



THE FONT

FALL-WINTER 2022

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS WITHIN THE ORDER OF SAINT LUKE

RETREAT 2022

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

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FROM THE ABBOT

My Siblings,

Greetings to you in this New Year. It's hard to believe that Advent is upon us. Wasn't Easter just a few weeks ago? But from my office window I can see snow on top of Mount Baldy – a sure sign of winter's approach.

Even though colder weather is here, my heart is still warmed when I think about our retreat in October in



**Sr. Abbot
Elizabeth Moore**

Scottsdale. It was a very important event for me, and I hope it was the same for all of you who were able to attend. I knew when we decided to meet there that the location was beautiful and that the staff would take very good care of us. I knew that my friend Bob Hurd would lead us in thought-provoking conversation. What I could not have known until we gathered was the amazing, Spirit-filled atmosphere that would surround us from the first moment to the last of our time together.

We had many who were attending our OSL Retreat for the first time, and the age range of attendees was amazing. I believe that we may have set a record for our youngest attendee – (Leah was seven months old when we met. Her presence was such a joy.) We were blest with two Hickman Award winners from this year. And at the same time, we enjoyed the wisdom of several white-haired octogenarian elders who have attended our retreat for decades. New friendships flourished, and old friendships were strengthened. What a blessing!

That diversity of ages and life experiences greatly enriched our retreat. A commitment to living a sacramental life bound us together across all our myriad differences. Every worship experience was a joy. The Holy Spirit was clearly present. I am so grateful to everyone who attended, and pray that I will see you again, along with many others, in Pittsburgh

next October.

In the weeks since the retreat there has been a marvelous increase in the conversations on our Facebook groups. Br. Scot Bontrager is spearheading the effort to move forward with an updated, improved web-accessed Daily Office. I am delighted to see the number of people who are stepping up to help with this. An online daily office has been a dream of the Daily Office Revision Team for many years. How blessed we are to have Br. Scot and a team of new members who can turn this dream into a reality!

Several important leadership changes were announced at the meeting of the General Chapter. We thanked Br. David Eichelberger for his years of faithful service as our Pastoral Care Officer and welcomed Sr. Dianne Tobey Covault as she assumed that role going forward. We also welcomed Sr. Celia Halfacre as our new Chaplain General, assuming that function from Sr. Dianne.

In addition to these shifts in leadership, we also created a new position. During the height of our Covid shutdown we had multiple online worship services, allowing us to gather in a way we had never before experienced. As we have begun to emerge from Covid, we have realized that such online gatherings serve a purpose for us far beyond Covid relief. We are a dispersed community. As much as I love our retreats, they will always only reach a small percentage of our membership. The time and cost of travel will forever be a limitation. But our Covid days have taught us how to worship together from wherever we are. Therefore, in addition to our Chaplain General for times when we are gathered, we decided to name a Chaplain General for when we can “gather” to worship together virtually. Sr. Kimberley Greway has accepted that position. I look forward to working with her this coming year as we design monthly gatherings for all our members.

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FROM THE PASTORAL CARE OFFICER

Sr. Mary Balinda (Dianne) Tobey Covault

The Lord be with you! At our October 2022 retreat, I was appointed by Sr. Abbot Elizabeth as the new Pastoral Care Officer upon the retirement of Br. David Eichelberger from this role. I'd first like to thank Br. David for his many years of service in this office and his faithful prayers, his updates from our community, and his work.

When I became active in the Order in 2006, our Pastoral Care Officer was Br. Thomas Beveridge of blessed memory. Br. Tom was a licensed pastoral counselor and brought his expertise to the office. He also brought his gentle spirit, his quick wit, his empathetic listening skills, and much more. When Sr. Abbot approached me about taking on this role, I referred to Br. Tom, whom I consider a mentor. I hope to at least approach his wonderful spirit in this role.

I am not a licensed counselor. I have worked with youth in the church since 1991 as a layperson and was ordained in 2015 as a United Methodist Elder. I cur-

rently pastor a small Spirit filled urban church on the west side of Cleveland Ohio. I have a passion for empathetic listening, ever since I read the works of the therapist Dr. Carl Rogers in 1983. Yes, I am old!

Br. Luke Francis Sojourner, AKA Abbe Daniel Benedict has requested prayer for him and his beloved wife, **Sr. MaryO Benedict**, as they deal with her health.

I invite you to contact me by email at dianne.covault@gmail.com or cell phone (call or text) 216-509-4229 if you are in need of prayer, a non-judgmental, confidential, compassionate listener, or just someone to commiserate with about the state of the world! I look forward to hearing from you. No concern is too small, or too big, for our God.

I close as I always do, with the words spoken so many times in Scripture,

Fear Not,
Sr. Mary Balinda
aka Sr. Dianne Tobey Covault

FROM THE CHAPLAIN GENERAL

Sr. Celia Halfacre

Grace and peace to you, my beloved siblings. I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. When Sr Abbot called me to consider stepping into the role of chaplain general, I was pretty sure she had the wrong number and the wrong sibling. Nonetheless, here I am. Let me tell you a little about myself.

When I meet a new congregation, I tell them this essential truth to know about me. It will help our relationship for you if you know it as well. I absolutely do not take myself seriously . . . at all. I firmly believe that God would

call someone like me into ordained ministry is proof of God's sense of humor. I almost always have a running monologue (sometimes dialogue) of silliness flailing about in my head. That said, I hold the work I do in service to the Lord with great seriousness and import. I am excited to get to serve the order in a new way for me, and I pray you will have patience with me as I learn the workings of this position. Until we see each other again, in person or virtually, know that I hold you all in prayer. I hope you will do the same for me.

Sr. Celia Halfacre

FROM THE CHANCELLOR GENERAL

Thank you all for your prompt submission of your Affirmations and for using the website to renew. It makes my tasks easier and saves us postage. I hope that all of our international members will continue to use the website.

Your continued generosity allows The Order to continue its mission and ministry. If you have any questions or any need to reach me, please feel free to email at oslchancellor@gmail.com or call me at 609-364-9187.

Blessings to all for the holidays,
Sr. Jeanette

Contact Information:

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FROM THE ABBOT

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Please give Sr. Kimberly your full support in this venture.

On a personal note, many of you have been aware that I have been struggling with spinal stenosis for the past several years. I had surgery for this on November 1. All the saints were clearly hovering over my surgeon because the results have been amazing. I am recovering quickly and with almost no pain. I have some minor limitations for a few months, but I am feeling great. My thanks for the prayers that surrounded me.

As we enter the Christmas season, please take time to take care of yourself. Find time to rest during Advent. Let the joy of the Incarnation surround you and those you love.

Under God's mercy,
Abbot Elizabeth

Happy New Year!

FROM THE PROVINCIAL GENERAL

Sr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson
hjosselyn@hotmail.com

Please pray for the chapters and associations of the Order of Saint Luke:

For the **Charles Mosebrook Chapter**, and prior Sr. Lynn Basan, as its members partner together together with the Order of the Knights of Rizal in supporting back-to-school programs in Central Luzon.

For the **Singapore Chapter**, and prior Br. Anthony Goh, as the members begin reconnecting after the pandemic. The chapter particularly asks prayers that God would keep all people safe despite war and rumors of war.

For the **Illinois Great Rivers Chapter**, and prior Br. Mick Laflin, as members continue their monthly gatherings. The chapter asks our prayers for the return of inactive members and for more vocations to the Order of Saint Luke.

For the **Winged Ox Association**, and leader Br. David Collette, as they gather virtually for prayers each week. The chapter asks our prayers for Br. David's surgery, for Taylor Nauta's entry into the Order, and for discernment regarding a possible physical chapter in Bend.

For the **Cal-Pac Chapter**, and its

prior Br. George Martzen, as they meet weekly for prayers. The chapter asks our prayers for Br. George's possible lung transplant and for Br. Bob Davis.

For the **Hoyt Hickman Memorial Chapter**, and its prior Sr. Kimberly Greway, as they have received new member Br. Blaine Wenger. The chapter asks our prayers for health concerns, new appointments, and retirements.

For the **Koinonia Chapter**, and its prior Br. Aidan, as they hold quarterly chapter meetings and weekly prayer.

For the **Perkins School of Theology Chapter**, and its faculty advisor Br. Mark Stamm and functioning prior Br. Aidan, as they offer worship on campus and hold weekly prayer.

For the (not yet officially recognized) **Mid-Atlantic Chapter**, as they hold weekly prayers by Zoom. The group asks our prayers for following the guidance of the Spirit in discernment.

For the **Trinity Chapter**, and its prior Br. Scot Bontrager, as they emerge from pandemic hibernation. The chapter asks our prayers for its new prior Br. Scot and for Sr. Magdalene Ruth (Cynthia) Astle,

its new sub-prior.

For the **New Jersey Chapter**, and its prior Sr. Debbie Neil, as they discuss Joan Chittister's Awakenings at monthly discussions. The chapter asks our prayers for family members struggling with addiction, for those with health issues, and for the predicament of the UMC.

For the **Philippines Chapter**, and its prior Br. Ador Tolentino, as they maintain multiple active sub-chapters. They held a National Convocation in mid-October on Sacramental Spirituality.

For the **St. Francis Chapter**, and its prior Sr. Alice Kay Lovelace, as they resume live meetings after COVID. The chapter asks our prayers for a journey toward the renewed vitality of the Chapter.

For the **Upper New York Chapter**, and its prior Br. Brett Johnson. The chapter asks our prayers for discernment concerning the leadership and direction of the group.

For the **Dayspring Chapter**, and its prior Sr. Laura King, as they continue weekly prayers over Zoom.

MOMENT FOR MEDITATION



In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

... All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

— Luke 2: 1-7 (abridged)

Le Breton, Jacques ; Gaudin, Jean. Nativity, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/ink.pl?RC=51556> [retrieved December 13, 2022]. Original source: Image donated by Jim Womack and Anne Richardson.

IN THE COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS 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 1	Br. Clifford Harrison Field, Jr., (2020) New York Annual Conference
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. Bennie (Ben) Frank Youngblood (1988) California, Cal-Pac Chapter
	Br. Jim M. Farrell (2002) Ohio
	Br. John James Dromazos (2020) Susquehanna Conference
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 27	Br. Lawrence (Ty) Anthony Kane, III, (2021) Wautoma, Wisconsin
November 30	Sr. Mabel Ethel Sigmon Doser (2015) Western North Carolina Annual Conference
December 1	Br. Mark R. Babb (2020) Michigan 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) 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 27	Br. Rodney Craig Bennett (2019) Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference (past Prior of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of OSL)
January 29	Br. Don Brown (2013) New Jersey (former president)
January 30	Br. Steven Linnard Sullivan (2022) East Ohio Annual Conference
January 31	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

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Mariam Louise Olson (1929 – 2019)

Sr. Miriam Louise Olson, born March 20, 1929, was raised the daughter of the Rev. Gotthard Burton and Miriam Burton, the first of two children. She and her sister Elsa grew up in a Lutheran parsonage in Geneseo, Illinois. As small children, she and Elsa were often bundled into the backseat of the car to accompany their parents when they went calling on the sick and elderly. From a young age, her dream was to become a medical missionary to China.



Sr. Miriam Olson

In her first year at nearby Augustana College she met George “Bud” Olson, and they were wed in 1949, three days after Bud’s ordination into the ministry. They had a call to China with the understanding that they would go to Japan if the situation in China did not improve. A year of Chinese at Yale was followed by a summer of intensive Japanese in 1950. Miriam and Bud set sail for Japan that fall.

The fourteen years that followed found the two in Hiroshima City, still rebuilding from the atomic bombing, and then in the unchurched rural county east of the city working with Japanese pastors in church planting. Missionary work

Requiescat in Pace

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

for Sr. Miriam involved directing junior and adult choirs, playing the organ at services, and helping with the women’s society. In 1962 she was asked to be part of a committee formed to produce a hymnal for the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, and this became her passion for most of the remaining decade, even as the family moved to Tokyo in 1966.

In her last 18 years of her service in Japan, Sr. Miriam worked with the telephone counseling service for expatriates called Tokyo English Life Line (TELL). She served as assistant director of TELL from 1974 to 1976 and director from 1976 to 1989. The training, supervision and coordination of volunteers, and directing the expanding services provided by TELL gave her many opportunities for personal growth and embracing diversity.

The Olsons retired after 40 years in Japan and moved into Pilgrim Place in Claremont, CA. in 1991. During her initial years she maintained her love of bird watching and published a booklet, “Birds in our Neighborhood.” Active in a wide variety of committees, Miriam

was the Town Meeting Moderator in 2000. Throughout her life, Sr. Miriam was an avid musician, playing the piano since the age of 5 and learning the harp in her mid-70’s. She practiced the harp diligently for hours and through Christmas Eve 2018 played regularly at various worship services, as well as for the sick and elderly within Pilgrim Place and the surrounding community. Miriam loved the meditative nature of the Taizé service and was instrumental in bringing it to Good Shepherd Lutheran, where she and Bud were active members since their arrival to Claremont. She was a member of the Order of Saint Luke.

On September 9, 2019, Sr. Miriam Olson departed this life to be with our Lord. Her husband Bud preceded her in death in July 2011. At the time of her death, Miriam was survived by her sister, Elsa in Wilmington, DE; three children, Tami Haas in Scottsdale, AZ, Tina Gano in Ashland, OR, and Tim Olson in Valencia, Spain; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Requiescat in pace, Sister Miriam Louise Olson, as we remember you.

Sources: Ancestry.com. U.S., Find a Grave Index, 1600s-Current [database online]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Claremont, CA; Abbot Elizabeth Moore, OSL

IN THE COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS

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

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February 27 Br. Forest Wilbur Shue, Sr. (2007) New Jersey

- March 3 Br. Buford James George, (2020) Northern New Jersey Annual Conference
- March 6 Br. Neil Oswald Eriksen, (2022) Greater New Jersey Annual Conference
- March 9 Br. Alvin Chester Rose, (2017) Great Plains Annual Conference
- March 11 Br. Ralph Marsden Kitley (2008) North Carolina
- March 18 Br. Matthew Burroughs (2018) Louisiana
- March 19 Br. Thomas Frederick Tracewell (2011) Alabama
- March 20 Br. Paul Rogers (2003) California
- March 25 Br. S. James Schmittle, Sr. (2018) Pennsylvania (former president)
- March 30 Br. Timothy (Tim) J. Crouch (2005) Ohio

A request: If you or your chapter are aware of other deceased members of the Order, I'd be grateful if you could send 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.

FROM THE PRIOR GENERAL

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

2022 Retreat Wrap-Up

It was a delight to have two Hoyt L. Hickman Award recipients at this year's Annual Retreat in Scottsdale, Arizona. Sharon Britz, a graduate of Gammon Theological Seminary, and Abbie Peper, a graduate from St. Paul School of Theology, delighted us with their participation and enthusiasm for the Order. The process for naming recipients for the 2023 Hickman Award will get underway in early February. If all participate, 19 seminaries will present the award during the Spring "graduation season."

Thirty-eight attendees enjoyed hearing from our Retreat speaker, Bob Hurd,

as he addressed the theme "Exploring Sacramental Spirituality." As he spoke he used several selections of his liturgical music. In one session, he compared the Roman Catholic Eucharistic Prayer to one from our Book of Offices and Services, highlighting similarities and contrasts.

Every day began with Morning Prayer at Alta Ramada, an outdoor worship space that renewed the senses with its desert beauty. A pool party and cook-out was another feature of our week together, and the relaxed pace of the schedule was appreciated by many. Worship, always a highlight of the Retreat, moved with the memorial service,



Debi Thomas, Retreat Speaker 2023

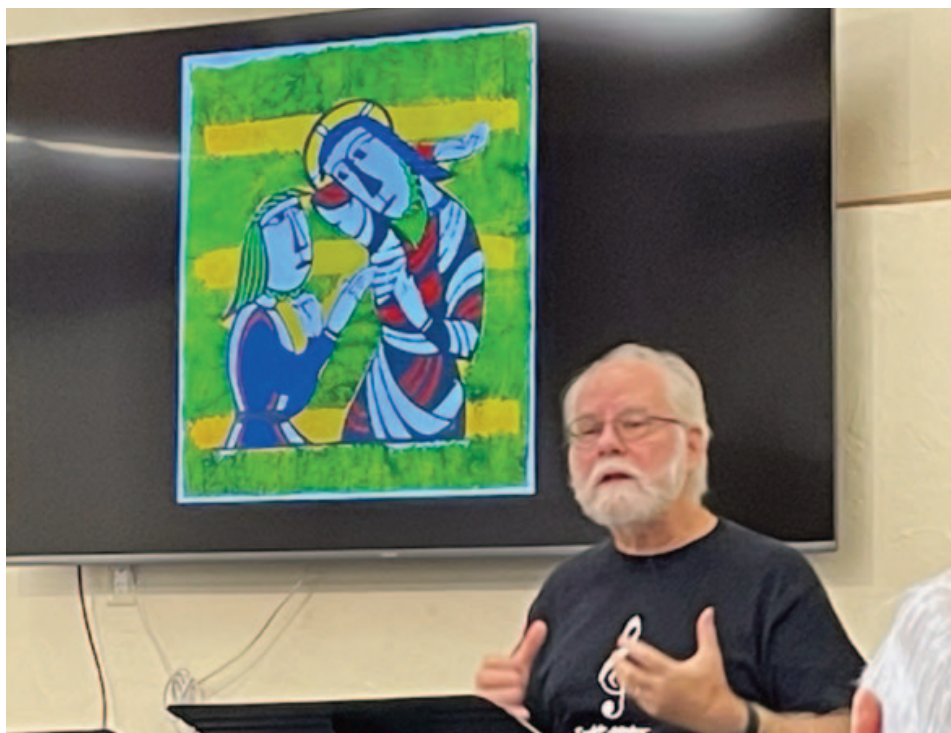
a service of healing, and a variety of preachers and celebrants, scriptures and styles of music.

Looking Ahead

The 2023 Spring Council meeting will take place May 8-11. We will return to St. Paul of the Cross, 148 Monastery Ave., Pittsburgh, PA. Siblings with responsibilities for our work areas are expected to attend, but all members of the Order are welcome. This includes chapter priors (or their representatives), our canons, and those eager to learn more about the Order.

Likewise, our 2023 Retreat of the Order of Saint Luke will be held October 16-19 at St. Paul of the Cross. Our presenter will be Debi Thomas, a columnist for the weekly webzine *Journey with Jesus* and a contributing editor for *The Christian Century*. Her Topic for our Retreat: "Sacred Connection: Engaging Spiritual Practices in a Turbulent World." Her first book, *Into the Mess and Other Jesus Stories*, was published last Spring by Cascade Books. Her published work includes spiritual memoir, book reviews, and reflections on the Revised Common Lectionary. She also serves as the Minister or Life-long Formation at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Palo Alto, CA.

Plan now to be with us in October. Set aside your continuing education funds, professional business expenses, and other financial resources to join your Siblings at Retreat!



Retreat 2022 guest speaker Bob Hurd, (seen above) a teacher and liturgist in various pastoral and academic settings, led us through the theme of "Exploring Sacramental Spirituality." Bob's sessions were divided into three parts:

God: In the Secret of Our Hearts and Through Others

Finding Ourselves in the World

Eucharist: Entering Into the Self-Emptying Compassion of Jesus

A Catholic composer, teacher, liturgist, and author, Bob accompanied himself on guitar and got us all singing – something we Lukans love to do!

Bob was assisted by his genial and gracious wife, Pia Moriarty, who took pictures, passed out resource material and provided any other help needed. We are deeply grateful for the time both of them spent with us on retreat.

2022 Retreat Brings Study, Worship and Community



Hoyt Hickman honoree Abby Peper walks the labyrinth at Franciscan Renewal Center.

Photo by Sr. Hilde (Cheryl) Gates



Br. Scot Bontrager, Trinity Chapter Prior, carries the icon of Saint Luke for the Profession of Vows service.

Photo by Sr. Hilde (Cheryl) Gates



Provincial General Sr. Heather Josselyn-Cranson “smokes” Abbot Elizabeth Moore with incense prior to the Profession of Vows service.

Photo by Sr. Magdalene Ruth (Cynthia) Astle



Wherever there's food, there are Lukans. How many of these siblings can you name?

Photo by Sr. Hilde (Cherlyn) Gates



Morning Prayer was held daily at the outdoor chapel at Franciscan Retreat Center. Even when the sounds of the world intruded on worship, a sense of the sacred was still present.

Photo by Sr. Hilde (Cherlyn) Gates



Smile, Br. Brendan (Dwight) Vogel! You're on OSL's Candid Camera!

Photo by Sr. Hilde (Cherlyn) Gates

Minutes of General Chapter Meeting

Minutes of Chapter Meeting October 5 2022 11 a.m at Franciscan Renewal Center Scottsdale Aa

Present: Sr. Heather Josselyn-Cranston, Sr. Abbot Elizabeth Moore, Br. George Crisp, Br. Gil Stones, Br. Christopher Montgomery, Sr. Beryl Moore, Br. Jim DuFriend, Sr. Diana DuFriend, Sr. Annie McGregor Meek and Leah Meek, Sr. Elinor Bayse, Sr. Dianne Tobey Covault, Sr. Celia Halfacre, Br. Robert-George Schall, Sr. Kimberly Greway, Br. Derek Kubilus, Br. French Ball, Sharon Britz, Rob Hermann, Sr. Hilde (Cherlyn) Gates, Sr. Laura King, Sr. Magdalene Ruth (Cynthia) Astle, Abby Peper, Sr. Debbie Neill, Br. John Melick, Sr. Barbara Troxell, Br. Lee Cunningham, Br. Scot Bontrager, Br. Brendan (Dwight) Vogel, Sr. Barbara Blackmon-Fortune, Br. Bil Blackmon-Fortune.

Reports

Chancellor

Approved \$500 for Chaplain General of Online Worship, St. Isadore

Provincial General

Pray for the prayer requests listed on the report.

Sr. Heather happy to help new chap-

ters form.

Correction - Dayspring meets every Tuesday night and Thursday morning

Periodicals

Need a paid staff person for Doxology - deferred until Spring Council meeting when Br. Jonathan can be part of the discussion

The Font

Pay-as-you-go Mail Chimp to reduce costs for distribution was approved.

Life Vows

Sr. Debbie Neill gave her Life Vows testimony.

Chaplain General

Thanks to Sr. Celia Halfacre for accepting this position and to Sr. Kimberly Greway for accepting the office of Chaplain General for digital worship.

Director of Acquisitions and Author Relations for OSL Publications

"Living the Rule" will not be sold as a book but will be a downloadable PDF from the website.

Br. Mark Stamm is working on John Wesley's Prayerbook.

NAAL - we will not be selling books in person at the 2023 meeting due to its location in Canada.

Sr. Heather asked that we have a "dis-

count code" or other means to advertise to NAAL attendees

Request for co-director approved
Daily Office Revision Team

Lukan Daily Lectionary coming out soon

Seekers, Inquirers and Discerners
More inquirers!

Historian/Our Story Project

Abbot plans to appoint some positions of folks who are working hard on this

Other Business

Abbot Elizabeth noted limited attendance at General Council Meetings and Retreats are likely caused by conflict with academic calendars. Retreat needs to be on/near St. Luke's Feast Day in October. Should we reschedule Council? Four factors influence a change in location:

Accommodations' proximity to airport

Rooms with private bathrooms

Celebration at altar

Meeting space

The minutes in the Book of Reports were approved as submitted.

Recorder: Sr. Mary Balinda (Dianne) Tobey Covault.



In-Person Gathering for Manila Subchapter

In November, the Manila Subchapter of The Order of Saint Luke's Philippines Chapter held its first in-person gathering since the global coronavirus pandemic began in 2020. The quarterly business meeting drew a good attendance.

The Philippines Chapter is unique in the Order because it covers the entire country by organizing subchapters in various regions. This allows our Philippines siblings to get together without excessive travel expense, according to Br. Gilmartin Guerrero.

Photo from Br. Gilmartin's Facebook Page

Philippines Chapter Plants Trees to Care for Earth



The Philippines Chapter supported the Southern Tagalog Provisional Philippines Annual Conference in its "Tree Planting for a Cause" at Sitio Tinambulan, Barangay (village) Pinagsakayan, Calauag town, Quezon Province. Siblings all over the country sent financial help, and four brother – Br. Oliver Pineda P. OSL, Br. Marven Nevram Chavarria OSL, Br. Prior Ador To'lentino, OSL, and Br. Gilmartin Guerrero OSL – were present for the actual planting. "We are not just about liturgy, we also care for the Earth!" Br. Gilmartin wrote in his Facebook post.

Photos Courtesy of Br. Gilmartin Guerrero



Sharing OSL support for the tree planting project with a banner.



And after tree planting – ice cream!