



FROM THE ABBOT'S DESK

OSL's Greatest Secret

Greetings!

It was a joy to be with so many of you in Pittsburgh. I hope you will all be able to come to Scottdale next October, and that those of you who couldn't be with us this year will find a way to come, too.

When I asked people at the retreat what they valued about our time together, the most frequent reply was our worship. Mentioned second was the joy of being together with brothers and sisters. Nothing lets you understand what the Order of Saint Luke is all about like coming to a retreat. It feels like a homecoming every time we gather. And I love it.

At our General Chapter meeting, I asked people to envision what the Order could be in ten years, and what we need to do right now to help that vision come to fruition. I was impressed by the passion that those questions spawned, and the excellent conversation that followed. If I can boil it down to a single response, what most people said was, "People don't know we exist. We need to spread the word."

WE NEED TO SPREAD THE WORD. Our existence is a great gift to the church, but it is also our greatest secret. In our very Methodist past, we depended upon chapters in our Annual Conferences to spread the word. But we are no longer just Methodists, and most of our Annual Conferences don't

intend to be our publicity channels. So what are we to do?

1. At the top of my list is to recruit every one of you to be ambassadors for the Order. Nothing is more effective than one-on-one contact to let people know that The Order of Saint Luke is alive and well. We are passionate about sacramental living, both as evidenced in the way we live our own lives and in our commitment to the celebration of the sacraments within the community of the church, and we would love to have them learn more about us. Here are some suggestions:
2. Use the initials OSL after your name when you write it. Your membership entitles you to do that. It will cause some people to be curious and ask you what that means.
3. Ditto for wearing our lapel pin or our pewter cross, if you have one. Recommend Order resources to your colleagues. Encourage curiosity about the Order.
4. Develop an Order of Saint Luke "elevator speech." That is a very brief explanation of who we are and why you have chosen to be part of the Order. (Something short enough that you could say it on an elevator while riding between floors.)
5. Invite a few friends or colleagues to get together with you for coffee or tea and a short morning prayer time. Use the services in the Lukan



Sr. Abbot Elizabeth Moore and Sr. Barbara Lee welcome our newest member, Sr. Corinne Piper, who took her first annual vows at retreat. Sr. Barbara served as Sr. Corinne's companion during her discernment.

- Book of Hours. Nothing fancy – just prayer and fellowship. Or use Zoom or Go To Meeting and pray compline together. Keep it simple.
6. In the past, we have had a trifold brochure that members of the Order could adapt to their own needs to give to friends and colleagues to friends and colleagues. It needs to be updated. I will ask someone to do that and put it on the Facebook page so that you can have it to adapt and give away.

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Br. David Howard Tripp (1940 - 2007)

The Rev. Dr. David Howard Tripp of Rolling Prairie, Indiana, was 67 years old when he passed from this life into eternal rest on a Sunday, December 16, 2007.

Br. Tripp was born March 4, 1940, in Lambeth, London, England and adopted by the late Roger Tripp and late Alma (Ellis) Tripp. He had lived in Northern Indiana since 1991, having come from England.



Br. David Howard Tripp

Rev. Tripp received a BA Degree from Cambridge University (Gorville and Caius College), and his Ph.D. from the University of Leeds. He taught at Lincoln Theological College, Queen's College, Birmingham, England, The University of Notre Dame, and The Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, Ind.

While with the Methodist Church of Great Britain, he was a circuit minister from 1966--1988 and a superintendent minister from 1988 - 1991. From 1991 to the end of his earthly ministry, he served three churches in the United

IN THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS

Br. Bob 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:

- October 5 Br. Robert E. Gordon (2002) Virginia
Sr. Lucile Beasley (2015) California
- October 9 Br. Bob M. Fuqua (2004) West Virginia
- October 11 Sr. Marjorie Erickson (2016) New Jersey
- October 12 Br. Thomas Frank Beveridge (2014) Connecticut/New York
- October 16 Laurence Hull Stookey (2016)
- October 21 Sr. Jane Anne Ferguson (2008) Illinois
- October 22 Br. Robert Fletcher Thomas, Jr. (2005) South Carolina
- October 31 Br. Arthur J. Landwehr (2003) Illinois
Br. James F. White (2004) Indiana
- November 4 Br. Norman Smith (2006) New Jersey
Sr. Frances (Fran) B. Ballinger (2016) New Jersey
- November 8 Sr. Linda Jane Vogel (2017) Iowa, Illinois, & Claremont, California
- November 11 Br. Michael Douglas Mayfield (2017) Past Prior of the Illinois Great Rivers Chapter of OSL
- November 18 Br. Jim M. Farrell (2002) Ohio
Br. Bennie Frank Youngblood (1988) California, Cal-Pac Chapter
- November 19 Sr. Ann Parker Albrecht (2005) Northern Illinois, Canon of OSL
- November 20 Br. Charles R. Hohenstein (2017) Indiana
- November 24 Br. Jim Darling (2008) New York
- November 30 Sr. Mabel Ethel Sigmon Doser (2015) North Carolina
- December 13 Br. O. Ray Fitzgerald (2014) Baltimore, Cal-Pac
Br. William Joseph Beasley (2018), California
- December 15 Br. Millard Byrd Knowles (2011) West Ohio/Maryland
- December 16 Br. David Howard Tripp (2007) Indiana
- 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.

PROVINCIAL GENERAL



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

Every year at retreat, each OSL Chapter and Association is asked to submit a report of their recent activities and requests for prayers. All but one of our chapters and associations did so this year. I invite you to rejoice in the activity of these groups, and to pray with and for them:

The **Singapore Association** held a retreat on the Feast of St. Luke entitled "Spiritual Friendship." The association's Prior, Br. Anthony Goh, invites us to pray for those friends of the Order considering taking vows, and he lifts up praise for God's faithfulness.

The **Greater New Jersey Chapter** held a May retreat on forgiveness. The chapter's prior, Sr. Fran Noll, asks our prayers for Sr. Shirley and Br. Ken who are facing health issues.

The **Trinity Chapter** (North Texas) holds monthly meetings for conversation and Holy Communion. The chapter's prior, Br. Terry Heislen, requests prayers for the health of chapter members as well as for the healing of divisions between Christians, especially those within the UMC.

The **Perkins School of Theology Chapter** hosts Morning Prayer at the seminary twice weekly as well as occasional services of healing and Holy Communion. The Chapter's prior, Br. Nick McRae, lifts up the inquirers of OSL in prayer.

The **Hoyt Hickman Memorial Chapter** plans a gathering in early November. The chapter's prior, Sr. Kimberly Greway, invites our prayers for regular meetings for the chapter.

FROM THE ABBOT'S DESK

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7. Send people who want more information to Br. Jim Dufriend.

In short, spread the word! I would love to hear your ideas on how we can get our message out in a way that will capture people's interest. You can always talk to me at esmoore@alum.mit.edu.

For many of us, the Order was a gift given to us by a friend who recognized our love of liturgy. How can we now give that gift to others? Don't let it be a secret!

Blessings,

+Abbot Elizabeth

The **Upper New York Chapter** shares conversation on spirituality between members. The chapter's prior, Br. Chuck Smith, asks prayers for direction and development for the chapter.

The **Cal-Pac Chapter** made an excursion on May 19 to the Center for Spirituality and Practice. The chapter's prior, Br. George Martzen, requests prayers for the aging members of the chapter.

The **Cyber-Chapter** continues to be a locus of prayer requests through the Facebook group. The chapter's prior, Br. Taylor Burton-Edwards, lifts up questions of discernment about continuing the Yahoo e-mail group for prayer.

The **Illinois Great Rivers Chapter** hosts monthly meetings, split into three sub-groups, to discuss the book *Reading to Live*. The chapter's prior, Sr. Beth Fender, invites our prayers for Sr. Pat, Sr. Amy, and Br. Ted.

The **East Ohio Chapter** has not met recently. Its prior, Br. Dan Doty, asks prayers for the need for a new start for this chapter.

The **Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter** met at Annual Conference and is planning a session on the musical settings of the Great Thanksgiving. The chapter's prior, Br. Lloyd Speer, lifts up the need to recruit as a prayer concern.

The **Saint Francis Chapter** met and led worship at Annual Conference. The chapter's prior, Sr. Alice Kay Lovelace, invites prayers for herself and Sr. Barbara who were in a car accident, as well as Br. Alan, whose family lost its home in a fire, and Br. David who is recovering from shingles.

The **Dayspring Chapter** continues to gather for Morning Prayer on Tuesdays and Evening Prayer on Thursdays. The chapter's prior, Br. Matthias Tanner, invites any who are interested to join this virtual community for prayer over conference call.



PASTORAL CARE OFFICER



Br. David Eichelberger, OSL
daveosl@yahoo.com

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I am remembering a number of our dearly departed OSL kinfolk as we commemorate All Saints Day. May their memories remain bright in our minds' eye and may their witness ever encourage us to press on in proclaiming the apostolic hope!

It was so good to be at retreat and to see so many new faces! However, it also pained me to look about and not see a number of friends in the Order with whom I have shared many happy hours and learned so much.

We continue to keep in prayer:

Br. O. French Ball who has been seeing a doctor for health issues.

Br. Prior General, George Crisp, who thanks all who have been remembering him in prayer before, during, and after his recent knee replacement surgery. **Br. George** was able to attend the retreat and says he is feeling stronger daily.

Br. Canon and past Abbot Dwight Vogel who has shared many pictures of his recent trips and remembrances of his beloved wife, **Sr. Linda Vogel** who died this past year.

He is settled in his new apartment and he and their dog are doing ok as they grieve **Sr. Linda**.

Br. David Eichelberger rejoices over the continuing good health of his first grandchild, **Gemma Lynn** and her mother **Rachel** who are both doing much better after a difficult week following **Gemma's** birth.

Sr. Cynthia Astle was able to attend the retreat and is making some progress with chronic health issues. The eye doctor reported her condition is stable!

Br. J. Howard Cherry thanks the

Order for their prayers and he is feeling much better after a recent infection.

Cindy Loomis-Torvi who formerly attended as a member of the Order, is feeling better after her turn of the season series of painful injections. She happily sends south some of the winter weather that they have been experiencing up in Alberta.

Former Abbot **Br. Mark Stamm** and **Sr. Cynthia Astle** both shared that they were safe after the recent spate of tornadoes that struck the Dallas metro area. **Br. Mark** asks us Sisters and Brothers to continue to send in recollections for the OSL Story Project.

Sr. Carol Gathagan asks for prayers as she was unable to attend the Retreat due to her husband **Boyd** having knee replacement therapy. She asks for prayers for his swift healing and her to have patience and compassion.

Sr. Carolyn Tanner has published a new book about United Methodist worship. I believe it is available via OSL publications. She was on hand at retreat to autograph copies.

Br. Richard Miller is transferring the focus of his ministry to work with indigenous peoples in Canada near Montreal where he has been helping to pastor a Mohawk congregation in Kahnawake, Quebec. He recently was admitted to Associate Membership in the North American Institute for Indigenous Theological Studies (<https://naiits.com/>) at their recent meeting in Toronto in June.

Former Abbot **Br. Canon Daniel Benedict** announced that he and **Sr. Mary O** will be leaving their home in Hawaii and settling in the

Westminster Retirement Community near Occoquan, VA in January. They also ask for prayers for **Sr. Mary O** as she has been undergoing treatment for diabetes.

Br. Mark Parsons has been installed as the pastor of a Presbyterian Church in Gallipolis, OH. He asks for prayers for himself and his family as they adjust to the new setting and leaving behind their home and many good friends in Charleston, WV.

Br. Canon W. Brent Sturm continues to lift up the Jobs for American Graduates in West Virginia. He is back to being a volunteer coordinator for them and is currently working for the United Way in Huntington, WV. He is always happy to receive donations for JAG. He encourages one and all to visit the Baubles and Beads ministry to help raise money for the Order.

We rejoice with our fellow members of the Order of Saint Luke as they gathered in Singapore and the Philippines for their annual retreats!

Let us pray:

We come to you O God of infinite mercy, because we are truly aware of your grace and our necessities. Accept our thanks for your presence in our lives. We have been blessed in so many amazing ways in the days that are past. Forgive our panic when we come to you with each new petition, as though we do not know that you will journey with us each step of our pilgrimage of life.

We turn to you in our times of grief to hear again the promise of the resurrection. In our sicknesses we ask that the Great Physician touch our

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Members Commemorate Victims at Tree of Life Synagogue

PITTSBURGH – A small group of OSL members, led by Prior General George Crisp, made a commemorative pilgrimage to Tree of Life synagogue during the 2019 Retreat. Guided by Sr. Kimberly Greway, the group of about 15 met first with Rabbi Moishe Mayir Vogel of Aleph Institute, a social service agency that aids inmates in local, state and federal prisons. Rabbi Vogel explained the Jewish Festival of Succoth, currently under way, and gave background on how the Jewish community in Pittsburgh is recovering from the 2018 mass shooting in which 11 people were killed.

Then the group went to Tree of Life, which is closed to visitors because it is still an active crime scene according to federal authorities. The building is surrounded by a chain-link fence on which canvas banners show dozens of artworks by children encouraging the community after the shooting. The group found that a small garden outside the building was open, and there they prayed the Transitus from the Book of Offices and services.

Photographs by Br. Daniel Benedict and Sr. Cynthia Astle

PASTORAL CARE OFFICER

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bodies and bring wholeness and health.

We confess that we are so happy with our comforts that we are hesitant to do all that will be demanded of us to bring renewal to our planet. Help us to remember that we are called to be faithful stewards of this amazingly beautiful world. As we experience the

destruction caused by wildfires earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods, give us compassion for those who affected and courage to change.

We pray for the General Officers of our Order as they guide us through the challenging days

ahead. Bless, preserve, strengthen and inspire them as they have tremendous responsibilities. May your blessing be upon us as well as we seek to live out our Rule of Life and Service in our Order. We ask this all in the name of the Holy and Blessed Trinity. Amen.

OSL Retreat 2019 Enthralls with Focus on Icons



Photographs courtesy of Br. Bob Schall



From top, clockwise: Icon display during worship; Abbot Elizabeth Moore with Br. Joshua Allison; gathering for procession; new Life Vowed members Br. Bob Schall and Br. Joshua Allison.

Singapore Chapter Holds Retreat in Observance of St. Luke's Feast



SINGAPORE – Faithful to the observance of the Feast of Saint Luke, members of the Singapore Chapter of the Order of Saint Luke held Retreat around Oct. 18. The Singapore Chapter meets annually at San Damiano Retreat Center Leadership for the retreat included Brothers Oliverio P. Pineda and Ador Tolentino of the Philippines Chapter and Brothers Gabriel Liew, Anthony Goh and George R. Martzen of the Singapore Chapter. Sr. Cheryln Gates posted on Facebook about the Singapore and Philippines retreats: “It is simply wonderful we have all been in retreat at the same time. When we pray the Collect for the Order, we pray for us all.”



Workshop leaders Henry Roque (left) and Joel Bengbeng (above).



ISABELA, Baguio, Philippines – The Philippines Chapter of the Order of Saint Luke held its Annual Convocation, October 28-30, 2019, at San Mateo UMC in Isabela, Baguio (top photo). This year's theme was "To Sing is to Pray Twice" and included topics such as "The Jewish Usage of Psalms in Worship," "The Methodist Psalter," "Service Music in Word and Table," and "Blended Worship." Among those who attended (photo above) were Bishop Jerry Sagun of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (the independent Filipino Catholic church) and Br. Pedro Torio, Jr., OSL (third from left), the UMC bishop of Baguio Area, who preached during the opening worship. (Photos courtesy of Br. Oliverio Pinero from Facebook)

A Statement of Faith and Request to be Accepted for Life-Avowed Orders

Dr. Lynn H. Hough, a Drew graduate of the early 20th century, is quoted as saying that “Life is a journey, not a destination.” I have found that quote to be true as I reflect at this moment on the journey that has brought me to the Order of St. Luke. In essence, it has taken me a lifetime to get to this moment. My OSL journey began quite by accident and in an insignificant way, as so many significant events do in our lives.

The year was 1967 and I was now jokingly an “old hand” at attending Ohio Annual Conference. This was my third one! After each afternoon session ended, a publication called “The Daily Minutes” of the conference was hastily typed and literally cranked out on a mimeograph machine. The finished documents were delivered in stacks to the back of Hoover Auditorium just before the evening worship event. Delegates could pick up a copy and review the days proceedings and also see any notes regarding the next day and the week ahead. As I perused my copy on Monday evening, I noted that there was a daily Eucharist celebration at the Lakeside Church which was located in close proximity to the auditorium. “Hmm,” I thought, “what a nice way to start the day.” So, with some effort (I wasn’t much of a morning person at that time), I arrived at the Lakeside Methodist Church at 7 a.m. and found a group of six or so individuals. I noted that some of them were wearing clerical collars. Now this was unusual for the 60’s and for Methodists, especially Ohio Conference Methodists.

I immediately felt at home. After all, I was a “collar-wearer” myself (although rarely during the week at Annual Conference). AND I was a seminary student at that quite radical institution called METHESCO, the Methodist Theological School in



Br. Bob Schall stands with our icon of Saint Luke and Prior General Br. George Crisp at his profession of Life Vows. Br. Bob has taken the name in religion of Br. Robert George to honor Br. George, his friend and Life Vows companion.

Photo by Br. Daniel Benedict AKA Br. Luke Sojourner Francis in religion.

Ohio, sometimes derogatorily referred to as the “no-name seminary” since no single wealthy individual had donated enough cash to the seminary to have it called after their family’s name. The faculty was loaded with theological radicals, many of whom had come out of retirement or near-retirement to staff the school. There were even classes with heretical Roman Catholics down the road at the Pontifical College Josephinum where we wore to class a strange garment called an alb with a biretta atop our heads when outdoors. At Lakeside Methodist Church I knew I had pleasantly fallen in with other odd-ball clergy like me. Imagine, celebrating Eucharist every day. No wonder there were only a handful of clergy out of 1200 in attendance at Annual Conference.

After the service the celebrant announced that there was a trifold on the table in the “narthex” describing the “Order of St. Luke.” “Gosh,” I thought, “he even knows the correct liturgical names for church architecture.” I picked up the folder from the narthex table, put it in my pocket, and never did anything about

it. I deeply regret that decision. I’m sure that the men I worshiped with each morning at the Lakeside Church were some of the earliest members and shapers of the Order of St. Luke and I missed my chance to be a part of them. I am so sorry that I remember none of their names. I would have liked very much to honor and revere their memory.

Shortly after those conference years, my life’s journey took me to the Navy Chaplaincy. Because of the nature of the assignment with five destroyers, each service on every ship was usually the celebration of the Eucharist. Rarely did a destroyer chaplain have worship services in the same ship two weeks in a row. In the spring of 1970, I was in the Mediterranean Sea with the squadron. I was riding one of the ships the week before Easter. Since a Navy chaplain ministers to his sailors of every faith, I did not find it unusual to have an Episcopalian sailor come to me with a request for a Maundy Thursday service. Now remember that in the early 70s, Methodists for the most

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Br. Bob Schall Life Vows

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part had not discovered their “liturgical identity.” Holy Week was Palm Sunday, Good Friday (maybe, in big city churches), and Easter Sunday. I made the usual clerical excuse to the young man, “I’ll look into it.” I pulled out my trusty 1964 Book of Worship and all I could find was a Collect for Maundy Thursday and an opening notation to celebrate the Lord’s Supper.

I went back to my young sailor friend on the mess deck where most of the enlisted men gathered who were not on watch. Not wanting to appear liturgically stupid, I asked him what he had in mind for a Maundy Thursday service. He replied, “Well something like what’s in the Book of Common Prayer.” “Do you have that book,” I asked? After a quick trip to his locker, he produced it—and I borrowed it. Later we together planned Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. That sailor became the Lay Leader on that ship. At the next port, I ordered my own copy of “The Book of Common Prayer.” That young sailor, who must have come from a devout Episcopal family, also introduced me to the Daily Office. I confess that I did not do the Office daily. It was kind of foreign to me as a Methodist. But whenever I rode the ship that had the Episcopalian sailor on board we would try to meet up for evening or Compline prayer. He was one of my guides on the journey to this moment.

Fast forward three decades. While I had not been a faithful devotee of The Daily Office, I knew what it was. I was in tune with the Holy Days of the Church and no longer had that “deer in headlights” look when someone mentioned Maundy Thursday, Tenebrae, and Corpus Christi. The now United Methodist Church had produced a somewhat decent Book of Worship with the

assistance and contribution of many members of the Order of St. Luke. The same could be said of the Hymnal that was produced. I was comfortable with using both books in my retired ministry but had not fully returned to using them the way that I had used the Book of Common Prayer in the 70s. That does not mean that the Book of Worship and the Hymnal were not amenable to such use. I had just never made the connection.

About five years ago, I was digging through my “sea chest.” Most every sailor has one. My sea chest was made by the destroyer squadron carpenter when I left that first assignment. It traveled with me throughout my career. Among the scraps of paper, old orders, medical records, and commendation letters, was a manila colored trifold titled, “The Order of St. Luke.” Were they still around? Forty years had gone by since I picked this folder from the narthex table at Lakeside Methodist Church. Now that we were in the age of computers, it was not hard to find out about the existence of the Order. I eagerly researched the website. And when I came to the Rule, I read it. Here was a living document that spoke to me and said, “this is you, Robert.” I didn’t know why at the time, but I had the feeling that the Rule was a significant point on my personal spiritual journey.

I confess that when I was younger, I didn’t spend a lot of time in personal prayer. But as I’ve aged, I have found prayer to be a resting (and testing) place. And I did go to prayer over the decision as to whether or not I should become a Lukan. I had never been one to promote the apostolic hope, the first tenet of the Order, but I’m growing. Oh, I did live for the Church of Jesus Christ; and the sacramental worship of the church has always been the dearest part of my faith. I had

often lamented the fact that I could not adequately express my deep feeling for the Sacraments. I also had often considered over the years leaving the United Methodist Church for a denomination where the Sacraments were more central to worship. But God gifted me my present church at which I worship, Peace United Methodist Church. Here I have been kept sacramentally focused, for it is a place where the Eucharist is celebrated at every Sabbath worship service and youth meeting. The font is always filled and present to remind me of my baptism and “to be thankful.” The pastors at Peace encourage me to be a part of the sacramental ministry of the church as I am able. I am often consulted and asked for my comments about the sacramental aspects of our services. When asked, I am grateful to celebrate and consecrate during the Eucharistic portion of our worship.

Building on all of these experiences, my prayer life moved me to begin the process of seeking to be a Brother in the Order of St. Luke. And here I have found a home. In this fellowship I have discovered like-minded persons who have welcomed me as I am—not forcing on me any rigid and uncompromising doctrinal statements with which I did not agree, not forcing me to conform to a specific liturgical behavior, not squeezing me into a “Lukan mold.” But rather you have called me “Brother” and welcomed me into the family with all my quirks and sometimes annoying mannerisms, my malaprops, and my penchant for not being able to remember names. Of this latter shortcoming, I can only thank God for leading me to labor in organizations where name tags were always worn—the military and Disney.

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Br. Bob Schall Life Vows

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OSL officers attend Br. Bob Schall's profession of life vows (from left) Provincial General Sr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson, Abbot Sr. Elizabeth Moore and Chancellor General Jeanette Block.

The Order has made use of my talents and experience. When asked to be the Necrologist for the Order, I most gladly accepted, as this endeavor dovetailed well with my original calling to mortuary science. As a side note, I always ask Sr. Cynthia Astle to carefully read my Font submissions for the Requiescat en Pace column for comments which I think are normative, but strike some people as a little macabre. And our Abbess Elizabeth quite deftly channeled my disability for nit-picking into some in-depth editing of our recent publication, Book of Feasts. (I loved and feasted on every hour I spent looking for comma faults, spelling errors, and mismatched line spacing!)

I have continued to work on the Rule for the past four years. With the help of my mentor, Br. Matthias, I have been encouraged to do some challenging reading and most of all, to ask hard questions of myself. The

most difficult question he posed for me was: "What would you add to your life from taking life-avowed orders?" That answer does not come easy; for as a man of 80 years of age, I've been richly blessed. But what I think would come to me in life vows, would be a renewed desire to seek in a different way—a Lukan Way, if you will—a

way which would offer a path to embrace the same spirit of perfection of the Rule for my life that John Wesley annually asked of his pastors—"Are you going on to perfection?" With similar confidence, I can say, yes, I am seeking perfection of the Rule for my life.

I humbly ask you, my Sisters and Brothers of the Order of St. Luke, for your blessing to continue my Lukan journey as a life-avowed member. Again, I lament that I have wasted years of service that I might have given to this Order. With the time and talents I still possess, I offer them to the Order. If I am approved to be a life-avowed member, I would like to take the name, Br. Robert George, to honor my father and to honor our present Prior General, Br. George Crisp. Fiat voluntas Dei (May God's will be done.)

Br. Robert C. Schall, OSL



More Scenes From Retreat 2019



Abbot Sr. Elizabeth Moore sprinkles the congregation with the "flingy thingy" AKA the aspergillum during remembrance of baptism.



General officers work hard during chapter sessions.

‘This Is the Connection of the Order of Saint Luke’

My name is Joshua Allison. I have been a member of the Order of Saint Luke since 2006. Since I have not been able to join a chapter, my contact with other members has unfortunately been limited. Through the old “cyber chapter” on Yahoo Groups and more recently through the Order of St. Luke Facebook page, however, many of your names have become familiar. So although I am meeting you all for the first time in person, you are already friends.

That is the connection of the Order of Saint Luke.

When I arrived at the Pittsburgh airport on Monday afternoon, I knew I was to meet Sr. Cynthia (Astle) for a rideshare. I have been friends with her on Facebook for a while now, but have never met her in person before Monday. And when I finally found her, after standing near her in the airport and wondering for a while if that was her or not, I also met Sr. Barbara (Troxell). So of course the first thing I did was go to the ATM and get some cash to hand to this lady whom I’ve never met, and then I hopped in a car with both of them and off we went.

That is the connection of The Order of Saint Luke at work.

The van pulled up here in the parking lot and our abbot met us at the door. As I was trying to ungracefully wrestle luggage through the entry to the elevator, I was greeted by everyone and welcomed to the retreat, even as I tried to roll over their toes with my suitcase. I have told a couple of you, including our Abbot, that the feeling I had when arriving here was pretty similar to the one I get when I go to summer camp: New friends and old friends who are all connected through the shared experience of Camp. In other words, home.



Br. Joshua Allison chats with Abbot Sr. Elizabeth Moore before the procession into the Service of Profession of Vows in the chapel of the Monastery of Saint Paul of the Cross in Pittsburgh, Pa.

I was sitting at the dinner table not half an hour later when I saw a familiar face. Sr. Becky serves as the director of lay servant ministries in my annual conference. She had asked me by email—rather out of the blue, I might add—about whether there were any other members in our conference a few months ago. I wasn’t expecting to see her here, but I sure am overjoyed! And as it turns out there are two or three others back home who are thinking of beginning the process of inquiring about membership in the order. So maybe I will have a chapter at last!

That is the connection of The Order of Saint Luke.

I first came to the Order when I

was beginning my ministry as a pastor in 2006. Although my father is now an Elder in the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church, there was a time in the 1980s when he left the connection. He was attracted to more charismatic circles for about fifteen years before returning to the United Methodist Church. So I grew up with the monthly Maranatha praise cassette tapes, with “dancing in the Spirit”, with speaking in tongues, and with my only idea of liturgy as being something that Catholics did.

When we returned to The United Methodist Church, and especially as I began to answer my own call to ministry, I came into contact with people who were more liturgical, and one of them pointed me toward The Order of St. Luke. Unfortunately, I don’t even remember exactly who it was. He wasn’t a member; he had merely heard of the Order, of the work of Br. Don Saliers and Br. Mark Stamm and Br. Dwight Vogel and others with regard to recovering and redeploying the ancient liturgies of the Church for today’s context and mission.

So I did what every other Millennial would do: I googled it. I read the website. I joined the Cyber Chapter on Yahoo Groups and began reading and contributing some. There were a couple other important ways I learned about liturgy, but the Order was right in the middle of it. And so I began my own liturgical awakening.

That is the connection of The Order of Saint Luke.

I have known for several years now that I am a member of the Order for life. I have not always been as faithful with praying the Daily Office as I should be. I have not always lived

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Br. Joshua Allison Life Vows

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the Rule of Life and Service as well as I should have. But over time the Rule has become more than the Rule of the Order. It has become my Rule. Praying the Daily Office has become more than something I do because I am a member of the Order. It has become a crucial part of my spirituality. That will never change.

That is the connection of The Order of Saint Luke.

I wrote Sr. Abbot Elizabeth late last year requesting permission to begin the formal discernment process. She paired me with Br. Frank Richard Coats, who has been a wonderful guide as I have worked through this process. He asked me to take the Rule of Life and Service and to reflect on it, line by line and month by month. We discussed my work, we prayed over my work. I have greatly appreciated his thoughtful assistance as I have made formal what was already burning in my heart.

That is the connection of The Order of Saint Luke.

Why am I here? Why do I want to take a permanent vow? To me the real question is, "why would I not?" It has been clear to me for several years now that I could either sign the sheet every year from now on or I could go through the formal process, but the end result was going to be the same. I am a member of the Order of Saint



New Life-Vowed Members Br. Aidan (Joshua Allison) and Br. Robert George (Bob Schall) rejoice together after their profession of vows.

Luke and I profess to follow the Rule of Life and Service. It's a pretty simple decision for me.

More than that, though, is the fact that the Holy Spirit has led me here, the Holy Spirit has put this burning in my heart, and the Holy Spirit has made it possible for me to complete the necessary work and to actually arrive here at retreat with you all. In obedience to the Spirit's leading, I stand before you today.

In this act I place myself in accountability to my Abbot and to you, my siblings in the Order, to live out the Rule of Life and Service, to say my prayers faithfully and frequently, and to learn and teach about the Sacraments and about living a sacramental life.

That, Sisters and Brothers, is my connection to The Order of Saint Luke.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

FROM THE CHANCELLOR GENERAL

Sr. Jeanette Block, OSL



At this year's retreat, we approved the 2019-20 budget of \$46,950.00. The Chancellor General thanks everyone for their timely returns of Affirmations and donations to keep the ministry of The Order strong.

As always, if anyone has any questions about the Orders business dealings, please send them to me at oslchancellor@gmail.com or call me at 609-364-9187.

Sr. Jeanette Block, OSL
Chancellor General

THE ORDO

Br. John P. Fahey Jr., OSL

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

W	1	The Holy Name W
T	2	W
F	3	Gilbert Haven W
S	4	John Seybert W
		Eve of Epiphany (optional) W
S	5	2nd Sunday after Christmas W
		The Epiphany (optional) W
		Eve of Epiphany (traditional) W
M	6	The Epiphany W
T	7	G/W*
W	8	Richard Watson G/W*
T	9	G/W*
F	10	John Varick G/W*
S	11	G/W*
		Eve of Baptism of the Lord W
S	12	Baptism of the Lord W
M	13	George Fox G
T	14	G
W	15	Martin Luther King Jr. G
T	16	Hiram Rhoades Revels G
F	17	Antony of Egypt G
S	18	The Confession of Peter W PM-G
S	19	2nd Sunday after Epiphany G
M	20	G
T	21	Agnes of Rome G
W	22	G
T	23	Sarah Ann Dickey. G
F	24	Eli Stanley Jones. G
S	25	The Conversion of Paul. W PM-G
S	26	3rd Sunday after Epiphany G
M	27	John Chrysostom. G
T	28	Thomas Aquinas. G
W	29	G
T	30	G
F	31	John Raleigh Mott G

**Some traditions continue using white until the Baptism of the Lord.*

THE ORDO

Br. John P. Fahey Jr., OSL

FEBRUARY

S	1	Brigid of Kildare	G
S	2	4th Sunday after Epiphany	G
M	3	The Presentation (transferred)	W
T	4	Cornelius the Centurian	G
W	5	Philipp Jakob Spener	G
T	6	G	
F	7	G	
S	8	G	
S	9	5th Sunday after Epiphany	G
M	10	G	
T	11	Fanny Jane Crosby.	G
W	12	G	
T	13	Absalom Jones	G
F	14	Cyril and Methodius	G
S	15	G	
S	16	6th Sunday after Epiphany	G
M	17	Frances Willard	G
T	18	Martin Luther	G
W	19	G	
T	20	Frederick Douglass	G
F	21	Ezekial Cooper	G
S	22	Kanichi Miyama	G
		Eve of Transfiguration	W
S	23	Transfiguration of the Lord	W
M	24	Matthias	R
T	25	Amanda Berry Smith	G
W	26	Ash Wednesday	P
T	27	George Herbert, Fred McFeely Rogers	P
F	28	P	
S	29	P	

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 by the seasonal color is kept Those who wish to solemnize a particular commemoration should Red for martyrs and White for all others. The color code is W-white, R-red, G-green, P-Purple, B-blue, Rs-rose. Gold may be substituted for white. Use Lectionary **Year A** readings until Advent (Nov. 29, 2020) when Year B readings begin.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Continued from Page 2

Methodist North Indiana Conference and, most recently, the Rolling Prairie United Methodist Church. He was a Brother in the Order of St. Luke. Br. Tripp was an Honorary Priest--Vicar of Lincoln Cathedral and a long-time member of Societas Liturgica. He served on the British Methodist Faith and Order Committee; Lincoln Diocesan Liturgical Committee; British Council of Churches, Study Commission on Trinitarian Doctrine; and the North Indiana Conference United Methodist Church Archive Committee. He was the author of "Renewal of the Covenant in the Methodist Tradition", published in 1969 in London and editor of Calvin Washington Ruter's "Brief Sketch of his Life and Itinerant Labors", which was published in 2008 by DePauw University. He wrote portions of many books and authored numerous articles for the Church.

On July 18, 1988, in Lincoln, England, he married Diane Karay who survived him. He was also survived by his daughter, Rachel D'Alessandro (Denis Wilkinson) of Lincoln, England; son, Jonathan Tripp (Justine Hughes) of Cambridge, England; six grandchildren, Morgan, Arianne, Chloe, Cai, Saffron and Charley; and a brother, Alan Tripp of Formby, England.

Br. Tripp's funeral service was held at First United Methodist Church of LaPorte on December 21, 2007. Bishop Michael Coyner, Rev Robert Dexter, Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Wainwright and Rev Michelle Cobb officiated. Cremation followed the service. Memorial contributions were made to the Black College Fund, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, United Methodist Church, and to the family of Brother Tripp.

Requiescat in pace, Brother David Howard Tripp, as we remember you this day.

Sources: Facebook and Ancestry.com

(If you would like to make any further additions to this obituary, please contact Br. Bob Schall, OSL Necrologist, at: Bhagwon@earthlink.net)



PRIOR GENERAL



Br. George Crisp, OSB

Email: revgrc@yahoo.com

Brothers and Sisters:

Our 2019 Retreat is history, and what enjoyable memories we have. I specifically want to give you a report from our program, "Glimpses of Heaven: Icons and Spirituality."

We were fortunate to have two excellent speakers, professional iconographers Michael Kapeluck and Randi Sider-Rose.

Michael was our first speaker and he summed up his art in a sentence: "I speak theology through my brush." He told us there has been a revival of the art in the United States, Turkey and Russia over the past 20 to 30 year in Orthodox and Eastern Catholic venues.

He said that the imagery in Genesis marks the beginning of iconography. The Fall darkened the images that God created so that division reigned until the coming of Christ, who restored us to unity.

Michael explained that the symbolism and myth represented by icons can be hard for people to accept as truth in our modern scientific world, because we've come to equate "myth" with "falsehood." Instead, science can only teach the empirical, while mythic symbolism draws us into spiritual mysteries beyond our senses.

In the ancient world where iconography began, a "myth" is a tale told through many generations to reveal a greater truth, Michael said.

"My job as an iconographer is to bear witness to the Light of Christ," Michael said. "It's a large task that can be very daunting."

Michael told us that icons are more than "windows into heaven" as they're often described. "Icons are heaven breaking into us!" he said.

You can see more of Michael's work on his website:

<https://archangelicons.com/>

Randi Sider-Rose also noted there has been past resistance to icons. One

criticism has been that venerating an image results in worshiping matter rather than God's Holy Spirit.

"It's not matter that I worship but he who became matter for my sake," Randi told our gathering. "Christ is the image event that makes iconography possible. An icon is matter that points away from itself toward the divine."

She cited the work of Alexander Schmemmann, an Orthodox theologian and scholar, supported the validity of iconography in his work, "For the Life of the World."

Randi presented a slide show with images of historic icons along with her own work. One of the oldest icons still in existence is the Virgin of Vladimir,

which dates to the 12th century. She also demonstrated how to make the egg tempera pigments she uses to paint icons.

Randi was also the instructor for the post-retreat workshop on icon-making. She introduced the 20 or so students to the folk art of painting icons on glass, popular in Eastern Europe. We followed her instructions to trace the image of the Archangel Gabriel onto glass panes using colored felt pens. Then we cracked eggs and mixed pigments to make the paint. By the end of the afternoon, each of us had a remarkable image to take home as a memento of OSB Retreat 2019.

You can see more of Randi's work on her website:

<http://www.immanuelicons.org>.



Iconographer Randi Sider-Rose (center with glasses) demonstrates how to mix egg with pigments to make tempera paint for icon making. Below, a finished icon (left) and a table of icon makings (right). Photos by Br. Bob Schall

