



THE FONT

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS WITHIN THE ORDER OF SAINT LUKE

ABBOT'S LETTER

I'm writing to you all from the airport, on my way home from retreat. The glow of warm companionship and rich worship is mingling with thoughts of work to do once I get home... But I wanted to share a particular phrase that struck me during our service of Profession of Vows this morning.

Each of the five siblings who took life vows today declared their promise to live out the Rule of Life and Service for their entire lives. At the end of that promise, each person read the words "May the grace of the Holy Spirit, the example of the apostles, and the bonds of this community always be my help."

"The bonds of this community..." Community does bring boundaries and bonds with it. When we join a community, we are surrendering (at least in part) our individualistic freedom. We agree to live together with one another and to curtail our actions and words in respect to the needs of others. Whereas our culture preaches the desirability of boundless freedom, those of us in the Order have chosen to submit to the bonds of community.

But we recognize that community bonds also provide strength and assistance. Assembled together, we can support one another. We rely on the wisdom that each member brings, and we find orientation through the guidance of the community. In addition to the help that we find in God and in our tradition (in the scriptures and the examples of those who have gone before), we find true comfort and succor in "the bonds of this community" – in our relationships with one another.

If you are a member of the Order and these bonds seem imperceptible to you, please reach out to me. There are myriads of ways that OSL members can connect with one another: physical meetings of geographically-oriented chapters but also prayer over Zoom, phone calls with companions or Accountability partners, participation in on-line worship opportunities each month, service as a companion to an Inquirer... It takes encouragement and support to live out our Rule of Life and Service. We all deserve to feel connected to other members of the Order, and together we can find ways to participate in the mutual sustenance that the Order can provide.

Yours, sincerely grateful for the many ways that I feel the bonds of this community,

Abbot Heather

FROM THE NEW PROVINCIAL GENERAL

Hello, siblings! If we haven't met yet, I am Br. Brett, your new Provincial General. I hope to be in contact with priors and provincial companions soon to see how I can support your work and encourage greater connection within the Order. But for now, I have some exciting news from our 2024 Retreat!

We had four siblings profess their vows for the first time! Join me in welcoming:

- Sr. Marrienne Brown
- Sr. Linda Arlene Hoxit
- Br. Randy Loy
- Sr. Fairburn Powers

We also had five siblings profess life vows! Join me in celebrating

- Br. Scot Bontrager
- Br David Collette, who took the name Br. William
- Sr. Laura King
- Br. Christopher Montgomery
- Br. Warren Colie

Feel free to reach out to me at brett.isernhagen@gmail.com if you ever have questions about associations, chapters, or getting better connected.

FROM THE PRIOR GENERAL

Greetings Beloved Siblings! I pray you are well. I want you to know your officers have been feverishly emailing back and forth to plan our retreat next October.

Please put these dates on your calendar – October 20-23, 2025.

We will gather at the Mercy Conference and Retreat Center in St. Louis, MO. I encourage you to look at their website (<https://www.mercycenterstl.org>) as you begin to plan your sojourn to the Midwest. What kind of fun and shenanigans might we get up to there?

Please know I hold you all in prayer, as I trust you are praying for one another. When we are apart, we are together in prayer.

Sr. Celia Halfacre

FROM THE CHAPLAIN GENERAL - Ways to Connect with Your Siblings

New OSL WhatsApp Community

The Order of St. Luke now has an official Community on WhatsApp. WhatsApp is a free messaging app that allows users to send text messages, make voice and video calls, and share photos, videos, and documents. It's available on smartphones and can also be accessed on a computer. WhatsApp uses your phone's internet connection to send messages so there are no fees, even if you are texting or calling internationally.

In our OSL WhatsApp community, you'll find a General chat room, an Announcements room, and a room for each Chapter or Association. Feel free to join whichever ones interest you. Chapters can use their chat to remind folks of upcoming chapter meetings, share prayer needs, start discussions, or share liturgies. Monday Compline recently reminded folks in their chat that they would begin Compline in 10 minutes, and they doubled their usual attendance!

We'll use the General room for Order-wide discussions and the Announcement room for information on upcoming all-Order online liturgies or other events.

You can join the OSL WhatsApp community by clicking this link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/Bc56RdFqpOeHf037kPZ7jF> If you're reading this newsletter on your computer and want to join the OSL WhatsApp Community on your phone, go to www.saint-luke.net on your phone and then click Get Involved. Choose WhatsApp Community and then you can either install WhatsApp or join the Community.

If you have any difficulty, Sr. Kimberly will hold a help session online on November 13th at 7:30pm Eastern at <https://meet.google.com/vdj-dxaa-eii>

Monthly OSL Online Liturgies

Did you know that the Order of Saint Luke hosts an online liturgy once per month that everyone is invited to? We gather together from all over, we pray and sing, we chat and catch up. Some of us vest in our habit; others wear their regular clothes; still others don't turn on their cameras.

The monthly online liturgies foster a sense of sense of community and shared spirituality for the whole Order that many of us crave in between Retreats. The times and days of the liturgies are varied so that members in all time zones will be able to join some of the liturgies.

Leadership of the liturgies rotates and anyone can volunteer. Sometimes a chapter leads; other times an individual or a pair will plan and conduct the liturgy. There are many resources to help plan liturgies such as our Bronze and Indigo books (<https://oslpublications.org/WADO>), WADO (www.saint-luke.net/wado), or your own resources.

To find the date/time/link for the next liturgies, please go to the Events tab on our website (www.saint-luke.net) or <https://saint-luke.net/events/online/>

Future Online Liturgies:

December – Advent Vespers – Led by the New Jersey Chapter

January – Led by the DaySpring Chapter

February – Led by the St. Julian Chapter

March – Led by the Mid Atlantic Chapter

To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/vdj-dxaa-eii>

Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 385-999-6292

Enter this PIN: 751 478 483#

To view more phone numbers, click this link: <https://tel.meet/vdj-dxaa-eii?hs=5>

If you would like to lead a liturgy, please contact Chaplain General Sr. Kimberly on WhatsApp (preferred) or at kgreway@stjohnsnorthversailles.com. I would love to have more than one liturgy per month, so if you would like to volunteer for a month that is already assigned, that is fine.

Your Chaplain General,

Sr. Kimberly Greway

In the Communion of Saints

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, UMC
November 4	Br. Norman Smith	(2006) New Jersey
November 4	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
November 18	Br. Jim M. Ferrell	(2002) Ohio
November 18	Br. John James Dromazos	(2020) Susquehanna Annual Conference, UMC
November 19	Sr. Ann Parker Albrecht	(2005) Northern Illinois Annual Conference, UMC, Canon of OSL
November 19	Br. Warren Gray Hoopes, Jr.	(2023) Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference, UMC
November 20	Br. Charles R. Hohenstein	(2017) Indiana
November 24	Br. Jim Jarling	(2008) New York
November 25	Br. William (Bill) Richard Doser	(2018) Western North Carolina Annual Conference, UMC
November 27	Br. Lawrence (Ty) Anthony Kane, III	(2021) Wautoma, Wisconsin

November 30	Sr. Mabel Ethel Sigmon Doser	(2015) Western North Carolina Annual Conference, UMC
December 1	Br. Mark R. Babb	(2020) Michigan Annual Conference, UMC
December 6	Br. John Conrad Wilkey	(2022) Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference, UMC
December 13	Br. O. Ray Fitzgerald	(2014) Baltimore, Cal-Pac
December 13	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 Annual Conference, UMC
December 19	Br. George Robert Martzen,	(2023) California-Pacific Annual Conference UMC
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 (past Prior of the Illinois Great Rivers Chapter of OSL)	(2020) Illinois, Great Rivers Annual Conference, UMC
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 30	Br. Steven Linnard Sullivan	(2022) East Ohio Annual Conference, UMC
January 31	Br. Vernon Lee Schmid	(2023) Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference, UMC
January	Br. Robert Brewster	(2020) Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada

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.