



OBLATE NEWSLETTER

Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, S.D.

November 2011

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

Dear Oblates,

As I look out my window on this autumn day, there is a mix of color dancing on the trees that still hold their leaves and the barrenness of branches from those that have let go of theirs. There is also a glorious splash of purple from mums in the flower bed, tenaciously blooming despite frosts. These remind me of our own lives as we change, let go and continue to bloom in areas where difficulty lies. Like the fall trees and gardens we lie fallow and open. In *Mystic Garden*, Gunilla Norris says, "In the interior life lying fallow has a dynamic nakedness to it. It is an abject state before God in which we are open to being used or abandoned, loved or ignored. It is a radical placement of trust that . . . we will remain open to the mystery that made us. . . . It is where authentic being exists. It is there that God makes each of us a fertile ground, a bearing soil."

Today is also the Feast of All Saints, a time to remember in gratitude the people who have been a witness of God in our lives. Saints are not only those we read about from the past, but the people we meet in our daily lives. Often they are the unnoticed, taken for granted people like the mailperson, garbage collector, store clerk, the one who prepares our meals and cleans our house, tutors, or visits shut-ins. All of them bring God's love to a variety of ways. I suggest you take time to reflect on and pray for the people in your life who "live as saints". Ask yourself, "How am I a saint to others? What can I change to become one?"

On November 16th we celebrate the feast of St. Gertrude, patron of our Benedictine Federation. St. Gertrude was a woman of charity who embraced rich and poor, the monarch on his throne and the peasant in the field. She had a love for those who had died. It is often said, "In the heart of Gertrude you will find me." Her life is a witness of showing no favorites in accepting all people and remembering our beloved dead.

Before the next Newsletter we will be in the middle of the first week of Advent. Ed Hayes in *Prayer for a Planetary Pilgrim*, invites us to "attune the ear of my heart, so that I may hear, just as Mary, faithful woman of Israel, heard. . . . These days are too few as I prepare for the feast. Busy days, crowded to the brim, with long lists of things that must be done. Show to me, how to guard my heart from noise and hurry's whirl, so that I might hear your voice calling my heart to create an empty space that might be pregnant with heaven's fire. Quiet me within; clothe my body in peacefulness, that your Word once again may take flesh-this time, within me".

May this month of thanksgiving be filled with gratitude for the wondrous gifts God has given us.

God Bless,
Sr. Joelle

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, November 20th 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*. Be prepared to discuss your reflections. We will also watch a video from the National Oblate meeting.

Reader: Elaine Rasmussen

Refreshments: Arlyne Brim

Thank you!!

DISCERNMENT RETREAT

The time for the Discernment Retreat is coming soon. There are still some spaces available, so, Oblates – if you know a woman who may be interested in a retreat about discernment, please invite them to attend: The retreat is for Catholic Women ages 18-35 with the theme: *Listening to God's Choice for me*. It will be held, November 18-20, 2011, at Sacred Heart Monastery. This is a prayerful time to discern one's future. The retreat includes: helpful tools for discernment, reflective talks, silent time, one-to-one conference with a trained spiritual director, and facilitated dialogue with the group. A donation of \$100 is suggested, however there are exceptions. To reserve space, please mail a \$10 non-refundable deposit to: Benedictine Peace Center, 1005 West 8th Street, Yankton, SD 57078, joanne.dickinson@mtmc.edu or call 605-668-6292. Thank you for your assistance in "spreading the word" about this retreat.

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.

RB READINGS FOR NOVEMBER: Chp. 25 through Chapter 49. As the rush of the Holiday Season begins this month, I encourage you to pay special attention to Chp. 27: The Concern of the Prioress/Abbott for the Excommunicated. Read the commentary and reflect on how you can apply this to your life as an Oblate.

MONASTERY HAPPENINGS IN OCTOBER

- Srs. Penny and Jeanne attended the LCWR Region 11 meeting held at Blue Cloud Abbey
- Several sisters and other participants attended the Theology Institute presented by Michael Stebbins
- Fr. Leo Ryska led several sisters for a conference retreat
- Ten women attended the Spiritual Direction Residency Program, learning new skills for spiritual direction
- Srs. Marietta and Patty Ann introduced us to the new changes in the liturgy text which begin in Advent
- Srs. Barbara M, Kathleen Crowley, Kathleen Hickenbotham, Kathy and Norma participated in the Susan Kommer Cancer Walk in Vermillion.
- Srs. Corinne L., Esther, Kathy and Sharon Ann helped host the State Nurses' Association Convention held in Yankton. Sr. Corinne received the SD Nurses' Association and the Nursing Education Deans and Directors Nurse Educator Award, and Sr. Kathy was named District 11 Nurse of the Year. Congratulations!
- Srs. Eileen O., Marita and Norma attended a Mass and meal in Chamberlain for the hearing impaired. Sr. Marita did a "reverse interpretation" during Mass from sign language for those who could hear
- Sr. Virginia Pieper returned to St. Mary of the Woods in Indiana to teach a component on food systems and agriculture in the Earth Literacy Master Program.
- Sr. Norma helped at the "Walk in Her Shoes" which is a fund raiser that assists the Yankton Woman's Shelter
- Srs. Erin and Eileen O. helped give the REC retreat at the South Dakota State Prison in Springfield
- The Holiday Fair brought much activity to the monastery in the morning until mid afternoon. It was a good time for many people

- Srs. Anna, Marietta, Maribeth and Kit shared the “Called By Name” Confirmation Retreat with students from Sacred Heart, St. Boniface, and St. Joseph in Sioux City
- Twelve students and their chaperons joined us for Eucharist, brunch and their Confirmation Retreat
- Eighteen Confirmation students from Verdigre and Niobrara came for a tour, Evening Praise and shared an evening meal in late October
- The MMC Oblates began their monthly meetings with a good turn out.
- Srs. Barbara M. Eileen O. and Maribeth attended the Benedictine Vocation Director’s Conference in Beech Grove

PRAYER REQUEST

- +Oblate Arlyne Brim’s brother, Zeke
- + Oblate Phyllis Meier’s parents Robert & Ida Liska
- +Maria Medina, Sr. Aurea’s sister
- Sr. Kathleen H. who is recovering from surgery
- Vocations to religious life and the priesthood, especially Sacred Heart Monastery
- + Lincoln Oblate Jack Robson
- Lincoln Oblate Marva Wasser who is very ill
- Becky who had surgery for a fast growing tumor. She is the parent of four young children
- For those who serve in the military and in gratitude for those who are Veterans

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- November 16th is the feast of St. Gertrude the Great, the patron for the Federation of St. Gertrude of which our monastery belongs.
- November 17th is the founding date for Sacred Heart Monastery when the Maryville, Missouri community became an independent convent which later transferred to Yankton and was called Sacred Heart Convent. The sisters come originally from Maria Rickenbach in Switzerland
- Oblate meeting, **Nov. 20th at 1:00 p.m.** Listen to a video from the National Oblate meeting with Sr. Kathy Huber the presenter, and discuss chapter 5 “Obedience” from *The Rule of Benedict: A Spirituality for the 21st Century*,
- Christmas Vespers, **Nov. 27th in Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel.** Oblates are welcome to attend at 4:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. You need to call for a seat reservation: 668-1540.

Have a November filled with gratitude and a Blessed Thanksgiving-----

