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## FROM THE ABBOT'S DESK

### Tumultuous Year Brings Opportunity for Reflection, Re-Commitment

Greetings!

What a year we have had! We have endured isolation and disruption to our lives, but even this had a silver lining. Last month we celebrated a retreat like no other in our history. By holding our retreat via Zoom, we had the highest attendance in many years. We had attendees from Northern Ireland, Singapore, and the Philippines, as well as from North America. And, as always, we had inspiring worship and a great speaker. Even when we can again meet face to face, we must remember what we have learned about being together virtually. The "new normal" will never again be the "old normal."

In the days since the retreat I have spent many hours reflecting on who we are as an Order. As we grow into our new membership process, it is important that we be able to clearly articulate our identity.

Our Constitution begins with a statement of mission and vision:

"The Order is a dispersed, ecumenical, religious community; lay and clergy, regardless of gender, dedicated to sacramental and liturgical scholarship, education and practice. It was founded out of the Methodist Church and is historically grounded in the Wesleyan tradition."

We are called to carry out that mission in two simultaneous, synergistic ways:



Abbot Elizabeth Moore, OSL

1. We are dedicated to liturgical scholarship and practice, especially sacramental practice.
2. We are dedicated to a Lukan Spiritual formation of our members through a commitment to living by our Rule of Life and Service

Historically, we have put an emphasis on the first of these. We have developed a ministry of publishing that has kept books and periodicals of significance to Liturgical Studies in print and available to the academy and to the wider church. Many of our chapters have fostered liturgical education through book study and discussion.

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# IN THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS

By Br. Robert George 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. 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) Illinois (past Prior of the Illinois Great Rivers Chapter of OSL)                                 |
| November 18 | Br. Jim M. Farrell                | (2002) Ohio  |
|             | Br. Bennie (Ben) 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 25 | Br. William (Bill) Richard Doser  | (2018) Western North Carolina  |
|             | Annual Conference                 |  |
| November 30 | Sr. Mabel Ethel Sigmon Doser      | (2015) Western North Carolina Annual Conference  |
| 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) Northern Illinois   |
| January 2   | Br. John R. Miller                | (2010) West Virginia   |
| January 3   | Br. Bill Kintner                  | (2016) California  |
| January 11  | Br. Theodore James (Ted) Mitchell | (2020) Illinois, Great Rivers Annual Conference (past Prior of the Illinois Great Rivers Chapter of OSL) |
| January 17  | Sr. Martha Hickman                | (2015) Tennessee   |
| January 18  | Br. Edwin S. (Ted) Gault          | (2018) New York East   |
| January 22  | Br. Raymond Charles Conatser, Jr. | (2018) Tennessee   |
| January 29  | Br. Don Brown                     | (2013) New Jersey (former president)   |
| January     | Br. Robert Brewster               | (2020) Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada  |
| February 13 | Br. Robert N. Terry               | (2012) New York  |
| February 20 | Br. William Stanley Winters       | (2014) East Ohio Annual Conference   |
|             | Br. Roger (Rog) Michael Baker     | (2017) Virginia  |
| February 27 | Br. Forest Wilbur Shue, Sr.       | (2007) New Jersey  |

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](mailto:bhagwon@earthlink.net) so that they may be included in the list of siblings for whom we give thanks to God.

## Br. Raymond Charles Conatser, Jr. (1925 – 2018)

Br. Raymond C. Conatser, Jr. "Ray" passed from this life on Monday, January 22, 2018 at the age of 93. Ray was born and raised in Ozark, Arkansas. He served in the United States Navy for three years on the U.S.S. OTUS. Ray graduated from Stanford University. He taught and counseled in Corning and Sunnyvale, CA. Br. Ray was a school psychologist in San Bernardino, CA and Nashville, TN for over 30 years. He was a lifelong humanitarian and civic leader. He was a member of many organizations and committees including the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Nashville Peace and Justice Center, the Order of St. Luke, the Wilsonian Club and the United Nations Association. Ray ran for State Assemblyman in California. He was an active member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in San Bernardino, CA and Calvary United Methodist Church in Nashville, TN.

Br. Ray was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Lella (Lu) M. Conatser; his sister, Rebecca Kimbrough of Arkansas; his brothers, Benham Dangers and Thomas Dangers of Arkansas and brother Freddie Dangers of California. At the time of his death, Br. Ray was survived by his daughters, Judith A. (Lal) Mian of Highland, CA and Carol A. (Lee) Wright of San



**Br. Raymond Conatser, Jr.**

Bernardino, CA; son, John C. Conatser of Crestline, CA; several granddaughters and grandsons, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Br. Conatser's Celebration of Life service was held on January 30, 2018, at Calvary United Methodist Church, Nashville, TN., followed by inurnment at Harpeth Hills Memory Gardens, Nashville, TN. Contributions in his name were sent to Africa University, Room in the Inn, and the Calvary United Methodist Church in Nashville.

Several comments were made regarding Br. Ray Conatser's life, but



By Br. Robert George Schall, OSL  
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one stood out that summed up his lifetime of humanitarian endeavors. Ms. Jane Steinfels Hussain said of him, "Members of the Nashville Peace and Justice community remember Ray Conaster with fondness and respect. He will be greatly missed." Others echoed the same sentiments.

Requiescat in pace, Brother Raymond Charles Conatser, Jr., OSL, as we remember you this day.

Sources: *Facebook*, *Ancestry.com*, and *The Harpeth Hills Memory Gardens Funeral Home*

If you would like to make any comments or further additions to this obituary, please contact Br. Robert-George Schall, OSL Necrologist, at: [Bhagwon@earthlink.net](mailto:Bhagwon@earthlink.net)

## *Abbot Names New Companion for Life-Vowed Members*

Sr. Abbot Elizabeth is happy to announce the appointment of a new Companion for Life-Vowed Members. Sr. Magdalene Ruth (Cynthia) Astle, currently serving as editor of *The Font*, has accepted this call to service. Br. Frank Richard Coats has asked to step down from this responsibility as he enters retirement and a new appointment. (United Methodist pastors rarely get

to retire completely on their first attempt.)

We are grateful for the faithful service that Br. Frank Richard has rendered to the Order and wish him well on his new journey. We are thankful to Sr. Magdalene Ruth for her enthusiastic acceptance of this added responsibility. May your service to the Order be as great a blessing to you as it is to your siblings.

## FROM THE PROVINCIAL GENERAL

Sr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson  
hjosselyn@hotmail.com

## OSL Fall Retreat Provincial General Report on Chapters

| Chapter                       | Prior                         | Activity  | # of members                     | Prayer Concerns   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|
| Singapore Chapter             | Br. Anthony Goh               | Planning outdoor prayer walks; retreat on Oct 18; Virtual retreat participation                         | 13                               | Treatment of workers and aliens during pandemic; that God's will would be done        |
| Hoyt Hickman Memorial Chapter | Sr. Kimberly Greway           | Bi-weekly evening prayer or compline  | 18                               | Medical issues and loss/grief for many members; prayers for Trent Somes at seminary   |
| Dayspring Chapter             | Br. Matthias Tanner           | Weekly T PM and Th AM prayer  | +/- 8 participants usually       | Celebrating Liturgy for Admission and Final Discernment for two participants!         |
| Koinonia Chapter              | Br. Joshua D. Allison (Aiden) | Initial Zoom meeting in late July; plans for quarterly meetings   | 5 members, 1 inquirer            | 2 members will be professing first vows at October retreat                            |
| Perkins STH Chapter           | Sr. Jennifer Kilpatrick       | Friday AM prayers on Zoom; 3 students discerning membership   | 7                                | Prayers for the health of the Perkins community                                       |
| Trinity Chapter               | Br. Terry Heislen             | Individual reflection with plans for an ongoing conversation  | 17                               | Sr. Cynthia taking life vows; health for all affected by the pandemic                 |
| Upper NY Chapter              | Br. Brett Johnson             | Virtual gatherings May 19, Aug 4, Sept 1  | 9                                | Br. Chuck and Sr. Kim, who is undergoing chemotherapy                                 |
| Greater NJ Chapter            | Sr. Fran Noll                 | Regular meetings on Zoom with higher-than-usual attendance; Book study – <i>Practicing Resurrection</i> | 19                               | Members dealing with health issues  |
| CalPac Chapter                | Br. George Martzen            | Weekly evening prayer via Zoom  | 26                               | Prayers for recovery for Br. Dwight Vogel   |
| East Ohio Chapter             | Br. Kyle Gould                | 3 Zoom meetings since the pandemic started  | 11 members and 2 in discernment  |   |
| Illinois Great Rivers Chapter | Sr. Beth Fender               | Currently two sub-groups; have begun meeting virtually via Lifesize.                                    | 12 active members and 1 inquirer | Prayers for those affected by the coronavirus   |
| St. Francis Chapter           | Sr. Alice Kay Lovelace        | E-mail, phone, and Facebook communication since the pandemic  | 9 active, 6 less so              | Sr. dj and Br. Mark as they cope with Sr. dj's illness                                |
| Cyber Chapter/Facebook        | Br. Taylor Burton-Edwards     | Yahoo Group appears moribund. Facebook group receives several posts each day.                           | 544 – Yahoo 1005 - Facebook      | Folks can still join the list-serve, but must ask permission from Br. Taylor directly |
| Philippines Chapter           | Br. Oliverio P. Pineda        | Ongoing preparation for Virtual Retreat Oct 17-19   | 70                               | Prayers for ongoing strength of chapter during retreat and elections of new leaders   |
| Eastern PA Association        | Br. Lloyd Speer               | A Spring event was cancelled due to COVID-19  | 5-6                              | Prayer for the future of this Association   |



## FROM THE PRIOR GENERAL

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

Dear Siblings of the Order of Saint Luke,

Your officers have been touched by the many positive comments we have received regarding our just completed Virtual Retreat. Our extensive planning for this event involved a lot of moving parts and challenges. We are aware of technical glitches that made the experience difficult for some, and we will work to resolve them before future virtual events.

As your Prior General, I want to offer my personal thanks to the following sisters and brothers who gave themselves to this experience:

- Br. Brett Isernhagen for his technological expertise, gracious responses and patient demeanor dealing with the Zoom link setups and anxious siblings as we prepared for and as the Retreat events unfolded. Superlative work!



- Sr. Cynthia (Magdalene Ruth) Astle for her work developing and collating responses to the Survey Monkey survey that allowed us to be divided into various breakout rooms.

- Thanks to the various co-hosts of the event: Br. Kyle Gould, Sr.

Dianne Tobey Covault, Br. Gilbert Stones, and Sr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson. And thanks to the various facilitators of the breakout sessions.

- To Br. Dean Emerson for diligently sending copies of our new publication, *A Lukan Psalter*, to all U.S. registered retreatants in a timely manner.

- Sr. Alice Kay Lovelace for shepherding the five primary worship services from the recruiting of leaders to bringing the services to fruition. Likewise, my thanks to all of the worship planners and service participants.

- Your OSL Officers provided wise counsel, offered excellent suggestions, helped us clarify our needs and paved the way for the 2020 Retreat to become a reality. To Sr. Elizabeth for her skilled leadership and wise discernment; to Sr. Jeanette for her tenacious attention to registration details, financial concerns and keeping track of our discussions; to Sr. Heather for her encouraging spirit and enthusiastic support; to Br. Daniel for his attention to details that might otherwise be missed.

Our 2020 Virtual Retreat was an experience like no other. I sincerely hope that we will be able to meet in person next year as we celebrate our 75th anniversary as an Order. We will consider how we may continue a virtual presence even as we meet face to face.

With a heart filled with gratitude,

Br. George R. Crisp, OSL

Prior General

*\*Photo of the Order's icon of Saint Luke used on the cover of Festive Vespers in celebration of Saint Luke's Day Oct. 18.*

## Task Force Takes on Website Redesign

At the direction of Abbot Elizabeth Moore, a new task force has taken on redesign of a website for The Order of Saint Luke.

Difficulties with a recent attempt at website updating were the topic of much discussion during the General Chapter meeting. At the close of the discussion, Sr. Abbot Elizabeth invited several interested persons to form a task force to expedite updating the website.

Sr. Kimberly Greway, prior of the Hoyt Hickman Memorial Chapter in Pittsburgh, sent an email shortly after the Retreat to update the Council on the task force's initial discussion. Her email reads:

"Purposes of website: Inform people, connect people, show our resources. Is mostly outward looking; Font and Facebook: Connects the Order to each

other, abbot's column, upcoming events, prayer concerns and joys, affirmation forms, retreat plans. "Facebook Page and Group: both public and private. Website also contains our official documents (Bylaws, customary, etc.)

"Br. Geoffrey Moore suggested: the website as outward facing for the diaspora and beyond the diaspora. The website as a place to hold all that is important to the order."

The task force recommended reviewing the website of the Pennsylvania Prison Chaplains Association for ideas about a simple, effective website that could be completed speedily.

<http://paprisonchaplains.org/>

A updated website is targeted to be up by January 2021.

## Life-Vowed Member's Witness: 'It's a Wonderful Life'

*One thing I have asked of the Lord,  
this is what I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the  
Lord  
all the days of my life;  
to behold the beauty of the Lord  
and to seek Him in His temple.*

– From Psalm 27:4, quoted in “Celtic  
Daily Prayer,” Northumbria  
Community (Harper Collins)

**By Sr. Magdalene Ruth  
(Cynthia) Astle**

We all have family traditions at Christmastime. One of mine is set as surely as the cornerstone of a cathedral: at least once during the holiday season, I will watch the movie “It’s a Wonderful Life.”

Most of us know the story. “It’s a Wonderful Life” stars James Stewart as George Bailey, an elder son whose high-flying ambitions to see the world are always thwarted by the duty and compassion instilled in him by his father. When a crisis strikes that may bring shame and scandal to him and his family, George looks to the basest of human answers – money – as a way out. Only when his guardian angel, Clarence Oddbody (I love that name!), guides him through a vision of what life would have been like without him does George come to understand the great gift of love he has received and given to others.

I watch “It’s a Wonderful Life” each Christmas not only because of its charming story and enchanting characters. It reminds me that like George Bailey, my life has been shaped and guided by angels I didn’t recognize until their influence brought me back to my true spiritual path. My journey has led to this moment of requesting to take Life Vows in the Order.

I come from a family with a long church history. On my father’s side,

### *Br. Vogel Takes a New Name in the Faith*

When I took Life Vows the opportunity to take a new name was not available.

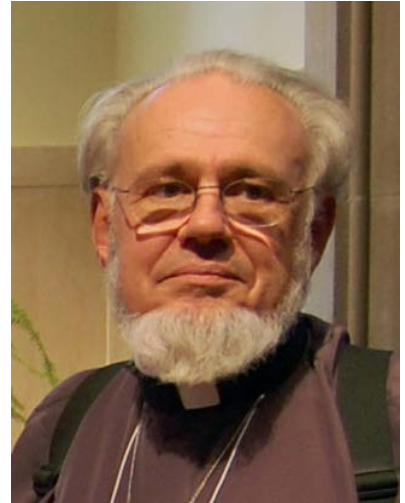
For years I have yearned and searched and hoped to find a new name.

I am finally ready, not so much to take a new name,

as to claim my true name,  
and to be known by my brothers  
and sisters and siblings in the  
Order as:

Brendan,  
Wandering for the love of Christ,  
Trusting myself to the currents of  
divine love,

Guided by the Spirit with my  
community of companions  
on a voyage of continuing  
conversion



embodying the paschal  
mystery of incarnation, death  
and resurrection.

Br. Brendan (Dwight) Vogel

our family tree includes an early American reference to “John Buie, a Methodist circuit rider who went west and was never heard from again.” My paternal grandmother, Ridley Jane Beasley Buie, was a Methodist church planter in North Carolina. One of my earliest memories is being dressed up in a ruffled frock and white gloves edged in lace, holding Granny’s hand as she took me to church. My mother’s family were staunch Scottish Presbyterians and Mother was a lay deacon in my youth. Our family swung back and forth between Methodists and Presbyterians, so you can understand how I feel formed by Methodist disciplines that keep me in decent Presbyterian order.

The biggest influence on my spiritual formation, however, was the Masonic Order. My father was a 32nd-degree Master Mason and

served as Worshipful Master of his lodge. From my father’s devotion I learned the interconnections of the human family under the providence of God, and that service to others is life’s highest calling. When I turned 12, I was initiated into the Order of Rainbow for Girls, a Masonic youth organization. I was so awestruck by the initiation rite that when I went to bed that night, I believed I was about to be visited by God.

I was terrified.

As I lay trembling fearfully in my bed, suddenly a profound peace swept over me, a feeling of deep relief and comfort unlike anything I’d ever experienced before. My fear evaporated, and all that remained was overwhelming love. From that moment until this, this sense of love has been my test for any experience;

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# It's a Wonderful Life

Continued from Page 6

anything that lacks love is not godly. That spiritual truth has been my steadfast anchor.

By anyone's standards, I've been blessed with a life of many extraordinary experiences, most connected to my professional career as a religion journalist. Some of these experiences have been exalted, such as the time I met Nelson Mandela in South Africa, or when I was part of a World Methodist group that met Pope John Paul II on the piazza of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, or when I met former President Jimmy Carter after a speech. Had I not been a religion journalist, I never would have come close to any of these prominent people.

Some of the extraordinary experiences of my life have been frightening. The trip when we met with the pope was particularly ill-starred. At the time I was recovering from surgery for thyroid cancer, but I was determined not to miss the opportunity, so I traveled anyway. While we were in Italy, there was an earthquake in Assisi that we felt during our meeting in Rome. Next, a bomb threat occurred at the bank near the Catholic retreat center where we stayed; the Italians took it in stride while I was more than a little uncomfortable. On the flight home our plane suffered a burned-out circuit over the North Atlantic, filling the cabin with the smell of smoke and sending us to an unscheduled landing in St. John's, Newfoundland. Yes, I said many prayers to get that plane safely on the ground!

These colorful incidents make for good stories; they are counterbalanced by life episodes that I can only describe as evil. Like some of us, I've known life-threatening illness and wrenching poverty. Like

many of us, I've been heartbroken by the betrayal of people I trusted. Since my vocation is public, I'm often subjected in these polarized times to false witness about something I've written. Many times, I've not been able to see God's hand at work until a crisis had passed.

As I was learning to cope with my past, two things happened to shape my spiritual maturity: I joined The Order of Saint Luke, and I began to sense God's pull on my life toward a new ministry.

I had known of the Order for 20-odd years because of my associations with Brother Michael O'Donnell and Brother Hoyt Hickman of blessed memory during the development of the United Methodist Book of Worship. Ritual had been a part of my life since my days as a Rainbow Girl, but what Brother Michael and Brother Hoyt presented to the worship book committee opened for me Christian traditions of which I'd been totally ignorant. The more I learned from the prayers and observances they suggested for the Book of Worship, the more I craved to know the traditions and practice them. I was especially drawn to Celtic spirituality with its emphasis on the interrelationships of humans with God's living creation. During my personal, independent study I learned how Celtic monks and nuns lived among people as everyday spiritual guides, and I began to wonder if I fitted that model.

The Order helped prepare me for specialized ministry. Through our focus on liturgical scholarship, I came to a deeper, fuller understanding of the Eucharist and especially of prayer and baptism. I have never felt called to ordained ministry; I have always found my place among the laity as a

teacher and guide to Christian faith as a way of life, not merely as membership in a church. The Order's community, where our only titles are "brother" and "sister," exemplifies my idea of heaven – a place where all are welcomed, affirmed and celebrated in the family bond of baptism, fed spiritually through prayer and Holy Communion to do God's work in the world. To me this is the essence of our Rule of Life and Service.

My experience of discipleship through the Order led me to apply to the spiritual direction certification program at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas. At the time, I had no clue how I'd pay for seminary tuition; I only knew that I couldn't resist God's call any longer. Much to my surprise, I soon received a letter saying I'd been awarded a full-tuition scholarship from an unknown benefactor. To this day I don't know who paid my way; I only know I am deeply grateful. I have been a professional spiritual director for seven years and completed a third-year practicum at Perkins in 2019 to further enhance my qualifications.

I find myself now in this poem by William Brodrick from the book "Celtic Daily Prayer:"

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# 'Sacramental Life' to Merge with 'Doxology'

Dear Siblings,

There are some important changes coming to OSL Publications' periodicals in the coming months. Our team has carefully considered the wisdom and way of these changes and has decided to share them with you now. As with all things in our life of faith, we have looked to Scripture for its wisdom in the process, and so I offer some of these verses with you now from the sixteenth chapter of Proverbs as a way of framing this note to you:

*The human mind plans the way,  
but the Lord directs the steps*  
(Proverbs 16:9)

There has been no small amount of discernment about what the future of OSL's periodicals will look like, and we hope that the Holy One will indeed guide our steps as we move forward with the changes we have planned. There are many layers to these changes, but in essence they are few. We hope that they will strengthen the offerings that OSL Publications is able to make on behalf of the Church and the academy moving forward:

**Beginning in 2021, *Sacramental Life* will merge with *Doxology*.** The new journal will retain the title *Doxology* and will continue to be peer-reviewed, but it will be expanded to also feature content similar to what has historically been found in *Sacramental Life*. The new journal will be **published quarterly**, beginning with Volume 33.1 (Lent-Easter 2020). This merger was approved at the General

Chapter meeting during the virtual retreat in October 2020. Members of the Order who currently receive *Sacramental Life* should expect to begin receiving *Doxology* now.

***Doxology* articles will now be searchable in ATLA databases.**

Atla has agreed to begin indexing *Doxology* so that researchers can take advantage of its offerings going all the way back to Volume 1 (1984). Digital back issues of both *Doxology* and *Sacramental Life* will also be available in their entirety on Google Books.

"If you have questions or concerns about any of these changes, you are free to reach out to us or another member of the publications team."

*Better is a little with righteousness  
than large income with injustice.*  
(Proverbs 16:8)

While libraries will still be required to subscribe at a fixed annual rate, *Doxology* is moving to a "pay-what-you-want" pricing model for individuals. Coupled with the move to put digital back issues online, this will allow global access to *Doxology* for individuals regardless of their ability to pay a subscription fee. The "pay-what-you-want" model, now in use by a select number of other publications, asks those individuals who are able to pay whatever price they perceive as fair to support the creation of the journal. Most individual subscriptions will be handled through the newly renovated OSL website ([saint-luke.net](http://saint-luke.net)). If you have questions about subscriptions

as a member of the Order, please contact the Chancellor General, Sr. Jeanette Block.

*Gray hair is a crown of glory;  
it is gained in a righteous life.*

(Proverbs 16:31)

If the number of gray hairs we have gained in the past months is any indication, our crowns are looking pretty glorious! Or perhaps those gray hairs are just a function of the pandemic, and not our righteous life of editorial work. In any case, and joking aside, the entire OSL Publications team has worked hard to accomplish these changes in less than ideal circumstances over these past months. Gratitude goes especially Sr. Abbot Elizabeth Moore, who provided invaluable guidance in this process of change, and to those siblings who were able to be present and offer feedback during the recent virtual retreat.

With faith and blessings,

Br. Jonathan Hehn, OSL  
Editor, *Sacramental Life* 2015-2020

Editor, *Doxology* 2020 -

Sr. Dianne Tobey Covault, OSL  
Director of Periodicals





## FROM THE CHANCELLOR GENERAL

### Fall 2020 Retreat and General Chapter Minutes

The Order of Saint Luke

Virtual Retreat October 12 - 14, 2020

#### Monday October 12, 1:00 p.m.

We began retreat with prayer by our Abbot; she thereafter introduced our siblings, Sr. Lynn Basan and Br. Ador Tolentino, from the Philippines. Abbot Elizabeth Moore thereafter invited Sr. Dianne Covault to introduce the elected officers for 2020-2024: Abbot: Sr. Elizabeth Moore, Chancellor General: Sr. Jeanette Block, Prior General: Br. George Crisp and Provincial General: Sr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson.

Sr. Jeanette Block presented the budget. After discussion, it was approved. Our budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year is \$48,125.00.

Sr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson reported that Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter has reorganized as an Association. Br. Joshua Allison

presented the request for form The Koinonia Chapter in Alabama. Both approved by council

Sr. Cynthia Astle shared her personal journey of making her Life Vow Profession. After her passionate statement, Br. Dwight Vogel led us in Mid-day Prayer.

Council Meeting was concluded and we were invited to participate in break-out rooms at 3:00 p.m. EST. At 7:00 p.m. EST we gathered for our **Service of Investiture and Evening Prayer**. We believe about 60 participants attended the Service.

Br. Dwight shared the death of Wilma Evans, mother of Sr. Cheryl Brown. He asked that we hold the family in our prayers.

**At 8:00 p.m. EST our General Chapter** resumed. Sr. Abbot called the meeting to order and we prayed. She thereafter introduced the appointed officers for 2020-2024:

Pastoral Care, Br. David Eichelberger; Chaplain General Sr. Dianne Covault; Prior for Life Vowed Members, Br. Frank Coats; Cyber Chapter Prior, Br. Taylor Burton Edwards; Publications, Br. Daniel Benedict; Operations Director for Publications: Br. Kyle Gould; Sacramental Life and Doxology, Br. Jonathan Hehn; Editor of The Font, Sr. Cynthia Astle; Novitiate, Br. Daniel Benedict, Br. Jim DuFriend. The Novitiate has created a new position: Cohort Group Coordinator, Sr. Beth Fender; Necrologist, Br. Bob Schall; Daily Office Revision Team, Br. Dwight Vogel; Lay Representative to Council, Sr. Barb Lee; Webmaster, Br. Scot Bontranger; Assistant to Chancellor General: Br. Joshua Allison.

Abbot Elizabeth introduced our Canons, who are reaffirmed each

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## It's a Wonderful Life

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*We have to be candles,  
burning between  
hope and despair,  
faith and doubt,  
life and death,  
all the opposites.  
That is the disquieting place  
where people must always find us.*

*And if our life means anything,  
if what we are goes beyond the  
monastery walls and  
does some good,  
it is that somehow,  
by being here,*

*at peace,  
we help the world cope  
with what it cannot understand.*

There has been one constant through all the ups and downs of my adult life: my beloved husband John Astle. We were high school sweethearts, and at one time John considered going into the ordained ministry himself. It's no exaggeration to say that we are truly soul mates; throughout my worst and best times, John has cared for me with Christlike devotion. In fact, over our 44 years of marriage, we've discovered that the closer we each drew to Christ, the closer we came to one another.

Now I come before you, my brothers and sisters, humbly asking that you permit me to put my life with all its stars and scars at the service of the Order and the world for the rest of my earthly journey. I ask to take the name in religion of Sister Magdalene Ruth: Magdalene for the apostle to the apostles who first brought news of Christ's Resurrection, and Ruth in remembrance of my mother and her generation of faithful women whose sacrifices paved the way for me to achieve what they were denied.

Mine has been a wonderful life.  
I offer it now to The Order of

# Retreat and General Chapter Summary

Continued from Page 9

quadrennial. Canons are the institutional memory of The Order; they know the history and culture of The Order. Our Canons are: Br. French Ball, Sr. Barb Lee, Br. Mark Stamm, Br. Michael O'Donnell, Br. Brent Sturm, Br. Matthias Tanner and Br. Dwight Vogel.

We recognized the work of Sr. Alice Kay Lovelace as our retiring Chaplain General. We enjoyed her tonight as our Cantor and expressed our appreciation for her work.

Br. Dwight Vogel shared some comments about the new Psalter. He has written approximately 16 books; he would be content if he is only remembered for the Psalter. Sr. Abbot asked that The General Chapter affirm the Psalter. Affirmed.

**Periodicals report:** Br. Jonathan Hehn shared the merger between Doxology and Sacramental Life. Please see his contribution to this issue of The Font. A Motion was made by Br. Jonathan Hehn and seconded by Br. Dwight Vogel to approve the plan to merge SacLife into Doxology beginning calendar year 2021. All affirmed. Br. Dwight Vogel indicated that the merger of our periodicals sets forth our mission of scholarship, education and practice.

**Cohort Groups for Inquirers and New Members:** Br. Daniel Benedict, Novitiate Team Leader, shared a development in how we welcome and support Inquirers and offer them a community of learning in a Cohort Group. Sr. Barbara Lee initiated the idea of cohort groups out of her experience with them in her annual conference. She shared that the Inquirers' Cohort Group would be 5 sessions on ZOOM providing opportunity to get to know leaders of the Order, engage them in discovery of the Rule of Life and Service; our

life of prayer, mission, and spirituality, and how we are organized; and experience participation in a learning community. The aim is to be inclusive and welcoming in a larger group setting.

The sessions would include:

1. Group Introductions and the Rule of Life and Service
2. Our History and Mission
3. The Daily Office and Our Life of Prayer
4. Lukan Spirituality and Customs
5. Conversation with the Abbot

The focus will be experience and reflection rather than academic concerns. The group experience will not replace the companion's relationship with the Inquirer but enhance and broaden it. Regarding the Inquiry and Discernment time, Br. Trent Somes shared that he [was currently] in the process until [Tuesday, October 13] when he professe[d] his vows. He thought it was an uplifting, "cool" thing to go through.

Br. Mark Stamm reminded us that the Cohort Group should not become a class, and not be a class for obtaining membership. Sr. Barb Lee indicated that that is the intent: to provide basic information to be processed with their mentor. It is a journey, not a destination, all of us being lifelong learners. Sr. Beth Fender has been appointed by Abbot Elizabeth to serve as the Cohort Groups Leader to set up and give oversight to implementation.

Br. Dean Emerson asked about continuing to offer Inquirers and companions a much reduced package

for four books (Food for Pilgrims, Book of Offices and Services, A Lukan Book of Hours, and a Lukan Book of Feasts) and wondered we would consider increasing the cost of the package so that it covers the base cost of books and shipping. Br. Daniel Benedict indicated that we would continue to use them and agreed that the cost should be increased to cover the cost, which would still be substantially below catalog price for the four books.

We adjourned for the day at 9:00 p.m. EST. Council meets again on Wednesday.

## Tuesday, October 13, 2020

We gathered via Zoom for a time of fellowship before beginning our Profession of Vows Worship Service at 1:00 p.m. EST. Sr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson presented the following individuals for First Profession of Vows: Barbara Blackmon-Fortune, David Collette, Wayne Perry, Trent Somes, Rebecca Walker, Bill Wolf. Sr. Heather then presented Sr. Cynthia Astle for Profession of Life Vows. She has taken the name of Sr. Magdalene Ruth.

We gathered via zoom for Evening Prayer with Transitus and remembered the following brothers and sisters: Br. Neil Irwin, III, Br. Alvin Rose, Br. Willard Kampmeier, Br. William Doser, Br. Ted Mitchell, Br. Robert Brewster, Sr. Eunice Mereand Tabor, Br. Ralph Hogan, Sr. Gloria Smith, and Br. Gary Smith.

## Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Gathering via Zoom, we resumed our Council Meeting at 1:00 p.m. EST. We began with reports. Br. Scot Bontrager reported on our website.

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# Retreat Summary

Continued from Page 10

Sr. Abbot formed a small core group to work with Elevation on the website. The officers realize that Facebook is the way most communicate since Covid-19, so we do not need a complicated website. Br. Dwight explained that council can defer to the discernment of the Abbot and he called upon her to form the group and work on the website. Council affirmed.

**Anniversary:** Br. George Crisp shared that 2021 is our 75th Anniversary October 11, 12, 13 & 14, 2021 at St. Paul of the Cross in Pittsburgh, PA. Guest speakers: Br. Don Saliers, Sr. Kimberly Greway, Br. Mark Stamm. We have a small subcommittee who is working together to plan the event. Br. George will check to see if we can change the date with the retreat house. Br. George also gave the dates for spring council May 10 - 13, 2021 at St. Paul of the Cross, Pittsburgh.

The Franciscan Retreat Center in AZ refunded our deposits for 2020 and have offered dates for 2022 retreat. The tentative dates are October 2 - 7, 2022.

Sr. Abbot shared that Br. Trent Somes' hobby is designing flags/banners. He has come up with a proposal to make a banner for us. Would be 3x5 in size and printed on demand so if we want it, we can order it ourselves. Sr. Kimberly Greway clarified that Br. Trent can make different sizes, not just 3x5. (We can reach Br. Trent at [tsomes3@gmail.com](mailto:tsomes3@gmail.com))

Br. Joshua Allison with help has been compiling a list of online worship events so we can get together when we can. He will get it to us for sharing.

Our meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m. EST.

We enjoyed Beth Richardson's second presentation on Celtic Spirituality followed by morning prayer led last evening by our Asian siblings.

## Thursday, October 15, 2020

Council resumed at 1:00 p.m. EST

**Our Story Project:** Br. Mark Stamm reported that his report is in the Book of Reports and he added that this project is the collection of stories from people within The Order of Saint Luke. We want

the history of the events and the personal stories. All of us are charged to live into the Rule of Life and Service individually and corporately as The Order. We are living in an extraordinary time, but he urges all of us to do some journaling. It does not need to be professional. What is life like for us from a Lukan perspective? Submit your journaling to Br. Mark. He wants to establish an archive. How do we embody sacramental life during this time? Sr. Jeanette shared she is going through the boxes received from Br. Scott Alford and will try to summarize the past meetings. We can just submit our stories via email as an attachment.

Abbot Elizabeth indicated we are still looking for a vendor to continue making our pectoral cross. If anyone knows a potential source, please contact Br. Dean Emerson or any of the officers. Br. Matthias Tanner indicated he is willing to help with a start-up fee to get the crosses made again. (We can reach Br. Dean at [oslpublications@gmail.com](mailto:oslpublications@gmail.com))

Br. George Crisp introduced Kasonga Butler who received the Hoyt Hickman Award at Wesley Theological Seminary. We welcomed her as our guest. We thereafter chatted and answered questions.

Abbot Elizabeth thanked everyone for participating in the chat, Br. Kyle Gould will save the chat. She thereafter adjourned our meeting until May or October 2021. Hopefully, live or via zoom. Meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sr. Jeanette M. Block, OSL  
Chancellor General



## Weekly Opportunities for Corporate Prayer in the Order of St. Luke

(rev. 10/15/2020)

| Morning Prayer |   | Evening Prayer |   | Compline  |  |
|----------------|---|----------------|---|---|--|
| Title:         | Morning Prayer  | Title:         | Evening Prayer  | Title:  | Compline   |
| Day:           | Thursday  | Day:           | Tuesday   | Day:  | Monday   |
| Time:          | 7:00AM Eastern / 3:00AM Pacific                                       | Time:          | 8:30PM Eastern / 4:30PM Pacific                                       | Time:   | 9:00PM Eastern / 6:00PM Pacific                              |
| Platform:      | Zoom on the first Thursday  | Platform:      | Zoom on the first Tuesday   | Platform:   | Zoom   |
| Host Chapter:  | Conference call the rest of the month                                 | Host Chapter:  | Conference call the rest of the month                                 | Host Chapter:   | None   |
| Contact:       | Dayspring Chapter<br>Br. Matthias Tanner at<br>Br.Maththias@gmail.com | Contact:       | Dayspring Chapter<br>Br. Matthias Tanner at<br>Br.Maththias@gmail.com | Contact:  | Br. Adam Lassen on Facebook                                  |
|                |   |                |   |   |  |
| Title:         | Mattins   | Title:         | Evening Prayer  | Title:  | Compline   |
| Day:           | Thursday  | Day:           | Wednesday (Biweekly)  | Day:  | Thursday (Monthly on the first Thursday)                     |
| Time:          | 10:15AM Eastern / 7:15AM Pacific                                      | Time:          | 3:30PM Eastern / 12:30PM Pacific                                      | Time:   | 8:30PM Eastern / 4:30PM Pacific                              |
| Platform:      | Zoom  | Platform:      | Zoom  | Platform:   | Zoom   |
| Host Chapter:  | Koinonia Chapter  | Host Chapter:  | Hoyt Hickman Memorial Chapter   | Host Chapter:   | Hoyt Hickman Memorial Chapter                                |
| Contact:       | Br. Aidan (Joshua Allison) at<br>barefootfriar@gmail.com              | Contact:       | Sr. Kimberly Greway at<br>kimberly.greway@allegHENYcounty.us          | Contact:  | Sr. Kimberly Greway at<br>kimberly.greway@allegHENYcounty.us |
|                |   |                |   |   |  |
|                |   |                |   | Other   |  |
| Title:         | Morning Prayer  | Title:         | Evening Prayer  | A Liturgy for When We Cannot Meet                                       |  |
| Day:           | Friday  | Day:           | Wednesday   | Sunday  |  |
| Time:          | 9:30AM Eastern / 6:30AM Pacific                                       | Time:          | 9:00PM Eastern / 5:00PM Pacific                                       | 4:00PM Eastern / 1:00PM Pacific   |  |
| Platform:      | Zoom  | Platform:      | Zoom  | Zoom  |  |
| Host Chapter:  | Perkins School of Theology Chapter                                    | Host Chapter:  | Cal-Pac Chapter   | None  |  |
| Contact:       | Sr. Jennifer Kilpatrick at<br>JKilpatrick@smu.edu                     | Contact:       | Br. George Martzen at<br>gmartzen@gmail.com                           | Br. Brett Isernhagen at<br>brettisernhagen@vaumc.org<br>or 757-231-5553 |  |
|                |   |                |   |   |  |
|                |   | Midday Prayer  |   |   |  |
| Title:         | Midday Prayer   |                |   |   |  |
| Day:           | Monday through Thursday   |                |   |   |  |
| Time:          | 1:30PM Eastern / 10:30AM Pacific                                      |                |   |   |  |
| Platform:      | Facebook Live   |                |   |   |  |
| Host Chapter:  | None  |                |   |   |  |
| Contact:       | Sr. Celia Halfacre on Facebook  |                |   |   |  |



## Links to Recurring OSL Events

(Subject to change; check with the contact person listed on the previous page)

### Compline – Zoom

Mondays – 9:00pm (Eastern)  
<https://zoom.us/j/736740447>  
 Meeting ID: 736 740 447

### Br. Brett Isernhagan

### Liturgy for When We Cannot Meet – Zoom

Sundays – 4:00pm (Eastern)  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8841278284?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8841278284?pwd=SGNmNkRncIRjaOVGTVQzdGhNcTB4QT09)  
[pwd=SGNmNkRncIRjaOVGTVQzdGhNcTB4QT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8841278284?pwd=SGNmNkRncIRjaOVGTVQzdGhNcTB4QT09)  
 Meeting ID: 884 127 8284  
 Password: 475156

### Cal-Pac Chapter

### Evening Prayer – Zoom

Wednesdays – 5:00pm (Pacific)  
[https://zoom.us/j/94240036920?](https://zoom.us/j/94240036920?pwd=Q3NNK1g3SnZ2Q2dDajlkczgxbHZEZz09)  
[pwd=Q3NNK1g3SnZ2Q2dDajlkczgxbHZEZz09](https://zoom.us/j/94240036920?pwd=Q3NNK1g3SnZ2Q2dDajlkczgxbHZEZz09)  
 Meeting ID: 953 7944 6983  
 Passcode: 923955

### Sr. Celia Halfacre

### Midday Prayer – Facebook Live

Monday through Thursday, 12:30pm (Central)  
<https://www.facebook.com/celia.kitchens>

### Dayspring Chapter

### Morning Prayer – Conference Call/Zoom

Thursdays – 7:00am (Eastern)  
 FreeConferenceCall: 1-515-603-3162, passcode 620-432#  
 Zoom: Link changes monthly; contact Br. Matthias  
 First Thursdays – 7:00am, (Eastern) – Zoom

### Compline – Conference Call/Zoom

Tuesdays – 8:30pm (Eastern)  
 FreeConferenceCall: 1-515-603-3162, passcode 620-432#  
 Zoom: Link changes monthly; contact Br. Matthias  
 Contact Br. Matthias at Br.Matthias@gmail.com

### Hoyt Hickman Memorial Chapter

### Evening Prayer – Zoom

Every other Wednesday – 3:30pm (Eastern)  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82941812352?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82941812352?pwd=U2tTaW5qN0ptSWdsbFJPV0VKeW9zd09)  
[pwd=U2tTaW5qN0ptSWdsbFJPV0VKeW9zd09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82941812352?pwd=U2tTaW5qN0ptSWdsbFJPV0VKeW9zd09)  
 Meeting ID: 829 4181 2352  
 Passcode: Hickman

### Hoyt Hickman Memorial Chapter

### Compline – Zoom

First Thursday of the month – 8:30pm (Eastern)  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84285390650?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84285390650?pwd=QTNjVDFRM3BiNVFZWkljb1dMTExVdz09)  
[pwd=QTNjVDFRM3BiNVFZWkljb1dMTExVdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84285390650?pwd=QTNjVDFRM3BiNVFZWkljb1dMTExVdz09)  
 Meeting ID: 842 8539 0650  
 Passcode: OSL

### Koinonia Chapter

### Mattins (Morning Prayer) – Zoom

Thursdays – 9:15am (Central)  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84285390650?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84285390650?pwd=QTNjVDFRM3BiNVFZWkljb1dMTExVdz09)  
[pwd=QTNjVDFRM3BiNVFZWkljb1dMTExVdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84285390650?pwd=QTNjVDFRM3BiNVFZWkljb1dMTExVdz09)  
 Meeting ID: 842 8539 0650  
 Passcode: OSL

### Perkins School of Theology Chapter

### Morning Prayer – Zoom

Fridays – 8:30am (Central)  
 Zoom: Contact Sr. Jennifer Kilpatrick at  
[JKilpatrick@smu.edu](mailto:JKilpatrick@smu.edu)

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 4PM EST: A Liturgy for When We Cannot Meet – Br. Brett | 12:30PM CST: Midday Prayer – Sr. Celia<br>9PM EST: Compline – Br. Adam | 12:30PM CST: Midday Prayer – Sr. Celia<br>8:30PM EST: Compline – Dayspring Chapter | 12:30PM CST: Midday Prayer – Sr. Celia<br>3:30PM EST: Evening Prayer (biweekly) – Hoyt Hickman Memorial Chapter<br>5PM PST: Evening Prayer – Cal-Pac Chapter | 7AM EST: Morning Prayer – Dayspring Chapter<br>9:15AM CST: Mattins (Morning Prayer) – Koinonia Chapter<br>12:30PM CST: Midday Prayer – Sr. Celia<br>8:30PM EST: Compline (monthly) – Hoyt Hickman Memorial Chapter | 8:30AM CST: Morning Prayer – Perkins School of Theology Chapter<br>* No services are offered on Saturday |

# The Rule of Life and Service of The Order of Saint Luke

The *Rule of Life and Service of The Order of Saint Luke* is a primary means of spiritual formation by which all members covenant to live. Each member vows to abide by this Rule and to indicate their commitment by study, service, gifts and practice.

*The Rule of Life and Service of the Order of Saint Luke consists of six brief statements in boldface type. Commentary on the Rule, in normal typeface, was adopted by the Council of the General Chapter in the year 2000.*

## **We affirm the apostolic hope:**

With the apostles and the Church through the ages, we affirm Jesus Christ, Sacrament of the presence of God, as the source of our hope. We take our name from St. Luke the Evangelist, and seek to be incorporated into the paschal mystery he proclaims. We pray that we may be formed by the Incarnation, life, death, resurrection, ascension, gift of the Holy Spirit, and coming again of Jesus Christ. We are sent forth to proclaim and to live the hope that good news brings.

## **We live for the Church of Jesus Christ:**

We believe that the Church is the Body of Christ and we are called to worship, learning, community, and service as members of that Body. We affirm our fidelity to oneness in Christ in the Church truly catholic, truly apostolic, truly evangelical, and truly reformed which supersedes all division by denomination, and which we believe God will gather from a broken Christendom. Our mission includes calling the Church to liturgical and sacramental renewal, and seeking to bring the healing grace of Christ to all Creation.

## **We seek the sacramental life:**

We are called to become aware of God's presence through eucharistic living. We seek to live out our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. We receive with gratitude all that God has given us and offer it up to God. We receive it again from God, transformed to use for the sake of the world. We join the Church through the ages and around the world in recognizing that all time is in God's hands. As we faithfully pray the Daily Office, and live so as to embody our prayers, we endeavor to live the sacramental life. By so doing, we seek to be formed as a means of grace for all those we meet and serve in Christ's name.

## **We promote the corporate worship of the Church:**

We believe that the corporate worship of the Church is liturgy — the work of the people on behalf of all creation — which is our response to the revelation of God's grace. Through our collective memory and our shared hope, the Holy Spirit acts in Word and Sacrament making present to us the saving acts of God and transforming us so that we can be God's people. Through our worship, we seek the glorification of God and the sanctification of the Church. This worship is offered in the name of the community which claims it as the manifestation of its own identity and mission.

We seek to encourage the Church to worship with vitality and integrity, appropriating the rites and services of the Church, historically and ecumenically grounded, which enable us to worship together in the name of Jesus Christ. We honor the worship traditions of the past and seek to be open to new ways of expressing the heritage of faith they embody in ways that speak to us and for us in the present. We witness to the saving and transforming work of God which renews us in Christ's Body, the Church, through the continual offering up of our lives to God.

# The Rule of Life and Service of The Order of Saint Luke

Continued from Page 14

## **We magnify the sacraments:**

We believe that the sacraments are Christ's gift to the Church. Individually and corporately we are called to lift up these mysteries in the life of the Church as means of grace through which we are formed as Christian disciples.

Through the baptismal covenant, we are incorporated into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God calls us to live out the redemptive, liberating, justice-seeking ministry of Jesus. We seek to deepen our understanding of the Church, of the significance of the baptismal covenant, and the Eucharist for Christian discipleship and service.

We believe that the Eucharist re-presents the life-gift of Jesus Christ in which the living spirit of Christ is truly present to us, preserving and reforming Christ's Body, the Church. Frequent celebration of the Eucharist forms us in the sacramental life empowering us to become Christ's healing presence in the world.

## **We accept the call to service:**

By virtue of our baptism, God calls each of us to ministries which are a proclamation of Christ, seeking wholeness for Creation. Through sacramental, prophetic, and pastoral ministries we turn in openness and love to the world. We identify with the whole community of humankind, especially those who live on the margins, and invite people to touch our lives as we touch theirs. Thus may all know the perfect joy of being reconciled with God. In community with our brothers and sisters, we seek to discern ways in which we are called to serve God in The Order, the Church, and the world.

*Adopted in the present form by the Council of The Order of Saint Luke; October, 2000.*

## FROM THE ABBOT'S DESK

Continued from Page 1

We have intentionally modeled liturgically sound worship whenever we gather. We are committed to encouraging the Church to worship with vitality and integrity, appropriating the rites and services of the Church, historically and ecumenically grounded, which enable us to worship together in the name of Jesus Christ. We honor the worship traditions of the past and seek to be open to new ways of expressing the heritage of faith they embody in ways that speak to us and for us in the present. This dedication to sacramental and liturgical scholarship, education and the unique charism of our Order.

***We are a covenant community bound together and deepened in our faith by our Rule of Life and Service, whose gift to the Church of Jesus Christ is the encouragement to excellent liturgical scholarship and practice.***

Early in our history our founders realized that this mission and vision would only flourish if it were accompanied by individual spiritual formation. That formation comes from living into Lukan Spirituality. It is a life guided by our Rule of Life and Service. It is a life lived in community with our siblings in the Order of Saint Luke

Who are we as an Order? We are a

covenant community bound together and deepened in our faith by our Rule of Life and Service, whose gift to the Church of Jesus Christ is the encouragement to excellent liturgical scholarship and practice. These, together, by the grace of God, are who we are.

Blessings,

+Abbot Elizabeth

## FROM THE PASTORAL CARE OFFICER

Br. David Eichelberger, OSL  
DavidEOSL@yahoo.com

Beloved Siblings: I am writing to you in the midst of the latest surge of the COVID-19 virus. I pray that you all are staying well and able to continue to care for those whom you love.

We lift up the **Philippines Chapter** as horrendous typhoons have struck repeatedly.

We lift up the **Gulf Coast of the United States** which has been swept by numerous hurricanes this year causing much devastation.

We lift up the **western region of the United States** that has seen devastating wildfires.

We lift up **health care workers, care givers, and emergency responders** who have borne the heavy burden of caring for those suffering and dying of COVID-19.

We lift up **all those working to discover a vaccine** to protect us from the coronavirus.

We pray for all who have been devastated this year by recent events.

We lift up **Sr. Nancy Bear Cartwright** who is recovering from cancer surgery and will be undergoing therapy and further treatment.

We remember the parents, students, teachers, professors and staff around the world who are coping with new ways to conduct education for students this year.

We rejoice in the ordination of **Br. Kyle Gould** in the Ohio East Annual Conference.

We remember **those who have died this year** and pray for consolation for families who were unable to be present with their loved ones.

We remember **pastors and churches which are struggling** to

remain faithful amidst numerous challenges this year.

We rejoice in the retirement of **Br. Frank Richard Coats**.

We rejoice in the ways many of our chapters are able to flourish virtually this year.

We lift our prayers for consolation for **Br. Daniel Diss** and his family on the death of his father this summer. We also pray for Sr. Kimberly Greway's husband's family on the death of his aunt and grandmother this fall.

We rejoice at **Sr. Kimberly Greway's husband** finding new employment this fall.

We ask for prayers for **Sr. Magdalene Ruth's husband John Astle** who is dealing with vertigo. They were also in quarantine for COVID-19 exposure.

Gracious God who has given us the precious gift of life, we come to you with heavy hearts this day. We are

stunned to see the numbers of people who have been infected and affected by the Covid-19 disease. We lift up our prayers on behalf of those who have lost loved ones or have had their health impacted by the illness. We pray for your abiding presence to be with all who are engaged in healing ministries. Sustain them with your Holy Spirit, for they have labored long and the end is not yet in sight.

We lift up your Church around the world as Christians have been called to be caring and loving people for those in need. Equip us for the numerous challenges we face day by day.

We lift our prayer on behalf of our siblings in the Order. May each be blessed and strengthened in their faith and devotion. Empower our General Officers as they guide us through these uncharted waters as we prepare to celebrate our 75th anniversary next year. We ask all these prayers in the name of the Blessed and Holy Trinity. Amen.

## 75th Anniversary Retreat Coming October 2021

Our 75th Anniversary as an Order will be celebrated at St. Paul of the Cross in Pittsburgh, PA, October 11-14, 2021. Hopefully by then we will be able to meet in person.

A specific theme has not been chosen, but our guest speakers will be Br. Don Saliers, Br. Mark Stamm and Sr. Kimberly Grenway.

Now is a good time to make your plans and encourage all members of the Order to be part of the celebration. Watch for future notices in The Font and for an invitation in the mail.



## FROM THE EDITOR

### *Where's the Ordo? And Other Changes*

By Sr. Magdalene Ruth  
(Cynthia) Astle

Adapting to a new reality has been the greatest challenge of 2020 and *The Font* hasn't been immune.

*The Font* moved to a quarterly schedule in 2019, but before that could be fully implemented the coronavirus pandemic struck and upended the whole publication "apple cart." Special issues were brought out in late spring and summer, followed by this full issue to get back on track.

In the course of adapting to new uncertainty, it became apparent that *The Ordo* was getting short shrift. The disruption interrupted the faithful work of Br. Jack Fahey, who puts such care into crafting the *Ordo* for us each year. I proposed to the officers that we move *The Ordo* to its own publication, distributed at the beginning of the liturgical year, and the proposal was accepted by consensus. So *The Ordo* will be distributed along with this issue, but as a separate document.

Another addition to our newsletter is a copy of our Rule of Life and Service. As *Font* editor, I simply decided that having the Rule before us regularly could provide a spiritual anchor for these tumultuous times.

As Sr. Abbot Elizabeth says in her column on Page 1, we are in a season of reflection and recommitment. We hope these changes to our newsletter show that *The Order of Saint Luke* is not only surviving amid our current crises but is committed to thriving as a community.

## Order of Saint Luke Publications

### *Meet the Authors Series*

"OFFERTORY, SANCTUS, EPICLESIS  
as Resources for Proclamation"  
with Br. Dick Eslinger, OSL



### A 3-session online seminar

focusing on three elements of the Eucharist  
as context and resource for preaching and discipleship

**January 14, 21, 28, 2021**

2-3:30pm (Eastern time)

(Optional follow-up Friday afternoon sermon workshop 2-3:30PM)

**Registration: \$25** (limited to twenty-five with Dec. 15 registration deadline)

(Includes the book *Preaching the Holy Mystery: The Eucharist as Context and Resource for Proclamation* which will be sent to registrants upon registration. Non-US participants must register without cost and can get the Amazon Kindle edition at their expense.)

ZOOM link will be sent to registrants on the Monday  
before the first session.

Open both laity and clergy, both members  
and non-members of the Order.

Registration: Sr. Jeanette Block, Chancellor General,  
[oslchancellor@gmail.com](mailto:oslchancellor@gmail.com)

Br. Dick is Emeritus Professor of Worship and Homiletics at United Theological Seminary Lifetime Achievement Award by the Academy of Homiletics in 2012



## MOMENT FOR MEDITATION



"The Annunciation" by El Greco (c.1590 - 1603), now hanging in the Ohara Museum in Kurashiki, Japan, depicts the moment when Mary's "yes" to God's invitation changed human history. What would be our response if offered the same invitation from God today?  
(Wikimedia Commons Public Domain Photo)