

Germany, with total numbers of about 3,500. (Darvell Bruderhof, Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN32 5DR (tel: + 44 1580 881 003))

#### **17 Chevetogne**

The Benedictine community now at Chevetogne in Belgium, who were founded in 1925 by L. Beauduin in response to Pope Pius XI's call for the Benedictines to pray for Christian unity. The monks seek closer unity, especially with Orthodox communities, and celebrate the Eucharist according to both eastern and western rites.

#### **18 Little Brothers/Sisters of Charles de Foucauld**

Following the teaching and lifestyle of Charles de Foucauld (1858-1916). He established no community, but wrote a rule. In 1933 the Little Sisters of the Sacred Heart were established near Montpellier in France, and in 1939 at Touggort in the Sahara, and also in 1933 René Voillaume and four other priests settled on the edge of the Sahara, returning in 1945 with other recruits. The Little Brothers and Sisters seek to live the 'hidden life of Jesus', in society without the barriers of a community, earning their living, mostly wearing ordinary clothes, with a particular devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Associations of priests and lay people also exist.

#### **19 Iona Community**

Founded in 1938 by George MacCleod (b.1895) for expressing in social terms the theology of the Incarnation and rebuilding and using the buildings of the Benedictine abbey on the island of Iona in the Inner Hebrides. Its origin is in the Church of Scotland, but it has an ecumenical base. It lays special stress on environmental concern, political activity and economic witness. Its headquarters are in Glasgow.

#### **20 Focolare movement**

Founded by Chiara Lubich (b.1920, in Trent) in 1943, when she dedicated her life to God, and so gave rise to the Focolare movement (*focolare* means 'hearth' or 'fireside'). Chiara gathered with a group of other girls in war-torn Italy with whom she lived in whatever accommodation was available. The group met to pray, sing, read the Bible, and serve the poor. A separate *Focolare* for men was started in 1948; later, a branch for priests was established, some of them living together like the laity; eventually married *focolarini* were allowed. The spirituality of the *Focolare* movement depends on the sense of God's presence among believers ('where two or three are gathered together in my name'). Other key ideas are that of 'Jesus Forsaken' – the embracing of the suffering of Jesus; eucharistic devotion; and an emphasis on the gospel. Each month the *focolarini* (female) and *focolarine* (male) take a verse from the gospel and live it. The movement now numbers over

87,000 members and about two million friends and adherents in over 180 nations.

#### **21 Taizé Community**

An international and ecumenical monastic order founded by Roger Schutz (b.1915) with Max Thurian in 1944 at Taizé near Cluny. The first seven brothers took solemn vows in 1949. The community includes various denominations. Three offices are recited a day and lay clothes are worn (except for a hooded alb in church). Their main work lies in promoting Christian unity.

#### **22 Evangelical Sisterhood of Mary**

Founded by Mother Basilea Schlink and Mother Martyria Madauss after the destruction of Darmstadt on 11 September 1944. Following that night of terror, there was a move among the young girls in the Mothers' Bible study group to bring sin into the light and receive forgiveness. The new sisterhood was inaugurated in 1947. Now settled at Kanaan, Darmstadt, with other communities in several countries, including Brazil, Norway and Australia, the emphasis of the sisters is particularly on repentance and forgiveness. Mother Basilea is a prolific author.

#### **23 L'Arche**

The first L'Arche community came into being at Trosly in northern France on August 4, 1964, and was born principally out of the vision of Jean Vanier and Father Thomas Philippe.

L'Arche is today an international federation of some 103 communities spread over 28 countries, in which people with an intellectual disability and those who chose to join them live, work and share their lives together in an atmosphere of trust, friendship, belonging and forgiveness. The name L'Arche, derived from the Ark of Noah in the Bible, symbolises a place of refuge. In French, the word refers to the arch of a bridge and implies a bridging role for the community in bringing people together.

#### **24 L'Abri**

L'Abri is a French word that means shelter. The first L'Abri community was founded in Switzerland in 1955 by Dr. Francis Schaeffer and his wife, Edith. Dr. Schaeffer was a Christian theologian and philosopher. The L'Abri communities are study centres in Europe, Asia and America where individuals have the opportunity to seek answers to honest questions about God and the significance of human life.

#### **25 Community of Saint 'Egidio**

The Community of Sant 'Egidio began in Rome in 1968, in the period following the Second Vatican Council. Today it is a movement of lay people and has more than 40,000 members, dedicated to evangelisation and charity, in Rome, Italy and in more than 60 countries throughout the world. Emphases of the community are: sharing the Gospel, solidarity with the poor,

After 25 years in France the order expanded to Canada, then Sri Lanka and South Africa. The order has continued to expand. Today there are more than 4,500 members, serving in 71 countries. They preach the message of God's love especially amongst the poorest sections of society.

## **9 Rosminians**

The 'Fathers of Charity' were founded in 1828 by A. Rosmini. They aim especially at the sanctification of their members, combined with works of charity for which they are called on, such as teaching, preaching, and missions. The congregation was introduced into England in 1835. The women's branch, the 'Sisters of Providence', was founded in 1831-2, and specialises in the instruction of converts.

## **Amana Society**

The Amana Church Society, as it is now known, developed from the Community of True Inspiration, or 'Inspirationists', who emerged in the early eighteenth century as part of the Pietist and Spiritualist movement within the Lutheran Church in Germany; their early leaders were Eberhard Gruber and Johann Friedrich Rock. They believe in the importance of present day inspiration by the Holy Spirit. They emigrated from Germany to America and settled in Iowa in 1855, calling their new home "Amana", a word taken from the Old Testament Song of Solomon, which means "to remain faithful". Although they abandoned their communal way of life in 1932 their church life continues with its spiritualistic pattern and simple form of worship in unadorned meeting houses.

## **10 Assumptionists**

The Augustinians of the Assumption were founded in 1843 in Nîmes for the active religious life. They follow a modified Rule of St Augustine. Their work includes care of schools and asylums, dissemination of information and missionary work in many parts of the world (AA)

## **11 Claretian Missionaries**

The Claretians were founded by Saint Anthony Claret in 1849, the same year as he was named Archbishop of Santiago, Cuba. Claret embodied the special charisms of community, mission, evangelization, and spirituality. More than 3,000 Claretian priests and brothers form this community dedicated to evangelization around the world, in 57 countries on five continents. Their official title is the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, but they are popularly known as The Claretian Missionaries.

A Roman Catholic religious community of priests and brothers, the Claretian Missionaries live together in community, serving in a variety of ministries devoted to social concerns and issues of justice, peace, and the environment. Their work includes parishes, foreign missions, and publishing;

## **31 All those considering the religious life**

## Month Two

### 1 Oratorians

The Oratory of St Philip Neri grew out of a community which had gathered round St Philip (1564). The congregation spread through Europe and South America. The secular priests live in community without vows, and may support themselves. Their chief task is to lead people to God through prayer, popular preaching and the sacraments. They place emphasis on attractive services, including music as well as the liturgy. A French Oratory, on slightly different lines, was established in 1611 by P. de Bérulle at Paris.

#### *Feuillants, Bernardines*

Reformed Cistercians of Le Feuillant near Toulouse, founded in 1577 by Abbot J. de la Barrière (1544-1600), who expelled those who were lax from his house and established a stricter rule. In 1588 the Feuillantines, a similar order for women, was established. As they spread to Italy they became known as Bernardines. The order came to an end during the Napoleonic wars.

### 2 Recollect Augustinians

Also known as Discalced Augustinians, this reform of the Augustinian Hermits or Friars, living under more austere rules, was founded at Talavera, Spain, in 1589. In 1912 they were made into an independent order: Ordo Recollectorum S. Augustini. (OAR)

#### **Visitandines**

The Order of the Visitation was founded in 1610 by St Francis de Sales and Jeanne Frances de Chantal, designed for women who could not endure the austerities of other orders, and devoted to gentleness, humility and sisterly love. They follow an adaptation of the Rule of St Augustine, with the Little Office of Our Lady for the canonical hours. The order is enclosed and primarily contemplative. The most notable saint of the order is St Margaret Mary Alacoque, whose visions had a large part in instituting the Feast of the Sacred Heart.

### 3 Amish

The Amish are a branch of the Anabaptist movement, which split off from other anabaptists, when, under the leadership of Jacob Amman (from whom their name derives) they accepted the Dordrecht Confession of 1632, which endorsed the practices of excommunication, social avoidance (*Meidung*) and footwashing. Their beliefs emphasise separation from the outside world, vow of obedience, and closeness to nature. There are other regulations over societal customs such as dress, use of inventions, and no formal education beyond

#### **Korean Franciscan Brotherhood**

Founded in 1994 and based at Incheon, the KSF runs youth and spirituality programmes and carries out social welfare work.

#### **Little Brothers of Francis**

in Australia. Founded in 1987, and based in NSW, the community combines solitude with communal life and preaching.. (LBF)

### 5 Community of the Servants of the Will of God

in the UK. Crawley and Hove: founded in 1953, a contemplative community uniting traditions of the eastern and western church.

#### **Society of the Servants of Jesus Christ**

in Madagascar. Tsinjohasina: founded 1985, visiting, Christian teaching, pastoral work.

#### **Society of the Franciscan Servants of Jesus & Mary**

in the UK. Crediton, Devon. (FSJM)

### 6 Sisterhood of the Epiphany

in India & the UK. At Ditchingham, Bungay, Suffolk. Founded in 1902, originally worked in India, now with CAH (see day 1, above).

#### **Christa Sevika Sangha**

in Bangladesh. 'Handmaids of Christ' founded 1970, by the sisterhood of the Epiphany, but now independent; run girls' hotel, play-centre for small children, teaching.

#### **St Paul's Brotherhood**

in Bangladesh. Barisal: founded 1879, as the Brotherhood of the Epiphany by the Oxford Mission, work amongst educated people, especially those at university.

### 7 Community of Jesus' Compassion

in South Africa. New Hanover: founded 1992, by CHN in Zululand; main work is local evangelism.

#### **Community of the Holy Name**

in Lesotho, South Africa, Swaziland & the UK. Oakwood, Derby: founded 1865; f.1962 in Lesotho, founded 1969 in Zululand; carries out parish work, prison visiting, retreat-giving, work with the disabled. (CHN)

### 8 Community of the Sisters of the Church

in Australia, Canada, the Solomon Islands & the UK. Richmond, Surrey, also Bristol and 14 other locations; founded in 1870 by Emily Ayckbowm; community life and service in society. The sisters normally wear their habit only on Sundays. (CSC)

last surviving monastery, at Calavino near Trent, closed in 1785.

#### **Olivetans**

The Order of Our Lady of Mount Olivet was founded in 1319, by Giovanni Tolomei (St Bernard Ptolomei, d.1348) at Monte Oliveto, near Siena. The Olivetans are a reform of the Benedictine Order, following a strict regime, at one time abstaining from wine. They wear a white habit. Among their 24 houses is the Abbey of Bec, in Normandy.

#### **22 Colettines**

A reform of the Poor Clares founded by St Colette (1381-1447), who established 17 houses in her lifetime, restoring the principle of strict poverty. The Colettines have become one of the two main branches, the other being the Urbanists. Today the sisters are mainly found in France.

#### **23 Friars of the Strict Observance (Franciscans)**

The 'Observants' or 'Observantines' (Friars of the Strict Observance; *Osservanti*) began in 1368 in protest against laxness and secularisation of the Franciscan order. They wished to retain the original poverty and renunciation of possessions, following in the tradition of the Spiritual Franciscans, which were one of two groups at the time of Francis' death. The other group known as 'Conventuals' allow the common holding and accumulation of property and follow a mitigated rule. The two groups were finally separated in 1517. (FSO)

#### **24 Minims**

The Ordo Fratrum Minimorum was founded in 1435 by St Francis of Paola. They have a particular emphasis on humility, and regard themselves as the least (*minimi*) of all religious. Their first rule, approved in 1493, was based on that of Francis of Assisi, but the second, sanctioned in 1501, was more independent. They refrain not only from eating meat and fish but also from eggs, cheese, butter and milk. The order spread quickly after its foundation and reached its height in the sixteenth century, when there were 450 convents, but declined in the nineteenth century. Today it survives mainly in Italy and Spain, with a second order of enclosed nuns in Spain, but the third order, for those living in the world, flourishes in South America. (OFM)

#### **25 Alexian Brothers**

Related to the medieval Beguines and Berghards, the Alexian Brothers were based in Germany and the Low Countries; they were formally approved by Pope Sixtus V as a religious community in 1472, under the rule of St. Augustine. The brothers' commitment is to the healing ministry. Today, the Brothers operate facilities in Germany, Belgium, England, Ireland, and the United States, with missions in the Philippines and India.

#### **Benedictine Community of Our Lady & St John**

The community at Alton Abbey, near Alton, Hampshire, was founded in 1884 by the Revd Charles Plomer Hopkins. A ministry of hospitality is offered.

#### **12 Community of the Holy Transfiguration**

at the Bonda Mission, Mutare, Zimbabwe. Founded in 1982, a female community which carries out evangelistic work, and runs an orphanage. (CHT)

#### **Community of the Transfiguration**

in the Dominican Republic & the USA. at Cincinnati, OH and 4 other houses; founded in 1898 by Eva Lee Matthews, dedicated to the mystery of the Transfiguration, carries out spiritual, education and social ministries

#### **13 Community of the Glorious Ascension**

in France & the UK. Based at Kingsbridge, Devon: the brothers generally live in small groups, their mission being among people in everyday life; there is a house for sisters in Montauroux, France

#### **Brotherhood of the Ascended Christ**

founded at Delhi, India, in 1877, serves the poor and underprivileged

#### **14 Community of the Servants of the Cross**

at Chichester, in the UK, founded in 1877; a women's community following the Augustinian rule, originally at Lindfield, Sussex, some of the sisters have moved to a retirement home in Chichester, others have joined the Community of St Peter at Woking

#### **Order of the Holy Cross**

in Canada, South Africa & the USA – at Santa Barbara, CA and 4 other locations; founded in 1884 by James Otis Sargent Huntington; a Benedictine community. members engage in retreat work, evangelism and social care

#### **Society of the Holy Cross**

at Seoul in Korea. Founded in 1925 by Bp Mark Trollope, a women's order established from the Sisters of St Peter, Woking. they follow a modified form of the Augustinian rule, and run retreat and guest houses, teach children with learning difficulties and engage in social care

#### **Society of the Sacred Cross**

in the UK – at Tymawr, Monmouth. Founded in 1914 in Chichester and re-established in 1923 in Wales, the sisters offer hospitality, retreats, study programmes, and lecturing

#### **15 Community of St Mary the Virgin**

in India, South Africa & the UK – at Wantage and 6 other locations; founded in 1848 by the Rev. William John Butler;

**Augustinian Canons**

Founded in the middle of the 11th century from a desire of some clergy to live the common life in poverty, celibacy and obedience. By the beginning of the 12th century they were known as 'regular canons' (also known as 'Austin canons' or 'black canons') and had adopted the Rule of St Augustine. They undertook some parish work, but had a notable connection with hospitals. Although many houses were suppressed during the Middle Ages and at the Reformation some congregations survive, such as the Canons Regular of the Lateran (CRL)

**13 Trinitarians**

The Order of the Most Holy Trinity was founded in 1198 at Cenfroind in Meaux by St John of Matha (d.1213) and St Felix of Valois (d.1212), and followed a severe form of the Augustinian rule, devoting themselves especially to redeeming captives. By the 15th century they had grown to about 800 houses. The only surviving members come from a reform in 1596 called the Barefooted Trinitarians. The equivalent women's order dates from 1612. With under 500 members, they are mainly engaged in education, nursing and pastoral work.

**14 Franciscans**

Founded by St Francis of Assisi in 1209, when he gave his followers their first rule, now lost. The rule was issued in its final version in 1223. Its insistence on complete poverty became unworkable. Under St Bonaventure a compromise was reached, but reforming groups continued to arise, and one of the reforms, the 'Observants' broke away from the 'Conventuals' in 1517. The Franciscan habit is brown (but was formerly grey, hence their name 'grey friars'). (OSF)

**15 Poor Clares (Urbanists)**

The Second Order of St Francis, founded by him and St Clare between 1212 and 1214. Urban IV replaced its severe rule with a milder one in 1263 which was accepted by most convents (Urbanists).

The majority of convents are strictly contemplative, devoted to prayer, penance and manual work, with strict enclosure, severe fasts and other austerities. Their habit has no scapular, is of dark frieze with a cord girdle, and they wear a black veil and cloth sandals on bare feet.

**16 Croziers or Crutched Friars**

Crutched (or Cross) Friars (*Fratres Cruciferi*) is the general name given to various religious congregations; they derive their name from the custom of carrying a cross in their hands or sewn onto their habit. Such a body was founded in the Holy Land during the Crusades. A community founded in Flanders about 1210 by Theodore of Celles (d.1236) currently has houses in Holland, Belgium, America, Italy and Germany, based on the Rule of St Augustine. [info@crosier.org](mailto:info@crosier.org)

amongst the poor, now mainly parish work, drug treatment work, hospital chaplaincy, nursing homes, spiritual direction and retreat leading

**20 Society of St Margaret**

in Haiti, Sri Lanka, the UK & the USA. East Grinstead, founded by John Mason Neale in 1855; guest, retreat, spiritual direction, parish work, nursing. Other houses at Aberdeen (1864), Haggerston, London (1866), Boston USA (1873), and other USA houses, Walsingham (1955)

**Ewell Monastery**

at West Malling, Kent; founded in 1966, an Anglican Cistercian monastery, affiliated to the Roman Catholic Cistercian Order. [www.ewell-monastery.co.uk](http://www.ewell-monastery.co.uk)

**21 Community of St Clare**

in the UK. at Freeland, Whitney, Oxon: founded 1950, part of SSF, an enclosed order, with guest house and craft work

**Order of St Helena**

in the USA – at Vails Gate, NY and Augusta, Georgia: founded in 1945; individual sisters are engaged in different ministries.

**Community of Nazareth**

in Japan. at Tokyo; founded in 1936 by the sisters of the Community of the Epiphany; run a retreat house.

**22 Community of the Sacred Passion**

in the UK. at Effingham, Leatherhead. Established in 1911 to serve Africa, the mother house is now in England; the community having withdrawn from Africa in 1991, leaving a community in Tanzania (CMN), see below. They carry out sick and prison visiting, and hospital chaplaincy.

**Community of St Mary of Nazareth and Calvary**

in Tanzania & Zambia; based at Masasi; founded in 1946 by Bp William Vincent Lucas and established by CSP (see above). They carry out parish work, RE teaching, run kindergartens, sick and hospital visiting, nursing.

**23 Society of the Holy Trinity**

in the UK – at Ascot: women's order. (SHT)

**Community of the Holy Family**

in the UK. at West Malling, Kent; founded in 1898 by Mrs Agnes Mason, now moved from Baldslow to the Gatehouse at Malling Abbey. Carries out educational work.

**Community of Reparation to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament**

in the UK. Founded in 1869 by Fr A. Goulden at Southwark, later moving the mother house to Woking, now based with CJSB at Clewer, where the first novices were trained.

(d.1310). There are a few houses, at Florence and elsewhere in Italy.

## 7 Carthusians

A contemplative order founded by St Bruno in 1084 at the Grande Chartreuse. It is a silent order, which practises austerity and renunciation of the world, combining Benedictine monachism with eremitic asceticism. Their simplicity in worship is a reaction against Benedictine pomp. Their most famous English member is St Hugh, founder of the first English Charterhouse at Witham in 1175-6, and later Bishop of Lincoln. The English headquarters are now at Parkminster, Partridge Green, W. Sussex (est. 1883). Their habit is white, with a white leather belt.

## 8 Cistercians

A reform of the Benedictine order, named after the mother house at Cîteaux, which was founded in 1098 by St Robert of Molesmes (c.1027-1111) and several brothers, who sought to establish a stricter and more primitive form of Benedictinism. Its most famous leader is St Bernard of Clairvaux, who became a novice at Cîteaux in 1112. By the end of the 12th century 530 Cistercian abbeys had been established, and a further 150 in the following century. Houses were built only in remote locations, with a life of communal intercession and adoration, with plain churches and simple ornaments and vestments. Strict rules were made on diet, silence, and manual labour to restore the primitive character of the order. However, gradual relaxation of the rule led to a later split between the Common Observance and the Strict Observance (Trappists). They are sometimes called the 'white monks' after their white habit. (In 1950 there were about 1,700 members world-wide.)

### *Victorines*

A congregation of Augustinian canons at the former abbey dedicated to St Victor in Paris, founded by William of Champeaux in 1113, and following traditions drawn up under the influence of St Bernard. They produced many famous scholars, mystics and poets, among them Hugh of St Victor, and Richard of St Victor. The abbey was secularised at the outbreak of the French Revolution

## 9 Premonstratensian Canons or Norbertines

Also known in England as 'White Canons', from the colour of their habit; they were founded by St Norbert at Prémontré, near Laon, in 1120. They came to follow the rule of St Augustine with additional austerities. The order came under Cistercian influence and quickly spread throughout Europe, the first English house being established at Newhouse in Lincoln in about 1143. There was one Welsh house at Talley. The severity of the original rule was later relaxed and several reforms resulted, with the establishment of more or less independent

children's activities, book publishing, religious teaching, and spiritual direction.

### **Sisters of Charity**

in the UK & the USA. at Plymouth, also Sunderland, and Boulder City, Nevada; founded in 1869, a women's community following the Rule of St Vincent de Paul; involvement in parish and mission work, nursing and retreats.

## 28 Society of the Sacred Mission

in Australia, Lesotho, Papua New Guinea & the UK. at Durham and 6 other locations; founded in 1893 by Fr Herbert Kelly, they carry out educational, pastoral and community ministry.

### **Sisters of the Incarnation**

in Australia. at Winn Vale, SA; founded in 1981, seeking a balance of prayer, community life, and work.

## 29 Community of St Michael & All Angels

in South Africa. at Bloemfontein, SA; founded by Bp Allan Beecher Webb for pioneer work in the diocese. The sisters were active in mission, nursing and education. Now only four elderly sisters remain.

### **Community of St Peter**

in Swaziland. a women's order, at Hlatikulu. (CSP)

### **Community of St Peter (Woking)**

in the UK. Founded in 1861, the sisters provide nursing care, and are linked with the Society of the Holy Cross in Korea.

### **Community of St Peter, Horbury**

in the UK. Based in Wakefield, founded in 1858, this women's order carries out pastoral, mission and retreat work.

### **Society of the Sisters of Bethany**

in the UK. at Southsea; founded in 1866, they work for Christian unity, parish, spiritual direction, mission and cathedral chaplaincy.

## 30 Community of St Andrew

in the UK. at Westbourne Park, London – founded in 1861, a community of ordained women, offering prayer, evangelism, pastoral work and hospitality.

### **Community of the Sacred Name**

in Fiji & New Zealand. At Christchurch; also at Wellington and Suva on Fiji; a women's order founded in 1893 by Sister Edith CSA. The chief work of the community is to praise God. City mission and children's work is carried out. (CSN)

## 31 Congregation of the Sisters of the Visitation of Our Lady

in Papua New Guinea – at Popondetta, and Goroka; founded in 1964, offering hospitality and family visiting