continued on Page 2**

## IN THE COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS

Br. Robert Schall, OSL  
bhagwon@earthlink.net

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:

November 4	Br. Norman Smith (2006) New Jersey Sr. Fran Ballinger (2016) New Jersey
November 18	Br. Jim M. Farrell (2002) Ohio
November 19	Sr. Ann Parker Albrecht (2005) Northern Illinois, Canon of OSL
November 24	Br. Jim Darling (2008) New York
November 30	Sr. Mabel Doser (2015) North Carolina
December 13	Br. O. Ray Fitzgerald (2014) Baltimore, California-Pacific
December 15	Br. Millard Byrd Knowles (2011) West Ohio/Maryland

December 16	Br. David Howard Tripp (2007)
December 18	Br. David W. Yingling (2015) Michigan
December 20	Br. Rick Lyddon (2007) California, Arizona, Nevada
December 22	Br. David Lyman Taylor (2008) Illinois and North Carolina
December 24	Br. Wallace P. Blackwood (2005) Louisiana
December 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 information to me at bhagwon@earthlink.net so that they may be included in the list of siblings for whom we give thanks to God.

## ABBOT'S DESK

Continued from Page 1

his/her decision, including how he/she intend to live out the Rule of Life and Service, to be shared with the community during the Service of Profession at the Order's annual retreat.

Unless there are extenuating circumstances approved by the Abbot, the professing of life vows will take place at the Order's retreat or convocation.



A mural of Saint Clare adorned an outside wall of one of the domiciles at the Franciscan Renewal Center where the Order of Saint Luke held its Retreat 2017.

Photo by Sr. Cynthia Astle

## FROM THE PROVINCIAL GENERAL

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

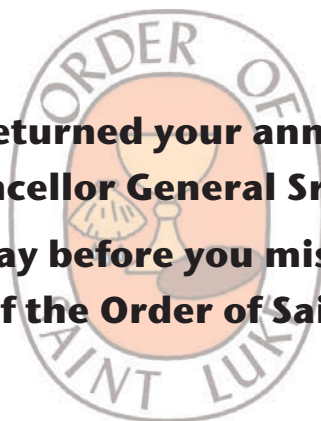
At retreat in October, I asked our Chapters and Associations to share prayer requests with the Order, so that we could pray for them while we met together in worship. I would like to raise up those prayer concerns with the Order at large. Please be in prayer for our Chapters, which seek:

- \* peace in a multiracial and multi-religious society
- \* wisdom in discernment
- \* growth in members and in spiri-

tual formation

- \* stability
- \* a sense of community
- \* strengthened relationships among members
- \* the ability to reach out to new potential members
- \* discernment about new forms of chapter life
- \* perseverance in overcoming stereotypes about OSL

**Have you returned your annual renewal form to Chancellor General Sr. Jeanette Block?**  
**Send it today before you miss out on the vibrant life of the Order of Saint Luke!**



## FROM THE PRIOR GENERAL

Br. George Crisp, OSL  
Email: revgrc@yahoo.com

# Retreat 2017 Participants Find Renewal in the Desert

Sisters and Brothers of the Order of Saint Luke:

Forty members of the Order enjoyed the beauty of the Arizona desert and the comfort of the Franciscan Renewal Center during our 2017 Annual Retreat. Our speaker, the Rev. Evelene “Tweedy” Sombrero Navarete, guided us through various life stages, telling personal stories from within her rich Dine’ (Navajo) traditions. She encouraged us to seek our spiritual center, find our own stories, and live into our own traditions without appropriating the traditions of other cultures.

Worship at the retreat was rich and varied under the capable direction of our Chaplain General, Sr. Alice Kay Lovelace, and the leadership of our sisters and brothers. It was refreshing to experience Morning Prayer in an outdoor chapel as we soaked up the desert atmosphere. In addition, we were pleased to observe the Feast of Saint Luke on our patron’s feast day, October 18.



OSL Photo by Sr. Cynthia Astle

**The Rev. Evelene “Tweedy” Sombrero Navarete was the guest speaker for retreat. She explained Native American spirituality from her Dine’ (Navajo) heritage and encouraged her listeners to find their own spiritual centers.**

### 2018 Spring Council

The 2018 Spring Council meeting dates are set for May 14-18, 2018 at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center, 148 Monastery Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15203. These dates include the next meeting of the Daily Office Revision Team (DORT).

### 2018 Retreat

Next year’s retreat is scheduled for October 15-18, 2018, also at St. Paul of the Cross in Pittsburgh. Our guest speaker will be Sr. Heather Joselyn-Cranson, our Provincial General. She will help us explore “The Music of the Church,” possibly with a focus on music and healing. Be sure to read her 2016 book *The Reason Why We Sing* (published by OSL Publications). The retreat may also celebrate the publication of The Lukan Book of Feasts and Holy Days.

### 2018 Hickman Award

The process for selecting The Hoyt L. Hickman Award recipients for 2018 will begin in various seminaries this February. Those award recipients, graduating seminary students who excel in worship leadership, will be announced in May or June.



**Prior General Br. George Crisp (left) and Br. Rich Wittig lead morning worship in the outdoor chapel at the Franciscan Renewal Center. Outdoor facilities at the center included a healing garden, a prayer labyrinth, various shrines and statues, and plenty of seats for private meditation.**

Photo by Br. Bob Schall



## Retreat 2017– Replenishing Soul, Mind and Body



God's glory was on display constantly, especially in glorious sunrises and sunsets like this one.



St. Francis of Assisi, our spiritual host.



Mountains stood guard above the renewal center.

*Photos on this page  
by Br. French Ball,  
Br. Daniel Benedict and  
Br. Bob Schall*



Desert plants commanded the outdoors.



## Retreat 2017– Settings for Study, Worship and Contemplation



*Photo by Br. Daniel Benedict*

Chaplain General Sr. Alice Kay Lovelace (right) instructs retreatants in the logistics of worship. Following along are (from left) Sr. Laura King, Sr. Carol Gathagan, Boyd Gathagan and Br. Bob Schall.



We met in the Serra Room of Piper Hall. Outside the building, sculptures of the Holy Family provided a moment for meditation, while a bubbling fountain gave ample opportunities to remember our baptisms and be thankful.

*Holy Family and Fountain Photos by Sr. Cynthia Astle*





## Retreat 2017 – Celebrating the Feast of Saint Luke



Our Prior General, Br. George Crisp, presides at Eucharist for St. Luke's Feast Day. Assisting him are Sr. Barbara Troxell and Br. Lee Cunningham. Worship was preceded by a solemn procession around the grounds of the renewal center, during which time the grounds crew stopping working and stood in respect as we passed.



The sacristy of the chapel was too small to accommodate all of us, so we vested together in the Serra Room. Many of us wore our OSL habits often despite the desert heat.

*Photos by Br. Daniel Benedict*



Sr. Carolyn Tanner, Br. Blake Gulley and Sr. Carol Gathagan are ready to celebrate Saint Luke's Day.



# Retreat 2017 – The Beauty of Holiness All Around Us

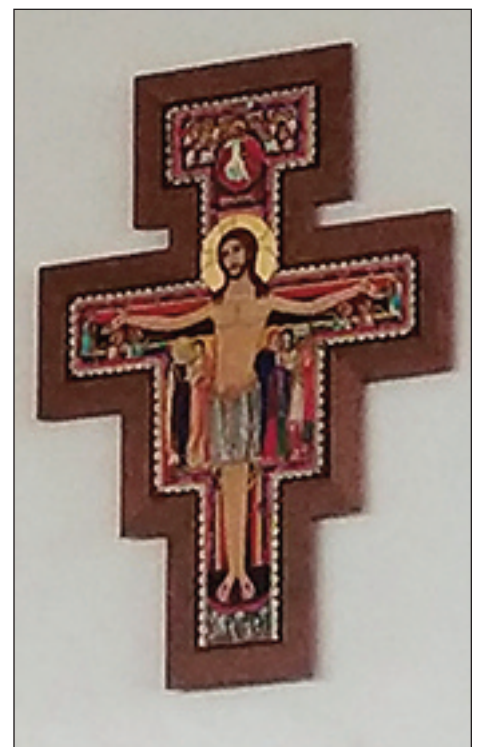
Many of us took time to tour the newly completed sanctuary of The Church of Our Lady of the Angels, the conventual church on the grounds of the Franciscan Renewal Center. In the Catholic tradition, a “conventual church” is one related to a religious community rather than under the jurisdiction of a local diocese.

Our Lady of the Angels features a stunning contemporary design with magnificent etched art glass windows that visitors were encouraged to touch!

In keeping with the Franciscan tradition of care for God’s creation, the main window of the church features a design that includes an image of space reproduced from the Hubble telescope.



Another “touchable” artwork in the church is the metal sculpture of Saint Francis being cared for by Saint Clare. It’s possible to feel the contours of the figures, even to the stigmata on Francis’ hand.



Each room had its own Cross of San Damiano, the cross upon which Francis mediated as he received his call from God. The background of each cross was designed to represent the name of the domicile in which it was located.

*Photos by Br. Bob Schall*

## REPORT OF THE PASTORAL CARE OFFICER

Br. David A. Eichelberger, OSL  
daveosl@yahoo.com

Grace and peace to my Brothers and Sisters in the Order:

This issue of the Font brings with it joys and concerns:

We rejoice that many members and friends of the Order gathered in Ari-



Br. David  
Eichelberger

zona at our annual retreat. We pray that they were blessed by being together and by the speakers at the retreat.

We rejoice to share the news that **Br. Brian McKee**

who was recently ordained a transitional Deacon by the Right Rev. John Bell is to be ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church later this fall.

We have been asked to keep our **Sr. Linda Vogel** and her husband, **Br. Dwight Vogel** and their family and friends at Pilgrim Place in our prayers. Sr. Linda has been diagnosed with advanced aggressive cancer and is receiving hospice care. She has been blessed by the care she is receiving and from the many visitors and family who have been able to be present with her. Brothers and Sisters of the Order prayed the Transitus with her recently. We are all stunned by this diagnosis and are keeping our dear sister and brother in our prayers for God's mercy.

We also learned in October of the passing of another sister who resided at Pilgrim Place, **Sr. Jeanne Audrey Powers**, who departed this life in Switzerland. Sr. Jeanne Audrey had served the United Methodist Church in the area of ecumenical relations.

**Sr. Pamela Nelson-Munson** also

has asked for prayers for Br. Newton Malony on the death of his wife Suzanna.

**Sr. Cynthia Astle** rejoiced to share good news that her eye condition, macular degeneration, is currently stable.

**Br. Canon French Ball** is settling in his new location in Nashville and enjoyed a trip to China this summer. Despite suffering an injury on his trip, he participated in the Retreat in Arizona.

Via our Facebook group, **Br. Daniel Benedict** asked for prayers for his brother and sister-in-law, both artists, who lost their life's work in late October when their studios were destroyed by fire.

Brothers and sisters in Southwest Pennsylvania are gathering soon to explore forming a new chapter. We invite your prayers and the expression of interest by others in the area. **Br. David Eichelberger** will be the temporary contact person.

O gracious and blessed Holy Trinity, we thank you for your presence in our lives and in the work of our Order.

Send your grace to us afresh, we pray, so that we may become shining beacons of love and reconciliation. We live in a world that is hard pressed by natural catastrophe, warfare and mistrust. Renew in us the vision you have of this wondrous world.

We lift our prayers for all who have died, for those whose lives are ending, and for all who grieve the passing of loved ones. We entrust these whom we love to your never-failing care. Give to us your consolation and peace which passes all our human understanding.

We ask you, O God to bring healing to the nations of the world. Give insight to those in authority so that we may better care for our earth and one another.

Sustain the Order of Saint Luke with your grace and enable us to minister in our Savior's name to the least, the lost, and the lonely.

We lift our prayers to you with confidence in your abiding love, for you are our strength and salvation, O blessed and Holy Trinity.

Amen.

### GRAB YOUR OSL GEAR HERE!



Love those lime-green polos on the officers at Retreat 2017. Get your own at <https://saintluke.qbstores.com/>

Need an OSL patch for your alb, a lapel pin or pectoral cross? How about an OSL Publications book list? Email Br. Dean Emerson at [DeanE13@gmail.com](mailto:DeanE13@gmail.com)



LOOK GOOD!

BE SMART!

SHOP OSL!



# THE ORDO

Prepared by Br. Jack Fahey, OSL

## NOVEMBER

<b>W</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>All Saints Day (traditional) W</b>
T	2	Phoebe Palmer G
F	3	Richard Hooker G
S	4	G
		<b>Eve of All Saints (optional) W</b>
<b>S</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>22nd Sunday after Pentecost G</b>
		<b>All Saints Day (optional) W</b>
M	6	G
T	7	G
W	8	G
T	9	G
F	10	Leo the Great G
S	11	Martin of Tours; Soren Kierkegaard G
<b>S</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>23rd Sunday after Pentecost G</b>
M	13	Sarah Peters; Phineas F. Bresee G G
T	14	G
W	15	G
T	16	"Margaret, Queen of Scotland G "
F	17	Philip William Otterbein G
S	18	Hilda G
<b>S</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>24th Sunday after Pentecost G</b>
M	20	G
T	21	Anna Oliver G
W	22	C.S. Lewis G
T	23	Clement of Rome G/Thanksgiving Day W
F	24	Eliza Garrett G
S	25	Isaac Watts G
		<b>Eve of Christ the King W</b>
<b>S</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Christ the King W</b>
M	27	G
T	28	John Derrpster; James Mills Thoburn G
W	29	G
T	30	<b>Andrew R</b>

## DECEMBER

F	1	Nicholas Ferrar; Rosa Parks G
S	2	G; PM-B/P
<b>S</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1st Sunday of Advent B/P</b>
M	4	John of Damascus B/P
T	5	Clement of Alexandria B/P
W	6	Nicholas B/P
T	7	Ambrose of Milan B/P
F	8	B/P
S	9	Wesley Branch Rickey B/P
<b>S</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2nd Sunday of Advent B/P</b>
M	11	B/P
T	12	B/P
W	13	B/P
T	14	John of the Cross B/P
F	15	B/P
S	16	B/P
<b>S</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Advent B/P/Rs</b>
M	18	Thelma Stevens B/P
T	19	William Wesley Van Orsdel B/P
W	20	Captain Thomas Webb B/P
<b>T</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Thomas R (cam. John Newton)</b>
F	22	B/P
S	23	B/P
<b>S</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4th Sunday of Advent B/P</b>
		<b>Christmas Eve W</b>
<b>M</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Christmas Day W</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Stephen R</b>
<b>W</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>John W</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>The Holy Innocents R</b>
F	29	W
S	30	W
		<b>Eve of Epiphany (optional) W</b>
<b>S</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1st Sunday after Christmas W</b>
		The Epiphany (optional) W

**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.

# Table Talk Brings Forth Memories at Retreat 2017

By Br. Daniel Benedict, OSL

One of the highlights of the Order of Saint Luke retreat at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale (October) was a rapid-fire time of recollection around the lunch table. Srs. Cynthia Astle and Mary O Benedict and Brs. O. French Ball, Rich Wittig, Lee Cunningham, and I recalled some colorful and significant moments in the life of the Order.

It all began with conversation about Br. Timothy Crouch's "Prayer of Affirmation" which we prayed at one of our services (see *The Book of Offices and Services*, no. 171). My comment was that knowing Br. Timothy's starting place as a rigid traditionalist when it comes to God language, the affirmation represented a significant transition in flexibility. Br. French confirmed the journey Br. Timothy had taken. Br. Timothy died in 2005 and was influential in the life of the Order during the 1980s and '90s.

Br. Rich Wittig noted that in the 1960s and 1970s the Order was a very different animal. Of Br. Timothy, Br. Rich said, "To me, he was a clone of Br. Thorwald Torgerson; it was like he was his offspring!" (Laughter around the table.) While I was not at the 1984 General Conference in Baltimore, I had heard stories of the Order of Saint Luke hosting Holy Communion to which members of the General Conference were invited. Members of the Order conducted the service in a high Anglican style, while The United Methodist Church was on the very cusp of living into more contemporary and inclusive language with the Supplemental Worship Resources. Br. Thorwald and Br. Timothy were in the driver's seat for that service. Br. Michael O'Donnell has stories to tell about that moment. I remember hearing Br. Michael sharing how angry he was about the "black eye" the Order got in the experience of those who attended.

I remember those days that followed. Br. Timothy took a lot of kidding for the

traditionalist groove he walked in. But to his credit, he found ways to help the Order move into more inclusive language.

Somehow the conversation shifted to the early days shortly after the founding of the Order. Br. Rich told us of the meetings of members like Romey Marshall from New York and others from northern New Jersey meeting in the Rose Bird Café in Madison, NJ. It would be wonderful to have more details of those meetings.

Br. Lee Cunningham brought up his recollections of the OSL Convocation at Savior of the World Pastoral Center in Kansas City in 1992. The convocation was to introduce the newly minted *United Methodist Book of Worship*. There was a chorus of laughter as we recalled that the Catholic authorities at the Center would not allow us to use the church and so, we had to jury-rig worship space on the stage of the auditorium and hold Eucharist there.

Br. French and I remembered the meeting a few years earlier at Stella Niagara when, as Br. French put it, "the East Ohio revolution got put into place. At the retreat at First United Methodist Church in Jeanette PA in 1984, Br. Michael O'Donnell and Br. Timothy Crouch raised questions about the nature and direction of the Order. I remember that Br. Craig Bennet was the host pastor. (Of course, we weren't yet calling each other "brother" and "sister" at that time.) The "old guard" including Br. Thorwald were, as I remember it, set in their views of what the Order should be, namely a worship establishment with an eye to the Methodist-Anglican past. Cut from newer cloth, Br. Michael was in tune with what was emerging in post-Vatican II liturgical developments and the larger culture. He had spent time at the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey, Switzerland, and could see the need for the Order to be a voice and advocate for liturgical renewal in a changing world. He led the charge for the

Order to be more open and more a religious community than a society. [Editor's note: Br. Michael was a significant influence in drawing *The Font* editor, Sr. Cynthia Astle, into the Order after she observed his work for three years on the 1992 *Book of Worship*. Br. Michael's vision of OSL as a religious community also was reflected in the July-August 2017 issue of *The Font* in an article by Br. Paul Molina of the Philippines Chapter].

Back to Stella Niagara (I don't remember if it was a retreat or a meeting of the council), I remember walking with Br. Michael and the Rev. Andy Langford, a worship staff member from the General Board of Discipleship. We were by the Niagara River in the early evening and Br. Michael trotted out his vision for three publications for the Order: one, for the membership; one, to be a practical magazine for matters related to worship; and one, a scholarly journal. From that conversation came *The Font*, *Sacramental Life*, and *Doxology*. As I recall, Andy Langford said he would find some seed money from the General Board of Discipleship to help launch our current three periodicals.

There may have been more shared around the table than I can now recall, but our story goes on. Bits and pieces of these conversations will add to "Our Story Project" as we seek to document the "family stories of our oral history. I encourage you to heed Br. Mark Stamm's invitation to capture these stories and share them as we come to our 75th anniversary. If you have memories to share and stories to tell, please share them with Br. Mark via email, [mstamm@mail.smu.edu](mailto:mstamm@mail.smu.edu).

(Note: If you have other perspectives to add to the recollections above, I'd appreciate your sharing them with me at [stlukebysea@yahoo.com](mailto:stlukebysea@yahoo.com). It would be great to fill in some of the blanks!)

**Br. Daniel Benedict, OSL, is immediate past abbot of the Order.**