



# The Canticle

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Voice of  
The Community  
of St. Francis,  
Province of  
The Americas

## CSF—SSF—TSSF



The Franciscans invaded the Benedictines in force for two weeks in September. Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, New York, was the site of our international chapters. We are very grateful to the Order of the Holy Cross for their hospitality. We came from Africa and Australia, Papua New Guinea and Korea, England, Solomon Islands, New Zealand, and America. We were CSF Sisters, Society of St. Francis Brothers, members of the Third Order of the Society of St. Francis and assorted bishops and ecumenical guests — 50 of us in all.

The Monastery is very picturesquely situated on the Hudson River, right across the river from Hyde Park, home of the Roosevelts. The river was a startling penny-red from the mud that had been washed into it by Hurricane Irene which came through New York just prior to our chapter. Brothers and Sisters arriving from around the world came into uncertain travel situations, but we all managed to get there more or less on time.

The folks who came early and stayed at Little Portion Friary on Long Island had the special experience of no electricity or water (or plumbing) — and were especially happy to arrive at Holy Cross which had both water and electricity.

We met, we wrestled with issues, we revised our documents, we shared our stories, we formulated policy, we prayed, we ate, we sang, we danced, we walked around the grounds, we visited Hyde Park, we went on an historical pilgrimage, we remembered the 9/11 anniversary, we met old friends and made new friends, and we renewed our commitment to God and one another in this Franciscan vocation.

**The Society of St. Francis** is the “umbrella” name for our international community of Franciscans in the Anglican Communion. SSF is comprised of the First Order Brothers of the Society of St. Francis (commonly known as “SSF”); the First Order Sisters of the Society of St. Francis (commonly known as “CSF”); the Second Order Sisters of SSF (commonly known as the Poor Clares); and the Third Order of SSF (sometimes called Tertiaries).



The First Order SSF Sisters Chapter: *Back L:* Maureen, General Secretary; Sue and Christine James, European Province; Lynne and Maggie, American Province; *Front L:* Helen Julian, Minister European Province; Joyce, Minister General CSF; Pamela Clare, Minister American Province; Frances, Deputy Minister for Korea.



*Counter-Clockwise from above:*

The whole group, members of First Order Sisters and Brothers Chapters and Third Order Interprovincial Chapter.

Br. Clark, Minister General SSF admires the icon given to Sr. Joyce, Minister General CSF, in appreciation for her years of service as Minister.

9/11: Tenth anniversary vigil and peace service with the monks of Holy Cross Monastery.

Br. Jude, SSF Minister American Province with Bishop Nedi Rivera, Protector CSF American Province, and Br. Christopher John, General Secretary SSF.

Dorothy Brooker, TSSF Minister General, with Jim Puglisi, Minister General of the Society of the Atonement, one of our ecumenical guests.

Archbishop Roger Herft from Australia, our Protector General, leading the group in a discussion of the Anglican Covenant, with the help of Sr. Lynne as scribe.



## HISTORICAL PILGRIMAGE

*Pamela Clare CSF*

The Hudson Valley has two places closely tied to our beginnings as CSF, SSF and TSSF so we spent one day on an historical pilgrimage to Graymoor and Peekskill.



Sr. Eilish, SA, our tour guide at Graymoor.

### **Graymoor, home of the Society of the Atonement, Friars and Sisters, Garrison, New York**

It was very appropriate that Br. Jim Puglisi, SA, was with us for most of the Chapter. The beginnings of the Franciscan life in the American Episcopal Church began when The Rev. Lewis Wattson, rector of St. John's Church, Kingston-on-Hudson, felt that he was called to found a community dedicated to the Mystery of the Atonement. Sr. Lurana White, a member of the Sisterhood of the Holy Child Jesus at Albany, NY, was equally convinced that it was her vocation to establish a Franciscan community. The two of them together founded the Society of the Atonement in 1898. Although she was already a Sister, Lurana felt she needed more formation in Francis-

can poverty, so she spent a year in the novitiate with the Sisters of Bethany in London. There she met and made friends with Sr. Rosina Mary, another Sister who had an intense devotion to St. Francis and who longed to live the Franciscan life. Sr. Rosina left the Sisters of Bethany in 1905 to found the Community of St. Francis.

Meanwhile Sr. Lurana returned to America in 1898 and she and Lewis Wattson (who took the name of Fr. Paul) took up residence in two buildings at Graymoor. Mother Lurana was the one with the strong Franciscan vocation, and Fr. Paul felt called to promote Church Unity. This drive for Church Unity led Fr. Paul eventually to petition for the Society of the Atonement to be accepted as a body into communion with Rome, and to continue its corporate existence as part of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis. The friars and sisters were received into the Roman Church on 30 October 1909.

The loss of the Society of the Atonement to the Roman Catholic Church led directly to the re-founding of the Franciscan life within the Episcopal Church. Fr. Joseph (Claude Crookston) gathered a group beginning in 1908 to pray for a Franciscan Order in the Episcopal Church. They eventually discovered that it was they themselves who were called. In 1917 in Cincinnati, twenty of those who had been praying for a Franciscan Order adopted a Rule of Life and so became a Third Order. Membership of the First and Second Order was later to be drawn from these first teriaries. Fr. Joseph received training in the novitiate from the Society of St. John the Evangelist and officially began the Order of Poor Brethren of St. Francis on Holy Cross Day (14 September) 1919. The Order of Poor Brethren merged with the English Society of St. Francis in 1967. With this amalgamation of the English and American Franciscan communities and a new constitution in 1973, the world-wide Society of St. Francis came into being.



*Sr. Sue, CSF (England) climbing off one of the two yellow school buses that took us on our pilgrimage outing.*

### **The Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Peekskill, New York.**

In 1910 the news reached England that the Society of the Atonement had been received into the Roman Catholic Church. Upon receiving this news, Mother Rosina Mary was faced with a major decision. She had been agonizing over the words at the beginning of St. Francis' First Rule of the Friars Minor in which he promised obedience to the Pope. In the end she felt she must also submit to Roman obedience. Mother Rosina was in communication with Mother Lurana and in November 1910 Rosina and five other Sisters of the Community of St. Francis sailed for America, passage paid for by Mother Lurana. They intended to join the Society of the Atonement but the Roman Catholic authorities felt that these newcomers needed firm grounding in a more established Roman community and they were sent to the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart at Peekskill for their novitiate training. In the end, Mother Rosina Mary and Sr. Mary Claudia stayed at Peekskill. Two other CSF Sisters became Atonement Sisters, but eventually returned to England and to secular life. Rosina was professed in 1919 as Sr. Mary Magdalene, and spent the rest of her life at Peekskill. She died in 1946.



We were very warmly welcomed at both Graymore and Peekskill. One of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters, Sr. Frances Marie, the community archivist, had just celebrated her 100th birthday. She was sharp as a tack and was able to tell us stories about Mary Magdalene as she knew her when she herself was new to the community in the 1940s. Apparently Rosina was a formidable woman!

## Out and About with CSF

The weekly Interfaith Vigil for Peace recently observed its 10th anniversary and was honored by a proclamation from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. (The Vigil started after the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001). Srs. Maggie and Pamela Clare and other local members of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship are there with Quakers, Buddhists, and others on a regular basis. A local business publically expressed its appreciation last year. ↗

Sr. Lynne has begun a new ministry as Associate Priest at St. Paul's Church in Burlingame, CA. Her main work is pastoral and youth.

Srs. Maggie and Pamela Clare are again facilitating the Silent Retreat at the Bishop's Ranch this December for Advent.

The Family Link is celebrating its 25th anniversary this December. Sr. Ruth is founder and resident manager of this hospitality ministry for families and friends of people with life-threatening diseases.

This Fall Sr. Pamela Clare has been teaching an on-line course on "Domestic Poverty" for CALL (Center for Anglican Learning and Leadership at the Episcopal seminary in Berkeley, CDSF).



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We now have a FACEBOOK page.  
Check us out —  
Community of St. Francis American Province.

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