



OBLATE NEWSLETTER

Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, S.D.

December 2011

Sr. Joelle Bauer, Oblate Director (605) 668-6009 e-mail: jbauer@mtmc.edu

Dear Oblates,

We have been blessed this November with some beautiful sunny days. Today was a cloudy one with promises of a touch of snow the next few days. The Earth in our part of the state is dry, and a little moisture would be nice.

I hope that you each had a nice Thanksgiving spending time with family and friends. We had several sisters home during the break. It is always good to see them. The day began with meaningful Thanksgiving liturgical celebrations followed by a traditional meal. This is one of my favorite holidays as we take time to pause and be grateful for the many gifts God has given us. I also like the lack of commercialism for Thanksgiving.

Now we are in the midst of the first week of Advent. I invite you to spend time looking at the sunrises and sunsets this month. The beautiful array of color weaves into pinks, blues and purples. The Church year also reflects these colors in the environment which invite us to prepare for the coming of Jesus.

December is often a time that becomes crammed with activity and events. We need to strive to spend some time slowing down and being in quiet. Robert Wicks in *Streams of Contentment* says, "Slow down by taking a few breaths as I walk somewhere or am about to answer the phone or sit down at the computer. . . . Appreciate the wonders of who I am and all the people, benefits, and inspiring challenges around me . . . Allow myself a few moments each day in silence and solitude, in my own mental forest with a stream in it, where I can simply breath, relax, and be, and can know in my heart that I have enough for now to be at peace . . ."

December is also a season of hope. In 2007 Pope Benedict in his 2nd Encyclical (which means letter) wrote on Christ hope. He said one of the main themes of Advent is hope. "The one who has hope lives differently. The one who hopes has been granted the gift of new life. In Jesus we are offered the gift of new life – of hope."

Let us enter the Advent Season by taking some moments of silence and strive to be people of hope. How can I live as a hopeful person? How can I bring hope to others? May this time of preparation bloom with great joy at Christmas!!

God bless,
Sr. Joelle

NEXT MEETING: December 18th at 1:00 p.m. in the Chapter Room

Please read Chapter 5, "Obedience" in *The Rule of Benedict: A Spirituality for the 21st Century*, and also Chapter 6, "Restraint of Speech". Be prepared to discuss your reflections.

Refreshments: Sacred Heart Monastery – sisters will join us for refreshments

R.B. READINGS FOR DECEMBER: Chapter 50-73

As the year moves forward we complete the “three time cycle” of the readings in the Rule. I suggest that if you have time to reflect on a specific chapter you spend time with Chp. 55 “Clothing and Footwear”. One line I like is “that the old clothing should be returned and stored in a wardrobe for the poor”. (RB 55:9) In our throw-away society this invites me to ponder what I do with material things I no longer need. I ask myself, “Do I have something that the poor may be able to use that I don’t need? How do I recycle these and other things? Are there outlets in my area to take things that can be used by someone else? Do local outlets take second hand furniture, clothing, cell phones, computers, etc. etc.? Amidst the busyness of this season, ask yourself if there is some way you can help the poor have a happier Christmas season.

RETREAT FOR OBLATES

The next scheduled Oblate Retreat is Feb. 24– 26, 2012. The same theme as October, **Living the Psalms**, will be given. The theme will focus on three kinds of psalms, as well as some psalms used throughout the Rule. You will be invited to pray the psalms with the events of your lives. The retreat begins the evening of Feb. 24th and ends the morning of Feb. 26th. The cost for a single room, including meals, is \$90; a room with two people is \$140. The number of participants is limited. Reservations can be made by contacting Sr. Joelle Bauer at 1005 W. 8th Street, Yankton, S.D. 57078, jbauer@mtmc.edu, 605-668-6009. There is voice mail for the telephone number. Some people from the three Oblate Chapters have told me that they are interested in making this retreat. **However, I do need your response in “black and white”.** So, if you are planning on making it, please contact me. Thanks, and it will be good to see you!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- +Patty Morgan, daughter of Oblate Mari Morgan
- Sr. Kathleen Hickenbotham who is in treatment following cancer surgery
- Sr. Cynthia who is hospitalized
- For those who have religious vocations especially to Sacred Heart Monastery that they respond openly to God’s invitation
- + Mildred Koch, SR. Virgil’s sister-in-law
- + Rosela Pixler, Sr. Grace’s sister
- + Adelmo Medina, Sr. Aurea’s brother
- + Gerry Otterpohl, Sr. Virginia Kopp’s nephew
- + Larry Cheney, Sr. Valerie’s nephew

MONASTERY HAPPENINGS IN NOVEMBER

- Homemade monastery breads and jam were very popular at the Simply D’Vine fundraiser at ASHH
- 5th grade pen pals from Sr. Margo’s classroom have been visiting “their sister” on Wednesday nights for prayer, evening meal and games afterward
- Five women attended our first Discernment Retreat. It was an enriching time for both them and the directors.
- The fall Avera Sponsorship meeting was attend by the monastery council and Presentation Sisters’ council.
- Srs. Penny and Joelle attended the Oblation Ceremony in Lincoln. It was good to see so many familiar faces during this special time for them
- Several sisters and their Care Center “buddies” enjoyed an afternoon tea party
- MMC administration and staff held a morning coffee party for the sisters to thank us for our sponsorship of MMC. This was part of the 75th Anniversary celebration of the college.

- Several sisters helped prepare 32 turkeys for baking and carving, and prepared the ingredients for dressing for the Yankton Community Thanksgiving dinner. Some sisters also enjoyed helping serve the meal for this annual event.
- Our monastery has silence until after breakfast during the Advent season
- Sr. Jeanne Ranek had an article published in the September 2011 issue of the *American Benedictine Review*, entitled “The Role of contemplative Vision in Mult-Religious Global Consciousness.”
- Sr. Bonita has been nominated for an IBM Faculty Award by a senior executive at IBM. She was nominated because of her collaboration with IBM to create an interdisciplinary leadership program using IBM’s leadership curriculum.
- Liturgy Training Publications has asked Sr. Marielle to write “Scripture Insights” for *At Home With the Word 2014*. For the third time, she will provide commentary on Scriptures for the major season and feasts.
- MMC Prayer Partners joined the sisters for Evening Prayer followed by treats. It was an enjoyable time for prayer and visiting
- Srs. Maribeth and Rosemarie helped with the Busy Persons Retreat at the Neuman Center in Kearney, Neb.
- Srs. Eileen O. and Anna helped with the Busy Persons Retreat in Madison, S.D.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Dec. 18th, Oblate meeting at 1:00 p.m.
- Oblate Retreat, Feb. 24-26, 2012

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Refreshments to follow with the sisters, hope you can come!

Have a Peace-filled Advent and Blessed Christmas!