

FLAHERTY & CRUMRINE/CLAYMORE TOTAL RETURN FUND INC

Form N-30B-2

October 22, 2004

FLAHERTY & CRUMRINE/CLAYMORE TOTAL RETURN FUND

Dear Shareholder:

The Flaherty & Crumrine/Claymore Total Return Fund ("FLC") produced a total return on Net Asset Value ("NAV") of 3.2%(1) during the three month period ending August 31, 2004. Since the beginning of the fiscal year on December 1, 2003, the total return on NAV has been 3.7%.

The NAV returns are consistent with our expectations for how the Fund should perform during periods of volatile long-term interest rates. As can be seen from the chart below, the yield on the 30 year U.S. Treasury bond has changed direction in each of the first three fiscal quarters of 2004 (changes in the value of the Fund's assets and hedge positions are closely correlated to the performance of this bond). The decline in rates during the first fiscal quarter contributed to strong returns for the period. The subsequent jump in rates during the second fiscal quarter resulted in negative returns for the period, as the Fund's hedges only partially offset the drop in value of the Fund's investment portfolio.

[GRAPHIC OMITTED]

EDGAR REPRESENTATION OF DATA POINTS USED IN PRINTED GRAPHIC AS FOLLOWS:

YIELD ON LONG-TERM U.S. TREASURY BOND

| Date | Yield |
|----------|--------|
| 12/01/03 | 5.155% |
| 12/05/03 | 5.047% |
| 12/12/03 | 5.090% |
| 12/19/03 | 4.959% |
| 12/26/03 | 4.969% |
| 01/02/04 | 5.170% |
| 01/09/04 | 4.964% |
| 01/16/04 | 4.892% |
| 01/23/04 | 4.938% |
| 01/30/04 | 4.965% |
| 02/06/04 | 4.928% |
| 02/13/04 | 4.916% |
| 02/20/04 | 4.954% |
| 02/27/04 | 4.855% |
| 03/05/04 | 4.743% |
| 03/12/04 | 4.707% |
| 03/19/04 | 4.718% |
| 03/26/04 | 4.771% |
| 04/02/04 | 4.972% |
| 04/09/04 | 5.028% |
| 04/16/04 | 5.174% |
| 04/23/04 | 5.246% |
| 04/30/04 | 5.281% |
| 05/07/04 | 5.462% |
| 05/14/04 | 5.500% |
| 05/21/04 | 5.460% |
| 05/28/04 | 5.345% |
| 06/04/04 | 5.461% |
| 06/11/04 | 5.474% |
| 06/18/04 | 5.374% |
| 06/25/04 | 5.336% |

| | |
|----------|--------|
| 07/02/04 | 5.205% |
| 07/09/04 | 5.213% |
| 07/16/04 | 5.121% |
| 07/23/04 | 5.171% |
| 07/30/04 | 5.203% |
| 08/06/04 | 5.034% |
| 08/13/04 | 5.008% |
| 08/20/04 | 5.027% |
| 08/27/04 | 5.016% |
| 08/31/04 | 4.935% |

As we began the most recent fiscal quarter, the Fund's hedge positions had appreciated significantly and were offsetting changes in value of the investment portfolio almost dollar-for-dollar. Following the weakness in March and April we were unwilling to risk further declines in NAV, so we maintained the existing hedge position. If interest rates had continued to rise, the NAV of the Fund should have remained reasonably stable. That is exactly how the Fund's safety net hedging strategy is intended to work!

Shortly after the start of the third quarter, long-term interest rates reversed course and began a steady DECLINE, despite the fact that the Federal Reserve began INCREASING short-term rates in June (for a more detailed discussion of the economic conditions driving interest rates, see the "3rd Quarter Economic Update" on the Fund's website: WWW.FCCLAYMORE.COM). As expected, the Fund's preferred securities and corporate bonds appreciated throughout the period, while the hedge fell in value, dragging down overall performance. Initially this drag was substantial, but it lessened as rates continued to fall.

The Fund also benefited from a modest, favorable move in the relationship between the Fund's preferred securities and U.S. Treasuries. Simply stated, the price of our preferreds rose by more than the price of corresponding Treasury bonds during the quarter. This was the opposite of conditions in the previous quarter.

(1) Based on monthly data provide by Lipper Inc. Distributions are assumed to be reinvested at NAV in accordance with Lipper's practice.

NAV investment performance is comprised of principal change and income. The discussion to this point has focused on factors that impact the principal change. Let's turn to the other component of performance -- income. The Fund's investment portfolio continues to produce sufficient amounts of dividend and interest income to support the current monthly dividend. There are, however, some potential warning flags on the horizon.

The Federal Reserve's present policy of raising short-term interest rates directly affects the Fund by increasing the cost of its leverage. The Fed's policy has been in place for some time now, and we have factored it into our management strategy. However, changes in long-term interest rates and the resulting impact on income are more difficult to plan for. If long-term interest rates rise, the Fund's hedges should appreciate and enable the Fund to purchase additional income-producing securities; this additional income should tend to offset the higher leverage expense.

Things get more challenging if long-term rates decline. This so-called "bull flattening" scenario (short-term rates rise while long-term rates decline), initially puts a strain on distributable income. Once again, the cost of LEVERAGE goes up along with higher short-term rates, but now the income

generated by the investment portfolio may at some point actually fall if issuers retire older securities with relatively high coupons and replace them with new issues that pay a lower rate (the issuer is analogous to a homeowner refinancing a mortgage when interest rates drop).

Fortunately, there is a bright side to this scenario -- as the yield curve flattens, the cost of the Fund's HEDGING strategy falls. The mathematics behind this are fairly complicated, but the concept is quite simple. Hedging a long-term security creates a package that closely resembles a short-term security. The market imposes a "charge" for this transformation, the amount of which is closely tied to the difference between long-term and short-term interest rates. The larger the difference, the more expensive it is to hedge. Therefore, the cost of hedging declines when the yield curve flattens and the interest rate differential shrinks. The benefits to the Fund don't materialize immediately, but they can be significant over time.

Changes in investment income, leverage expense and the cost of hedging (as well as other factors like realized gains or losses) mean that setting the dividend rate entails both science and art. We carefully monitor all of these moving parts, and do our best to set a rate that is sustainable under current market conditions.

Readers will notice some changes to the appearance of the information that follows. These changes are in accordance with recent changes to the SEC rules on shareholder reporting. The biggest change is the inclusion of a complete listing of the investment portfolio (previous reports for the Fund's first and third fiscal quarters did not include a portfolio listing). In addition, we've included a page entitled "Portfolio Overview" that contains a number of schedules summarizing important measures of the Fund's investments.

We hope you will also continue to visit the Fund's web site at www.fcclaymore.com where a broad range of information about the Fund is updated regularly. We also encourage you to visit www.preferredstockguide.com. It contains useful information about most of the issues that make up the preferred securities universe.

Sincerely,

/S/DONALD F. CRUMRINE

/S/ROBERT M. ETTINGER

Donald F. Crumrine
Chairman of the Board

Robert M. Ettinger
President

October 11, 2004

Flaherty & Crumrine/Claymore Total Return Fund Incorporated
PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW
AUGUST 31, 2004

FUND STATISTICS ON 8/31/04

Net Asset Value \$ 23.71

Market Price \$ 23.46

Premium/Discount -1.05%

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Yield on Market Price 8.31%

Common Shares
Outstanding 9,744,666

| MOODY'S RATINGS | % OF PORTFOLIO |
|--|----------------|
| ----- | ----- |
| AAA | 1.1% |
| AA | 2.1% |
| A | 37.0% |
| BBB | 46.6% |
| BB | 8.8% |
| Not Rated | 3.5% |
| ----- | ----- |
| Below by Investment Grade* | 7.9% |
| * BELOW INVESTMENT GRADE BY BOTH MOODY'S AND S&P | |

INDUSTRY CATEGORIES % OF PORTFOLIO

[GRAPHIC OMITTED]

EDGAR REPRESENTATION OF DATA POINTS USED IN PRINTED GRAPHIC AS FOLLOWS:

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Banks | 34% |
| Utilities | 27% |
| Insurance | 18% |
| REITs | 7% |
| Financial Services | 6% |
| Other | 5% |
| Oil and Gas | 3% |

TOP 10 HOLDINGS BY ISSUER % OF PORTFOLIO

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| ----- | ----- |
| J.P. Morgan Chase | 5.4% |
| Wachovia Corp | 4.8% |
| Duke Energy | 3.9% |
| HSBC Holdings PLC | 3.8% |
| Prudential Holdings | 3.6% |
| Lehman Brothers | 3.5% |
| Florida Power & Light | 2.6% |
| Nexen, Inc. | 2.6% |
| OneAmerica Financial | 2.5% |
| HBOS PLC | 2.3% |

 Holdings Generating Qualified Dividend Income (QDI) for Individuals
 Holdings Generating Income Eligible for the Corporate Dividend Received Deduction (DRD)

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 Flaherty & Crumrine/Claymore Total Return Fund Incorporated
 PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS
 AUGUST 31, 2004 (UNAUDITED)

SHARES/\$ PAR

PREFERRED SECURITIES -- 70.6%
 BANKING -- 34.2%

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 28,000 | ABN AMRO Capital Fund Trust VII, 6.08% Pfd. |
| 1,000 | ABN AMRO North America, Inc., 6.59% Pfd., 144A**** |
| \$4,500,000 | Astoria Capital Trust I, 9.75% 11/01/29 Capital Security, Series B |
| 38,800 | BAC Capital Trust I, 7.00% Pfd. |
| 25,000 | BAC Capital Trust III, 7.00% Pfd. |
| 10,900 | BAC Capital Trust V, 7.00% Pfd. |
| 4,700 | Bank One Capital Trust I, 8.00% Pfd. |
| 50,900 | Bank One Capital Trust VI, 7.20% Pfd. |
| \$1,000,000 | BT Preferred Capital Trust II, 7.875% 02/25/27 Capital Security |
| \$10,000,000 | Chase Capital I, 7.67% 12/01/26 Capital Security |
| 79,300 | Chase Capital VII, 7.00% Pfd., Series G |
| 19,400 | Chase Capital XI, 5.875% Pfd. 06/15/33 |
| 30,000 | Citigroup, Inc., 6.231% Pfd., Series H |
| 40,000 | Cobank, ACB, 7.00% Pfd., 144A**** |
| 20,000 | Colonial Capital Trust IV, 7.875% Pfd. |
| 11,000 | Comerica (Imperial) Capital Trust I, 7.60% Pfd. |
| \$2,000,000 | First Chicago NBD Capital A, 7.95% 12/01/26 Capital Security, 144A**** |
| \$400,000 | First Empire Capital Trust I, 8.234% 02/01/27 Capital Security |
| \$1,900,000 | First Hawaiian Capital I, 8.343% 07/01/27 Capital Security, Series B |
| \$2,000,000 | First Midwest Capital Trust I, 6.95% Pfd. 12/01/33, Capital Security |
| \$1,500,000 | First Tennessee Capital Trust II, 6.30% 04/15/34 Capital Security, Series B |
| \$2,000,000 | First Union Institutional Capital II, 7.85% 01/01/27 Capital Security |
| 18,000 | Fleet Capital Trust VII, 7.20% Pfd. |
| 2 | FT Real Estate Securities Company, 9.50% Pfd., 144A**** |
| \$2,795,000 | Great Western Finance Trust II, 8.206% 02/01/27 Capital Security, Series A |
| \$6,000,000 | GreenPoint Capital Trust I, 9.10% 06/01/27 Capital Security |
| \$8,000,000 | HBOS Capital Funding LP, 6.85% Pfd. |
| \$6,820,000 | HSBC Capital Funding LP, 10.176% 144A**** |
| \$855,000 | HSBC Capital Trust II, 8.38% 05/15/2027 Capital Security, 144A**** |
| \$3,000,000 | Haven Capital Trust I, 10.46% 02/01/27 Capital Security |
| 4,200 | Household Capital Trust VI, 8.25% Pfd. |
| 1,940,000 | J.P. Morgan Capital Trust I, 7.54% 01/15/27 Capital Security |

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| | |
|-------------|---|
| 6,455 | J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., 6.625% Pfd., Series H |
| \$5,000,000 | KeyCorp Institutional Capital A, 7.826% 12/01/26 Capital Security, Series A |
| 10 | Marshall & Ilsley Investment II, 8.875% Pfd., 144A**** |
| \$2,500,000 | North Fork Capital Trust I, 8.70% 12/15/26 Capital Security |
| \$810,000 | North Fork Capital Trust II, 8.00% 12/15/27 Capital Security |
| \$4,000,000 | RBS Capital Trust B, 6.80% Pfd. |

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 Flaherty & Crumrine/Claymore Total Return Fund Incorporated
 PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)
 AUGUST 31, 2004 (UNAUDITED)

SHARES/\$ PAR

PREFERRED SECURITIES -- (CONTINUED)
 BANKING -- (CONTINUED)

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 2,100 | Regions Financial Trust I, 8.00% Pfd. |
| \$1,600,000 | Republic New York Capital I, 7.75% 11/15/26 Capital Security |
| \$716,000 | Republic New York Capital II, 7.53% 12/04/26 Capital Security |
| 20 | Roslyn Real Estate, 8.95% Pfd., Pvt., Series C, 144A**** |
| 20,000 | Royal Bank of Scotland Group PLC, 6.40% Pfd., Series M |
| \$5,050,000 | Union Planters Capital Trust, 8.20% 12/15/26 Capital Security |
| 19,000 | USB Capital V, 7.25% Pfd. |
| \$5,000,000 | Wachovia Capital Trust I, 7.64% 01/15/27 Capital Security, 144A**** |
| 350,000 | Wachovia Preferred Funding, 7.25% Pfd., Series A |
| 7,900 | Wells Fargo Capital Trust IV, 7.00% Pfd. |
| 100,000 | Wells Fargo Capital Trust IX, 5.625% Pfd. |

 FINANCIAL SERVICES -- 3.9%

| | |
|---------|---|
| 9,900 | The Bear Stearns Companies Inc., 5.49% Pfd., Series G |
| | Lehman Brothers Holdings, Inc.: |
| 50,000 | 5.94% Pfd., Series C |
| 192,100 | 6.50% Pfd., Series F |
| 9,700 | Merrill Lynch Capital Trust III, 7.00% Pfd. |
| 168,650 | Merrill Lynch Capital Trust V, 7.28% Pfd. |
| 17,200 | Morgan Stanley Capital Trust II, 7.25% Pfd. |
| 30,000 | Morgan Stanley Capital Trust III, 6.25% Pfd. |
| 6,000 | Morgan Stanley Capital Trust V, 5.75% Pfd. |

 INSURANCE -- 9.9%

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 15,000 | AAG Holding Company, Inc., 7.25% Pfd |
| 177,380 | ACE Ltd., 7.80% Pfd., Series C |
| \$6,420,000 | AON Capital Trust A, 8.205% 01/01/27 Capital Security |
| 189,400 | Everest Re Capital Trust II, 6.20% Pfd., Series B |
| | ING Groep NV: |
| 36,000 | 7.05% Pfd. |
| 125,000 | 7.20% Pfd. |
| 40,000 | St. Paul Capital Trust I, 7.60% Pfd. |

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\$4,815,000 USF&G Capital, 8.312% 07/01/46 Capital Security, 144A****
 30,000 XL Capital Ltd., 7.625% Pfd., Series B
 6,675 Zurich RegCaPS Funding Trust, 6.58% Pfd., 144A****

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Flaherty & Crumrine/Claymore Total Return Fund Incorporated
 PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)
 AUGUST 31, 2004 (UNAUDITED)

SHARES/\$ PAR

PREFERRED SECURITIES -- (CONTINUED)
 UTILITIES -- 13.9%

225,000 Alabama Power Company, 5.30% Pfd.
 45,700 Baltimore Gas & Electric Company, 6.70% Pfd., Series 1993
 \$2,750,000 COMED Financing II, 8.50% 01/15/27 Capital Security, Series B
 Duke Energy Corporation:
 50,214 7.04% Pfd., Series Y
 22,934 7.85% Pfd., Series S
 37,000 Duquesne Light Company, 6.50% Pfd.
 20,000 Energy East Capital Trust I, 8.25% Pfd.
 758 Energy Arkansas, Inc., 7.40% Pfd.
 70,000 Florida Power Company, FPC Capital I, 7.10% Pfd., Series A
 \$4,500,000 Houston Light & Power, Capital Trust II, 8.257%, 02/01/37 Capital Security
 30,445 Indianapolis Power & Light Company, 5.65% Pfd.
 Interstate Power & Light Company:
 90,000 7.10% Pfd., Series C
 38,600 8.375% Pfd., Series B
 \$5,000,000 PECO Energy Capital Trust IV, 5.75% 06/15/33 Capital Security
 16,200 PSEG Funding Trust II, 8.75% Pfd.
 30,000 Public Service Electric & Gas, 4.30% Pfd., Series C
 120,000 Southern Union Company, 7.55% Pfd.
 10,000 Southwest Gas Capital II, 7.70% Pfd.
 5,000 Union Electric Company, \$7.64 Pfd.
 82,717 Wisconsin Power & Light Company, 6.50% Pfd.

OIL AND GAS -- 0.8%

2,750 EOG Resources, Inc., 7.195% Pfd., Series B

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST (REIT) -- 6.6%

16,020 AMB Property Corporation, 6.75% Pfd., REIT, Series M
 40,000 BRE Properties, Inc., 6.75% Pfd., REIT, Series C

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| | |
|---------|---|
| 38,750 | Carramerica Realty Corporation, 7.50% Pfd., REIT, Series E |
| | Duke Realty Corporation: |
| 19,549 | 6.625% Pfd., REIT, Series J |
| 50,000 | 6.50% Pfd., REIT, Series K |
| | Equity Residential Properties: |
| 18,962 | 6.48% Pfd., REIT, Series N |
| 85,000 | 8.29% Pfd., REIT, Series K |
| 100,000 | Health Care Property Investment, 7.10% Pfd., REIT, Series F |

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 Flaherty & Crumrine/Claymore Total Return Fund Incorporated
 PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)
 AUGUST 31, 2004 (UNAUDITED)

SHARES/\$ PAR

PREFERRED SECURITIES -- (CONTINUED)

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST (REIT) -- (CONTINUED)

| | |
|---------|--|
| | PS Business Parks, Inc.: |
| 57,000 | 6.875% Pfd., REIT, Series I |
| 34,500 | 7.60% Pfd., REIT, Series L |
| 45,000 | 7.95% Pfd., REIT, Series K |
| | Public Storage, Inc.: |
| 44,200 | 7.50% Pfd., REIT, Series V |
| 1,400 | 7.625% Pfd., REIT, Series T |
| 48,600 | 8.00% Pfd., REIT, Series R |
| 125,000 | Regency Centers Corporation, 7.25% Pfd., REIT |
| 95,000 | Weingarten Realty Investment, 6.95% Pfd., REIT |

MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIES -- 1.3%

| | |
|--------|---|
| 65,300 | Delphi Trust I, 8.25% Pfd. |
| 34,000 | Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc., 6.25% Pfd., 144A**** |

TOTAL PREFERRED SECURITIES
 (Cost \$246,712,653)

CORPORATE DEBT SECURITIES -- 25.1%

FINANCIAL SERVICES -- 1.7%

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 45,000 | Corp-Backed Trust Certificates, 5.80% Pfd., Series Goldman Sachs |
| \$5,000,000 | Lehman Brothers, Guaranteed Note, Variable Rate, 12/16/16, 144A**** |

INSURANCE -- 8.1%

| | |
|--------|--|
| 20,000 | American Financial Group, Inc., 7.125% 02/03/34, Senior Note |
|--------|--|

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| | |
|--------------|---|
| \$8,700,000 | OneAmerica Financial Partners, 7.00% 10/15/33, 144A**** |
| \$10,455,000 | Prudential Holdings LLC, 8.695% 12/18/23, 144A**** |
| \$7,000,000 | UnumProvident Corporation, 7.25% 03/15/28, Senior Notes |

OIL AND GAS -- 2.6%

| | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
| 356,200 | Nexen, Inc., 7.35% Subordinated Notes |
|---------|---------------------------------------|

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Flaherty & Crumrine/Claymore Total Return Fund Incorporated
 PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)
 AUGUST 31, 2004 (UNAUDITED)

SHARES/\$ PAR

CORPORATE DEBT SECURITIES -- (CONTINUED)
 UTILITIES -- 10.4%

| | |
|-------------|--|
| \$2,000,000 | AEP Texas Central Company, 6.65% 02/15/33, Senior Notes, Series E |
| \$6,100,000 | Constellation Energy Group, 7.60% Pfd., 04/1/32, Senior Notes |
| | Duke Capital Corporation: |
| 27,200 | 7.875% 02/15/32, Corp-Backed Trust |
| \$5,000,000 | 8.00% 10/01/19 Senior Notes |
| 5,000 | Entergy Mississippi, Inc., 7.25%, 1st Mortgage |
| 75,000 | Georgia Power Company, 6.00% Pfd., FGIC Insured |
| \$4,000,000 | Indianapolis Power & Light Company, 6.60% 01/01/34, 1st Mortgage, 144A**** |
| \$4,000,000 | Interstate Power & Light Company, 6.45% 10/15/33, Senior Notes |
| \$5,670,000 | Oncor Electric Delivery Company, 7.25% 01/15/33, Secured |
| \$4,000,000 | Wisconsin Electric Power Company, 6.875% 12/01/95 |

MISCELLANEOUS -- 2.3%

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 35,325 | Ford Motor Company, 7.50% 06/10/43, Senior Notes |
| \$6,265,000 | General Motors Corporation, 8.80% 03/01/21 |
| 25,300 | Maytag Corporation, 7.875% 08/01/31 |

TOTAL CORPORATE DEBT SECURITIES
 (Cost \$88,274,341)

CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES -- 2.8%
 INSURANCE -- 0.2%

| | |
|--------|--|
| 36,000 | XL Capital Ltd., 6.50% Mandatory Convertible, 05/15/07 |
|--------|--|

 UTILITIES -- 2.6%

 161,500 FPL Group, Inc., 8.50% Mandatory Convertible, Series A 02/16/05

TOTAL CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES
 (Cost \$10,034,398)

OPTION CONTRACTS -- 0.1%

2,475 October Put Options on December U.S. Treasury Bond Futures, Expiring 9/25/04

 TOTAL OPTION CONTRACTS
 (Cost \$1,875,470)

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 Flaherty & Crumrine/Claymore Total Return Fund Incorporated
 PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)
 AUGUST 31, 2004 (UNAUDITED)

SHARES/\$ PAR

MONEY MARKET FUND -- 0.6%

2,059,710 BlackRock Provident Institutional, TempFund

 TOTAL MONEY MARKET FUND
 (Cost \$2,059,710)

TOTAL INVESTMENTS (Cost \$348,956,572***) 99.2%
 OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (Net) 0.8%

 TOTAL NET ASSETS AVAILABLE TO COMMON STOCK AND PREFERRED STOCK 100.0%++

AUCTION MARKET PREFERRED STOCK (AMPS) REDEMPTION VALUE
 ACCUMULATED UNDECLARED DISTRIBUTIONS TO AMPS

TOTAL NET ASSETS AVAILABLE TO COMMON STOCK

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 Flaherty & Crumrine/Claymore Total Return Fund Incorporated

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FINANCIAL DATA
PER SHARE OF COMMON STOCK (UNAUDITED)

| | TOTAL DIVIDENDS PAID | NET ASSET VALUE | NYSE CLOSING PRICE | DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT PRICE (1) |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| December 31, 2003 - Extra | \$0.0400 | \$24.41 | \$25.85 | \$24.56 |
| December 31, 2003 | 0.1625 | 24.41 | 25.85 | 24.56 |
| January 31, 2004 | 0.1625 | 24.65 | 25.80 | 24.65 |
| February 29, 2004 | 0.1625 | 24.72 | 25.86 | 24.72 |
| March 31, 2004 | 0.1625 | 24.84 | 25.93 | 24.84 |
| April 30, 2004 | 0.1625 | 24.02 | 23.24 | 23.47 |
| May 31, 2004 | 0.1625 | 23.45 | 23.48 | 23.45 |
| June 30, 2004 | 0.1625 | 23.22 | 22.25 | 22.94 |
| July 31, 2004 | 0.1625 | 23.28 | 22.69 | 22.89 |
| August 31, 2004 | 0.1625 | 23.71 | 23.46 | 23.68 |

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Flaherty & Crumrine/Claymore Total Return Fund Incorporated
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE TO COMMON STOCK(1)
FOR THE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 1, 2003 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2004 (UNAUDITED)

OPERATIONS:

| | |
|---|--|
| Net investment income | |
| Net realized loss on investments sold during the period | |
| Change in net unrealized appreciation of investments held during the period | |
| Distributions to Auction Market Preferred Stock (AMPS) Shareholders from net investment income, including changes in accumulated undeclared distributions | |
| NET INCREASE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS | |

DISTRIBUTIONS:

| | |
|---|--|
| Dividends paid from net investment income to Common Stock Shareholders(2) | |
| TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS TO COMMON STOCK SHAREHOLDERS | |

FUND SHARES TRANSACTIONS:

| | |
|---|--|
| Increase from Common Stock Transactions | |
| NET INCREASE IN NET ASSETS FROM FUND SHARE TRANSACTIONS | |

NET DECREASE IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE TO COMMON STOCK FOR THE

PERIOD

NET ASSETS AVAILABLE TO COMMON STOCK:

 Beginning of period
 Net decrease during the period
 End of period

 Flaherty & Crumrine/Claymore Total Return Fund Incorporated
 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS(1)
 FOR THE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 1, 2003 THROUGH AUGUST 31,2004 (UNAUDITED)
 FOR A COMMON SHARE OUTSTANDING THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD.

PERSHARE OPERATING PERFORMANCE:

Net asset value, beginning of period

INVESTMENT OPERATIONS:

Net investment income
 Net realized loss and unrealized depreciation on investments

DISTRIBUTIONS TO AMPS* SHAREHOLDERS:

From net investment income
 From net realized capital gains

Total from investment operations

DISTRIBUTIONS TO COMMON SHAREHOLDERS:

From net investment income
 From net realized capital gains

Total distributions to Common Shareholders

Net asset value, end of period

Market value, end of period

Common shares outstanding, end of period

RATIOS TO AVERAGE NET ASSETS AVAILABLE TO COMMON STOCK SHAREHOLDERS:

Net investment income +
 Operating expenses

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DIRECTORS

Martin Brody
Donald F. Crumrine, CFA
Nicholas Dalmaso
David Gale
Morgan Gust
Robert F. Wulf, CFA

OFFICERS

Donald F. Crumrine, CFA
Chairman of the Board
and Chief Executive Officer
Robert M. Ettinger, CFA
President
R. Eric Chadwick, CFA
Chief Financial Officer,
Vice President, Treasurer
and Secretary
Peter C. Stimes, CFA
Chief Compliance
Officer and Vice President
Nicholas Dalmaso
Vice President
Bradford S. Stone
Vice President
Laurie Lodolo
Assistant Compliance Officer,
Assistant Treasurer and
Assistant Secretary

INVESTMENT ADVISER

Flaherty & Crumrine Incorporated
e-mail: flaherty@pfdincome.com

QUESTIONS CONCERNING YOUR SHARES OF FLAHERTY &
CRUMRINE/CLAYMORE TOTAL RETURN FUND?

- o If your shares are held in a brokerage
Account, contact your broker.
- o If you have physical possession of your shares in certificate form, contact
the Fund's Transfer Agent & Shareholder Servicing Agent --

PFPC Inc.
P.O. Box 43027
Providence, RI 02940-3027
1-800-331-1710

THIS REPORT IS SENT TO SHAREHOLDERS OF FLAHERTY & CRUMRINE/CLAYMORE TOTAL RETURN
FUND INCORPORATED FOR THEIR INFORMATION. IT IS NOT A PROSPECTUS, CIRCULAR OR
REPRESENTATION INTENDED FOR USE IN THE PURCHASE OR SALE OF SHARES OF THE FUND OR
OF ANY SECURITIES MENTIONED IN THIS REPORT.

[END SIDEBAR]

[GRAPHIC OMITTED]
LIGHTHOUSE
Flaherty & Crumrine/Claymore

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Total Return Fund

Quarterly
Report

August 31, 2004

web site: www.fcclaymore.com