



THE FONT

WINTER 2021

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS WITHIN THE ORDER OF SAINT LUKE

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Find us on the Internet:
<http://saint-luke.net>

The Font
The Order of Saint Luke
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FROM THE ABBOT'S DESK

Greetings!

A new year has arrived, bringing with it the promise of brighter days than we experienced in 2020. That doesn't mean we are back to "normal," whatever that was. (I am not sure that I even remember!) We will still wear masks and hold our meetings via



Sr. Abbot
Elizabeth Moore

Zoom. But we have learned that there are special joys that have come from these restrictions. Br. Christopher, from Northern Ireland, joins us for Morning Prayer (although for him it is afternoon prayer) every Thursday. When we hold worship via

Zoom, we can be sure we will see the faces of our siblings in the Philippines and in Singapore. What a blessing this has been.

Our greater comfort with technology is also allowing us to develop a new capability as part of our "novitiate" process. Growing out of Sr. Barbara Lee's experience, and further developed by Sr. Beth Fender and Br. Daniel Benedict, we are initiating "cohort groups" for people who are discerning whether taking vows in The Order of Saint Luke is for them.

Each group will consist of 5 or 6 "discerners" along with the persons who are companioning each of them through the discernment process. They will meet via Zoom for five sessions (probably every other week), led by experienced members of the Order – often current or former leaders within the Order – who can offer insight into who we are and what we do. One great advantage of this approach is that it

focuses on building relationships rather than just imparting information. We want to foster conversations more than just academic learning. We believe that this will benefit those in the discernment process, and it will also benefit those who serve as Companions. Rather than focusing on a teaching role (information transfer), companions will be able to concentrate on helping potential new members decide if The Order of Saint Luke is a good fit with their interests, their spirituality, and their life.

I want to thank Sr. Barb, Br. Daniel, and Sr. Beth for the work they have done to develop this program. I think it is an important contribution to our membership process. I would encourage people to volunteer to be Companions. I think that these changes will make that responsibility both easier and, I hope, more fun. If you are asked to take on this role, please say yes.

As we move into 2021, please continue to hold one another in prayer. There will be more stressful days before we leave this pandemic behind. Find beauty where you can. Spread love where you can. Praise God through it all.

Sr. Abbot Elizabeth



IN THE COMMUNION OF THE SAINTSBr. 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.

February 13	Br. Robert N. Terry	New York (2012)
February 20	Br. William Stanley Winters	East Ohio Annual Conference (2014)
	Br. Roger (Rog) Michael Baker	Virginia (2017)
February 27	Br. Forest Wilbur Shue, Sr.	New Jersey (2007)
March 9	Br. Alvin Chester Rose	Great Plains Annual Conference (2017)
March 11	Br. Ralph Marsden Kitley	North Carolina (2008)
March 18	Br. Matthew Burroughs	Louisiana (2018)
March 19	Br. Thomas Frederick Tracewell	Alabama (2011)
March 20	Br. Paul Rogers	California (2003)
March 25	Br. S. James Schmittle, Sr.	Pennsylvania (former president) (2018)
March 30	Br. Timothy (Tim) J. Crouch	Ohio (2005)
April 6	Br. Perry Parker	Tennessee (2009)
April 18	Br. Richard Allen Lewis	Ohio (2005)
April 20	Sr. Inga Zifcak Freyer-Nicholas	Florida (2010)
April 22	Br. Richard A. Santella	New York, Florida (2016)
April 28	Br. James F. Bellamy	Pennsylvania (2004)
May 5	Br. Wayne Eugene Lee	Ohio (2015)
May 12	Br. John F. Dornheim	New York (2013)
May 13	Br. Dwight Edward Conrad	Oregon (2017)
May 18	Br. Larry Clinton Seybold	Kansas (1999)
May 26	Br. Ronald Ray Hill	West Ohio (2018)

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.

REQUIESCAT EN PACE

Br. Robert-George Schall, OSL bhagwon@earthlink.net

Sr. Inga Freyer-Nicholas (1948 -2010)

The Reverend Inga Freyer-Nicholas, OSL, wife of The Reverend Ronal Freyer-Nicholas, OSL, Pastor of Pilgrims' United Church of Christ, Fruitland Park, Fla., died peacefully Tuesday, April 20, 2010, at Cornerstone Hospice in Lady Lake, Fla.

Sr. Inga was born 19 October 1948 in New York City to Martin and April (Temple) Freyer but grew up in California, graduating from San Rafael High School in 1966. She earned an AA with honors in early childhood development from the College of Marin in 1968 and completed her BA with high honors in psychology at Rhode Island College in 1974. In 1988 she completed her Masters of Divinity degree at Andover Newton Theological School, Newton, Massachusetts. Sr. Freyer-Nicholas was ordained at First Baptist Church, Norwood, Massachusetts, for the American Baptist Churches, 29 May 1988, and served with her husband as pastor of churches in Massachusetts, Iowa, California, and Michigan until disability forced early retirement in 2004. Also, she served as pastor to the Chinese Community Church in Milwaukee while her husband served a nearby church. In 1992, Sr. Inga Freyer-Nicholas professed her vows in the Order of Saint Luke.

With her first husband, Michael Zifcak, of Providence, Rhode Island, she had two daughters, Lisa Zifcak Dunn



(Alvin and Christina Zifcak. With her second husband, Ron, she raised her stepson, Andrew Nicholas (Kristina). Sr. Inga was survived by her husband and children, six grandchildren, a brother, Tom Freyer of San Francisco, nieces, nephews, and other family, including her cousin-who-was-like-a sister, Jean Silverman, of Newmarket, NH, plus many friends from coast-to-coast.

Before becoming a minister, Sr. Inga had been a geriatric nurse, a career counselor, an owner-operator of a day care center, and supervisor of college students studying for degrees in early childhood development. Since ordination she served in several associations and regions of the American Baptist Churches (ABC) as member or chair of commissions on ministerial standing and served a term as member of the midwest section of the ABC national commission on ministerial standing. In Wisconsin, she served as President of the Wisconsin ABC Ministers Council and was a volunteer assistant professor of Pastoral Care at Milwaukee Theological Institute. She wrote many articles for various

publications and was a Contributing Editor for Robert Webber's Complete Library of Christian Worship, in eight volumes, published in 1992.

In addition to her regular duties as pastor, Sr. Inga Freyer-Nicholas also established the Protestant Chaplaincy Office at Norwood Hospital, Norwood, MA, and served there as chaplain, later serving as a duty chaplain at Covenant Health Care in Saginaw, Michigan. She was a family systems counselor as well. Sr. Inga was a member of First Baptist Church, Midland, Michigan, and Pilgrims' United Church of Christ, Fruitland Park, Florida. During her years in ministry, she served as a role model and mentor for other women in ministry.

On April 24, 2010, there was a visitation at Pilgrims' United Church of Christ and a funeral service with communion, followed by cremation with a private committal. Memorial gifts were made to the Pilgrims' United Church Memorial Fund, Fruitland Park, Florida.

Requiescat in pace, Sister Inga Freyer-Nicholas, OSL, as we remember you this day.

Sources: Ancestry.com, and Marin Independent Journal.

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

What's Happening with Your Chapter?

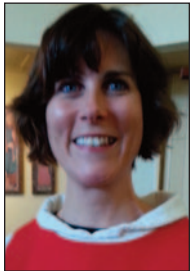
One of the blessings of The Order of Saint Luke is our connections to one another across time and space. We can only keep our connections strong with your help!

Don't hide your news under a bushel. Send reports of the activities of your chapter or association to Sr. Heather

Josselyn-Cranson, our Provincial General, hjosselyn@hotmail.com, or to The Font Editor, Sr. Magdalene Ruth (Cynthia) Astle, spirit60cba@gmail.com. Your OSL siblings look forward to hearing from you.

FROM THE PROVINCIAL GENERAL

While we in The Order of Saint Luke are a dispersed group – particularly during this pandemic – we are able to be present to one another through the life



Sr. Heather
Josselyn-Cranson

of our chapters and associations: groups of OSL members, usually geographically connected, that meet more frequently than we do as a whole Order. Recently, we have had three new groups form within our Order. Celebrating the work of the Spirit within the Order of Saint Luke, let us welcome these new chapters and associations!

The Koinonia Chapter began forming in late 2019. Schedule conflicts kept pushing our meeting later and later until suddenly we were all quarantined. Thanks to the gift of technology we were finally able to meet in June 2020 and discussed forming a chapter for the whole State of Alabama. After four weeks of prayerful discernment, we met again in July and unanimously chose to begin the process of officially forming a chapter. We have five full members, one member in inquiry, and one honorary member from outside the US (but who would be very welcome to join should he choose to do so!). We will meet on Zoom for the foreseeable future, but we hope and pray for the day when we can meet in person and share in the Eucharist together. The Koinonia Chapter also sponsors a weekly Morning Prayer office on Thursdays at 9:15 am Central (US), but which is open to anyone who wishes to join in. We meet on Zoom and information is available on the OSL Facebook page.

Charles Mosebrook Chapter, in the Philippines, is a small but dynamic group of siblings. These siblings, who come from various professions, take in-

spiration from the late Rev. Charles Mosebrook who dedicated his life of service not only to the (Methodist) Church but to society as well. Our chapter maintains an online group where we can communicate casually anytime. We are establishing regular quarterly business meetings at this time, and this is also held online especially during this pandemic. Our latest activity was over Christmas, distributing gift bags to 125 recipients of varying ages, mostly children. Other activities for this year are still in the initial planning stages.

The Winged Ox is an OSL Association that was organized for OSL members, seekers, and inquirers who reside primarily in Mississippi and adjacent surrounding areas. Winged Ox meets most Tuesdays online at 8:30 a.m. and focuses on praying various hours of the

Sr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson
hjosselyn@hotmail.com

Daily Office. Winged Ox values the strength and fellowship which comes from authentic small group interaction. There are currently two OSL members and one inquirer who are actively participating in prayers and formation. Another purpose of forming the Winged Ox was to create a space where everyday people could come and experience Lukan Spirituality firsthand. As Winged Ox moves forward towards becoming a Chapter our intention, Lord willing, is to hold physical meetings and events here in Mississippi at Refuge United Methodist Church where the Daily Office and other rich spiritual disciplines such as Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina can be shared and practiced by individuals in community.

COMPANION FOR LIFE-VOWED MEMBERS

Contemplating the Rule of Life and Service

By Sr. Magdalene Ruth (Cynthia) Astle

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. The journey to Life Vows includes deep contemplation of the Rule and the role it plays in sacramental living.

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.

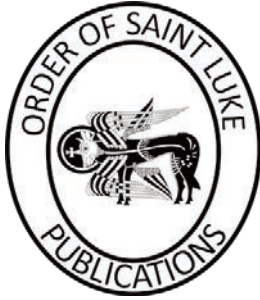
The first vow in our Rule of Life and Service packs the whole of Christian

faith into a few sentences! When we began to dive deeper into this one paragraph, we find ourselves contemplating some of the deepest mysteries of what it means to be a Christian.

In my own year of discernment toward Life Vows, I found myself asking: What does it mean to be “formed” spiritually by the “Incarnation, life, death, Resurrection, ascension, gift of the Holy Spirit and coming again of Jesus Christ”? Each of these citations is a distinct event, and yet they are inextricably intertwined with one another.

For example, think for a moment about the Incarnation. Scripture teaches that it begins not with Jesus’ birth, nor even with Mary’s assent to bear the Christ. Paul teaches that a key moment in the Incarnation begins with Christ’s willing “kenosis,” or emptying, that fa-

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Check Out OSL Publications' New Website

Thanks to the diligent work of our "marketing team" headed by Br. Daniel Benedict, OSL Publications has a brand-new, stand-alone website to showcase all our current offerings. Among them is Br. George Crisp's new book, *The Faith We Sing and the Lectionary*, a guide to pairing the hymn supplement with Scripture. Visit <https://oslpublishations.org> for more exciting

FROM THE PRIOR GENERAL

The 2021 Hoyt L. Hickman Award

The process for naming recipients for the 2021 Hoyt L. Hickman Award soon will be underway at the 19 seminaries who present it on behalf of the Order. This award, in honor of our late brother, is presented to a graduating senior who has shown exceptional ability in liturgical scholarship and/or exceptional ability in leading worship.

The Hickman Award comes with a certificate suitable for framing and the gift of a handmade ceramic chalice and paten given to the recipient. (If the recipient is not someone seeking ordination, an alternative gift of a ceramic bowl can be provided.) These beautiful and functional ceramics are crafted by E. Preston Rice of Tyrone, Pa.

2021 Spring Council Meeting

The meeting dates for the 2021 Spring Council of the General Chapter are set for May 11-13. Due to the slow rollout of COVID vaccinations, it is likely that our meeting will be held via Zoom, but the details for how this will work are still

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



Br. George
Crisp

under discussion.

In addition to the elected officers of the General Chapter, the Council consists of appointed officers, chapter priors (or their representatives), and canons of the Order.

2021 Retreat

Our 75th anniversary as an Order will be celebrated at the October 2021 Retreat. If possible, we will gather in person and we have reserved St. Paul of the Cross in Pittsburgh for the event October 11-14, 2021. Our guest speakers will be Br. Don Saliers, Br. Mark Stamm and Sr. Kimberly Grenway.

Now is a good time to make your plans. We encourage all members of the Order to be part of the celebration. (Due to the coronavirus, we may have to limit registrations to the maximum allowed at the retreat center..



Hosted by the Order of Saint Luke

"OFFERTORY, SANCTUS, EPICLESIS as Resources for Proclamation"



Sign up deadline: March 2, 2021

with Professor Dick Eslinger, OSL

A 3-session online seminar
focusing on three elements of the Eucharist
as context and resource for preaching and discipleship

Thursdays, March 11, 18, 25, 2021 (2-3:30pm Eastern)
(optional preaching lab on Fridays)

Registration: Sr. Jeanette Block, Chancellor General,
oslchancellor@gmail.com

FROM THE PASTORAL CARE OFFICER

Br. David Eichelberger, OSL
daveosl@yahoo.com



Br. David
Eichelberger

Beloved Siblings: It has been a very difficult season since I last reported in The Font. The COVID-19 virus has taken beloved family members and friends. Natural calamities have continued to wreak havoc across our beautiful planet. In many nations there have been dramatic events that have caused suffering to many.

Our Prior General, Br. **George Crisp**, was sorely afflicted by the COVID-19 virus.

After being hospitalized with pneumonia, he has returned home and is slowly rebuilding his strength and breathing ability. At last report he was still on oxygen at home and was still feeling weak. We thank everyone for their prayers.

Sr. **Nancy Bear Cartwright** is also at home recovering from her recent surgery to remove cancer and radiation treatment. We are thankful for her progress. She also asks for continuing prayers.

Sr. **Rebecca Holland** is recuperating from recent emergency eye surgery.

Br. **Guy Goewey** asks for prayers for his wife Nancy as she recovers from her recently completed radiation treatments, following chemotherapy and cancer surgery.

Sr. **Kimberly Greway** has asked for prayers for the staff and inmates at the Allegheny County Jail as they are dealing with cases of COVID-19 and other issues of oversight while the jail is on lockdown.

Sr. **Sarah Mount Elewononi** asks for prayers for those serving in the National Guard who are assisting with the vaccination program.

We lift our prayers on behalf of Br. **Jim, "BJ" George**, a long-time member of the Order who died in January. He and his wife **Grace** had been married 70 years. May we keep his memory and witness alive through our lives.

Br. **Joe Phillips** and his wife are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

Br. **Daniel Diss** is mourning the death of his mother, following the loss of his father a few months earlier.

Br. **Logan G. Swanger** has been undergoing treatment for a heart ailment.

Sr. **Elinor Bayse** asks for prayers for her husband who is receiving dialysis treatments.

Sr. **Anne Marie Sullivan** is recovering from a hip replacement surgery.

Br. **Christopher Skillen** asks for prayers for his family following a diagnosis of COVID-19 for his daughter.

Rev. **John Dromazos**, a former member of the Order died earlier this year.

We remember all who have been infected with COVID-19, those who have recovered fully, those who have lasting after effects and those who have died. We pray for doctors, nurses, staff, aides, Emergency Medical technicians, fire fighters and police who encounter and care for those with Covid-19. May God continue to sustain them as they do the best they can to care for those who have become sickened. We also give thanks for those who must go to work and be out in public due to their necessary careers.

We pray for our world as we face a diversity of dread diseases without a cure and for those who still die of other diseases for which we have a cure. We pray for those whose life calling is to do research to treat the many maladies we currently have identified and for those we may face in the future.

We pray for the church universal which has been challenged by the need to adapt to new requirements. May we

continue to offer the gospel of Jesus Christ, both by our words and our caring actions. We pray for all involved in ministry that each may be strengthened by the love of God as they seek to be faithful in rapidly changing circumstances.

We pray for those who find being alone a great burden. May we each do all we can to reach out to those who are homebound.

We pray for our Order as we prepare for our 75th anniversary this fall. May God continue to bring to us those who share our love for God, the church, and liturgy.

Gracious God of many names, who has blessed us so richly in the past, we come to you with heavy hearts. Many of us have lost loved ones and acquaintances. Some of us have been sickened by diverse illnesses and through the work of the medical community have been brought back to good health. Others have watched helplessly when our loved ones had to be cared for in isolation. We lament the loss of community at our churches by not being able to gather as we once did.

We are seeing a world that universally is being sorely tried by the pandemic. We yearn for the day when all persons will have access to a vaccination and not just those who are privileged to live in the richer countries of the world. We look to you, God, for grace to sustain us as we care for those in need: those who hunger, those who thirst for clean water; those who yearn for fair wages for their work; those who lack a safe place to live; and those who seek to be treated with the dignity each person deserves as your beloved sons and daughters.

Open our eyes, O God, to be aware that your Spirit is continually bringing new life in our world. Open our ears to hear the cry of the despairing, who feel there is no hope for them. Open our

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FROM THE CHANCELLOR GENERAL

I am thankful for Br. Joshua (Aidan) Allison and his help with data entry this season! I am thankful for sibling generosity as we could not do the work of the Order without your generous donations. Due to my retirement from ministry, effective June 30, 2021, the “office” of the Order of Saint Luke is relocating to:

810 Fries Mill Road
Franklinville, NJ 08322
oslchancellor@gmail.com
609-364-9187

My home in Franklinville has been where Ron resides while keeping his law practice as I have itinerated over several parts of New Jersey. It is also

the place where I have been able to spend some staycations and days off. When I entered ministry, we kept our home and while I am saddened to leave the City of Cape May, I am thankful to have a place for retirement; a place that allows me to move my things home slowly. Fries Mill Road has family: one brother is .5 mile away and my daughter's family is one mile away. It's the place Ethan and Maddie call the “red house” because we had red garage doors. My parents and many in the Atkinson family are buried in the nearby Porchtown UMC cemetery. It's home.

Over the next few months, I will be relocating all things OSL, so feel free to

Sr. Jeanette Block, OSL,
oslchancellor@gmail.com

use the new address. Pray for this transition. Br. Scott Alford is still receiving our mail from one vendor so we need many prayers to effectuate the move.

Blessings and peace,

Sr. Jeanette Block



Sr. Jeanette Block



Pastoral Care

Continued from Page 6

hearts to care for others beyond our own bubbles of familiarity, safety, and comfort.

We confess to you O God, that we act as though there is no way forward for us, for the church, for our world, when you are a God who makes a way through the seas and through the deserts. Prepare us for the journey ahead. Strip away all that burdens and impedes us from following You. We ask all these prayers in the strong name of our Savior. Amen.

Contemplating the Rule: Apostolic Hope

Continued from Page 6

willing “kenosis,” or emptying, that facilitates taking on flesh to experience the fullness of life as one of God’s creations, a human being.

Then there’s the moment of Jesus’ conception, as the Archangel Gabriel tells Mary in Luke 1:35a: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you...” (NRSV). Often, we overlook that important comma between two clauses, which typically indicates two separate actions. Theologian Jurgen Moltmann asserts that this passage can be read as a circumstance in which the wombs of the feminine Spirit and the human woman “conjoined,” enabling Jesus’ conception as a being both divine and human. We don’t know how to explain this in human terms; we can only attest to its reality in poetic metaphor. The accounts of Jesus’ wisdom and compassion, his ministries of healing and teaching, demonstrate that he was a being simultaneously human and godly.

We aren’t Jesus, but scripture and tradition both hold that our task as disciples is to aspire to the ideals that Jesus exem-

plified. We know that as humans we will fall short of Jesus’ nature, and yet we continue to strive toward the goal of love expressed through service.

The most poignant aspect of our first vow for me, especially over this past year of coronavirus pandemic, comes in contemplation of Jesus’ death. During Lent we begin to imagine the pain Jesus endured out of love for humanity. The mind boggles at the prospect that a being possessed of divine nature, present since the beginning of time, willingly accepted human death, and death through one of the most agonizing methods possible. This vision of love confronts us at every turn when we encounter our own deaths, what the Jesuits sometimes term our “existential poverty.” We will die, not in the same manner that Jesus died, but our lives will end. Jesus’ example gives us the courage to face dying and death, perhaps the most mysterious experience of human existence.

How does this first vow of the Rule of Life and Service speak to you in your own faith journey? Send your thoughts to me at spirit60cba@gmail.com; they’ll be shared in the next issue of The Font.

Order of Saint Luke Publications

Meet the Authors Series in March 2021

“OFFERTORY, SANCTUS, EPICLESIS as Resources for Proclamation”

with Dick Eslinger, OSL

March 11, 18, 25, 2021 2:00-3:30pm (Eastern time)
(Optional follow-up Friday afternoon sermon workshop 2:00-3:30PM,
March 12, 19, 26)

Registration Deadline March 2s, 2021 (Open both laity and clergy)

Registration Form

(please print legibly or type entries)

Name: _____ Email Address _____

Mailing Address for book delivery:

Street Address or PO Box _____

City _____

State/Province _____

Zip/Postal Code _____

Email address for ZOOM link delivery: (check 1)

☐ Registering for the seminar on Thursdays only

☐ Registering for the seminar and sermon workshop (Thursday and Fridays)

(If you want CEUs for the sessions inclusive of the Thursday and Friday sessions – six sessions—please indicate here.)

Registration: \$25 inclusive of Preaching the Holy Mystery (select your method of payment)

☐ Check payable to The Order of Saint Luke

☐ Credit Card:

(MasterCard or Visa only)

Name on Credit Card: _____

Credit Card #: _____

Email Address: _____

Expiration: _____

ZOOM link will be sent to registrants on the Sunday before the first session and each successive week.

Send registration to Sr. Jeanette Block, Chancellor General, oslchancellor@gmail.com or by snail mail to Sr. Jeanette Block, OSL, 401 Provincetown Road, Cape May, NJ 08204

For OSL only:

☐ registration date _____ ☐ PHM book sent (date) _____ ☐ CEU requested