

THE THIRD ORDER of the SOCIETY OF SAINT FRANCIS
European Province

ELECTION ADDRESS for LINK TERTIARY AND TRUSTEE, Peter Thompson



Greetings fellow Tertiaries,

My name is Peter Thompson of the Sussex Area. I have been a professed tertiary for almost nineteen years, during which time I have held office as an Area Chaplain (the last one in the old West Sussex Area before the re-organisation) and Acting Area Convenor during 2000 to October of that year. I also served as Area Formation Guardian for Sussex for about two years prior to taking a break from office, and also served as Local Group Convenor since then. I am currently a Novice Guardian.

During what was a busy time back then, I made it my responsibility to get to know as many of the tertiaries within the Areas that I served, especially elderly and housebound tertiaries. This was a particularly enriching time because, despite their not being able to get to meetings, such people had their story to tell and I would always come away from a particular visit the better for it. It was important that as either Chaplain or Formation Guardian, I was someone who could keep in regular contact with everyone and not just be a person who was there at Area or Local Group meetings. I felt it was important to have a pastoral heart in all communication with my fellow tertiaries outside of those settings, in whatever circumstances they found themselves in and who were prepared to tell me their story. Trust and confidence are key in such respects. If elected, I would be looking to utilise this experience on a collective basis for each area within the cluster.

It goes without saying of course that clear and concise communication is crucial to this role, and is something that I am constantly aware of and will go to any lengths to ensure first rate communication is promoted and adhered to. Having an eye for detail is a particular strength of mine and I will use this in all communications for which I would be responsible. Some of the responsibilities of Link Tertiary are familiar to me at Area level, for instance, prayer (which goes without saying!), report writing and letter writing, in particular to one tertiary who was released from vows some years ago now. Also, meeting at the old Regional Chapters and more recently within the Area Team was a particular involvement that I found hugely enjoyable. I will be looking to use what I would call 'transferable skills and experience' within the Link Tertiary role.

In my spare time (is there any?!), I like to watch cricket, being a Life Member of Sussex County Cricket Club. I like to run up to half marathon distance (marathons up to 2008) and am a member of Brighton & Hove City Athletics Club. I enjoy amateur dramatics and of course am involved with my church as a lesson reader and sidesperson.

Finally, may I thank you for reading this electoral address and God bless you.

Pax et Bonum,

Peter tssf.