

The Canticle

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

Friends, Visitors, Associates

There are four qualities which characterize a friend: loyalty, right intention, discretion, and patience. Right intention seeks for nothing other than God and natural good. Discretion brings understanding of what is done on a friend's behalf, and ability to know when to correct faults. Patience enables one to be justly rebuked, or to bear adversity on another's behalf. Loyalty guards and protects friendships, in good or bitter times.

Abbot Aelred of Rievaulx, 12th c.

This issue of *The Canticle* focuses on our wider Franciscan family — our friends, our visitors, and associates. The Community of St. Francis, and even the larger group of the Society of St. Francis in all its forms, exists within a network of relationships.

Our small group of Sisters in San Francisco is part of the world-wide Society of St. Francis, comprised of Friars and Sisters who live in community (Society of St. Francis First Order), the Poor Clare Sisters (Second Order), and the Third Order Brothers and Sisters who live a Franciscan life in their families and in various occupations. This wider group provides us many of the qualities of friendship offered by Abbot Aelred.

Our community is surrounded by and supported by many friends. We have a guest apartment that provides accommodations for diverse visitors from around the world—everyone from the Archbishop of Canterbury to the most recently arrived refugees. We celebrate the Eucharist Tuesday through Friday mornings and welcome the people who come for prayer, fellowship and breakfast. We are especially grateful for the priests who preside at these liturgies week after week.

Our Associates and the Companions in Franciscan Spirituality are both discussed in the articles in this newsletter.

And finally, there are our friends who participate in our life and ministry through their generous gifts of time and monetary donations.

O God, we ask your blessings upon the good people who have been generous and kind to us. Go before them to lead them on their way through life. Come behind them that you might protect them from all danger. Hover over them that you may shower down on them your rich graces. But most especially, O God, come and dwell within them that you might fill them with your joy and peace. This we ask for them in the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. Amen.



Francis had friends and supporters, too. Two of his good friends were Count Orlando de Chiusi della Verna, who gave him a mountain as a hermitage site (La Verna), and Lady Jacoba Frangipani de Settesoli, who made his favorite almond sweets (frangipani or marzipan).



Sr. Jean CSF is Secretary for Associates of the Society of St. Francis. She will be retiring at the end of the year and we owe her a great debt of thanks for her care of our Associates.

In the early years of the 20th c. The Rev. Claude Crookston (Fr. Joseph) founded the Fraternity of St. Francis as a group of Associates of his newly formed community of Franciscan friars (The Order of Poor Brethren of St. Francis). The members of the Fraternity led a highly regulated and rigorous life under the direction of Fr. Joseph. After the merger of Fr. Joseph's order with the Society of St. Francis in 1967, the Fraternity was renamed "Associates" and Fr. Stephen SSF became the Secretary for Associates. Under his leadership the Associates took on a new lease on life. Fr. Stephen was followed in the role of Secretary first by Sr. Cecilia CSF, then Jean CSF, then Br. Justus SSF, Yvonne Hook TSSF, Br. Richard Jonathan SSF, Br. Derek SSF and then Sr. Jean again.

Sr. Jean was Secretary between 1990 and 2003 and then again since September of 2015 after the sudden death of Br. Derek. There is an Assistant Secretary in Trinidad & Tobago (The Rev. Alvin Best), and in Jamaica (Brenda Stewart TSSF). The Rev. Anita Catron Minor TSSF helps with Spanish and Portuguese-speaking Associates. The Rev. Gary Ost TSSF has been very helpful the past couple of years with his computer skills, as has Sr. Maggie CSF. In addition, a group of folks, mostly from the TSSF Chapter last year, also helped Jean conduct an opinion survey of Associates as part of the on-effort to make the Associates Program meet the needs of our Associates.

Sr. Jean says that the best part of being Secretary for Associates is reading the letters from Associates in which they share their lives, concerns, and ministries. She finds these very meaningful and she very much enjoys these contacts. She feels that the Associates are an important part of the Franciscan Family, being scattered around the hemisphere, spreading the Franciscan charism far and wide by their words and examples.

What is an Associate?

Most Religious Orders have Associates. The programs differ somewhat from community to community, but they all offer people the opportunity to share in the life, ministry and values of the Religious Order.

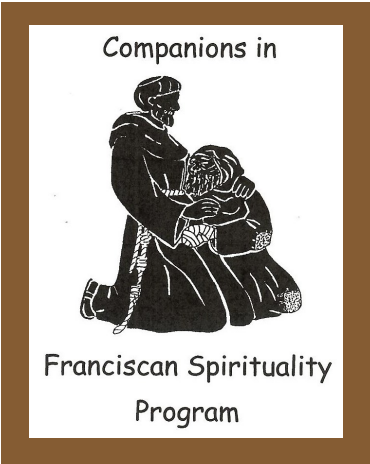
For SSF, our common Franciscan vocation (1st, 2nd, 3rd Orders and Associates) is expressed as three Aims:

- To make our Lord Jesus known and loved everywhere through the witness of our daily lives.
- To spread the spirit of love and unity within the family of God.
- To live simply in a spirit of good stewardship and generosity.

Our Associates come from many walks of life, a variety of ages, lay and clergy, married and single, men and women, Episcopalians and non-Episcopalians. Most are from the US, but others are from Canada, the West Indies, Puerto Rico, Honduras and Japan. Most have are very attracted to Francis of Assisi, many love animals, some have met and been inspired by Friars or Sisters or Third Order members. What they have in common is a desire for more depth in their spiritual lives and more meaning in their lives in the world. A basic part of being an Associate is living by a Rule of Life which each Associate writes according to their own life circumstances and goals. As Associates they are spiritual companions to hundreds of Franciscans of various stripes all over the Americas — and the world. See www.communitystfrancis.org/join_us for more information



One of our SSF Associates is The Rt. Rev. Nedi Rivera, pictured here with Br. Jude SSF and The Rev. Tom Johnson (Minister Provincial TSSF). Nedi is retiring as our Bishop Protector and we are very grateful for her support and continuing friendship.



From April 7 to 18 we held our second ten-day immersion as part of our Companions in Franciscan Spirituality Program. Hsieyun from San Francisco and Katja from Dixon, CA, shared Holy Week and our Easter celebration.

In addition to the relentless liturgies which are part of Holy Week, the Companions were trained in foot massage and took part in the Maundy Thursday foot massage event sponsored by the Care Through Touch Institute (CTI). This event involves teams of volunteers providing foot massage for homeless and poor residents of San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood. The volunteers worked at various social service agencies and programs in the area with which CTI is associated. Hsieyun and Katja worked with Sr. Pamela Clare at St. Boniface RC Church, where the Gubbio Project offers a safe place to sleep or rest on the pews between 6 am and 3 pm daily.

At the end of the program, Katja said that her experience of the Immersion reinforced all that she has always loved about Francis of Assisi.



Hsieyun Butler Yang and Katja Edgar, Companions in Franciscan Spirituality for the Holy Week/Easter Immersion Program.



Holy Eucharist St. Francis House, Tuesday through Friday, 7:45 am, followed by a simple breakfast at 8:20 am. All are welcome!

(Upper L) The Rev. Dominic George TSSF presided at our Maundy Thursday dinner table liturgy.

Some of our friends who join us for Eucharist during the week:

(Lower L) The Rev. Gary Ost TSSF is a regular presider in our chapel. Darien DeLorenzo and Beverly Edge frequently join us, as do The Rev. Tom Dipko and The Rev. David Stickley, Archdeacon of the Diocese of California. (Below)



Sr.

The Canticle

Community of St. Francis
3743 Cesar Chavez Street
San Francisco CA 94110-4316

The Canticle
is the newsletter of the
Community of St.
Francis, a religious
order for women in the
Franciscan tradition in
the Episcopal Church.



Friends & Associates

COMPANIONS IN FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY 2017

August 11-21 Summer Immersion

The focus of this program will be on Francis as Nature Mystic and our relationship with God's creation. As well as living and praying with the community, participants will work in the urban garden at St. Francis House and make trips to various natural sites in and around San Francisco while studying ecological theology and spirituality from a Franciscan perspective. (Limit: 2 women)

Contact us for more information.

Sept. 29-October 9 Francistide Immersion

This Immersion in Franciscan Spirituality is centered on the Feast of St. Francis, October 4th. Participants will study and live out Franciscan Spirituality as we consider Francis' focus on the incarnation with his love of Christ and his care for the poor. There will be an opportunity to volunteer at a local soup kitchen. (Limit 2 women)

The Canticle—digital version
Send us your e-mail address!



Sr. Pamela Clare (Minister of the CSF Province of the Americas) with Br. Desmond Alban SSF, (L) the newly elected Minister Provincial SSF and Br. Jude, retiring Minister of the SSF Province of the Americas.

Contact Information

The Community of St. Francis
St. Francis House 3743 Cesar Chavez St.
San Francisco CA 94110-4316
Tel 415-824-0288 E-mail CSFsfo@aol.com
www.communitystfrancis.org

*And for the most up-to-date and more informal contact, check out our Facebook page
Community of St. Francis, American Province*