



# OBLATE NEWSLETTER

*Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, S.D.*

*OCTOBER 2011*

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Dear Oblates,

As I look out my window, the beauty of a tree in the midst of changing color to a bright yellow mixed with green meets my eye. It is a reminder that the season of fall is here, and God is ready to gift us with a variety of amazing glory. We are invited to walk among this beauty which brings forth a sense of praise. I hope you have some time to be outdoors and experience the transformations of change.

Our newsletter is a little later this month because of the Oblate retreat. Eighteen people were at the monastery for this weekend. It was a sacred time for them as they entered into silence and reflection, pondering the *Living Psalms*. They were from Des Moines, Iowa, Topeka, Kansas, Grand Island, Hastings, Lincoln and Steinauer, Nebraska, and Sioux Falls. The quest for the spiritual life by our Oblates is always a witness to our sisters and others.

In this Newsletter you will find several upcoming events in October. You are welcome to attend any of these. I hope to see some of you here. Those who are unable to attend will be with us in spirit during these events.

I like Joyce Rupp's, OSM, reflections about autumn in her book *May I Have this Dance?* I shared some of this five years ago, but it is good to remember. She says, "that the leaves of autumn are subtle reminders that we are asked to let go of many things throughout our life. Every time we must surrender something, we connect with our death, with the ultimate moment of letting go. Autumn is an opportunity to reflect on and to claim this reality. Joyce invites us this October to **not** run from the reality of life's necessary changes. Walk through the leaves. Ponder the reality of the season. Touch the terminal buds on trees, which are potent with next spring's growth. Let go of whatever keeps you from growing. Accept the "dying leaves" of our life. Above all, celebrate the season of autumn, for its message has the power to ripen you for the final harvest which is eternal life. Benedict was also attuned to the changing of seasons and often made adjustments in the daily schedule to help his monks in their ordinary lives of seeking God. He also reminds us to keep death daily before our eyes, and strive to live accordingly. Let us ask ourselves this season what we can change in our lives to become better people/better Oblates. Who and what do I truly value in my life? What do I need to do with the time that remains for me? Enjoy letting go of what needs to be let go and welcoming the buds of new life within you!

Sr. Joelle

**NEXT MEETING:** October 16, 2011 in the monastery Chapter Room at 1:00 p.m.

We will begin with a **Memorial Prayer for Oblate Helen Paulson**. If you have memories of her that you want to share, please bring them to the meeting. Since we did not have time at our September meeting to discuss Chapter 4, "The Tools of Good Works" in *The Rule of Benedict: A Spirituality for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, we will discuss it at the October meeting. Be prepared to share your insights.

**Refreshments:** Matthew Kammer

**Reader:** Dar Hurni Thank you!

**READINGS FOR OCTOBER** Chp. 7, the 3rd degree of humility through Chp. 24. I encourage you to spend time reflecting on the 12<sup>th</sup> step of humility to the end of Chp. 7, using Sr. Joan Chittester's commentary. How does this speak to you as an Oblate? How does it call you to growth?

### **HARPIST**

The Oblates are welcome to attend an opportunity for relaxing music along with a power point. On Friday, Oct. 14, at 7:00 p.m., Tami Briggs, a noted harpist will be performing in the Monastery Chapter Room. She is a musician, therapeutic harpist, composer, recording artist, and educator. She will share the healing power of her music with our sisters and the public. Hopefully some of you will be able to join us.

### **THEOLOGY INSTITUTE – COMING SOON!!!**

The Benedictine Sisters invite you to join us for the Fall Theology Institute, on Saturday, October 8, 2011, in the Monastery Chapter Room from 9:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. J. Michael Stebbin will speak on the theme: **Searching for Solid Ground in a Time of Anxiety.** It's easy to feel unsettled these days. Floods, hurricanes, drought, unemployment – the list of disasters, negative trends, and disturbing events can seem practically endless. How can we maintain a strong sense of purpose and steadfast hope when the ground we stand on keeps shifting beneath us? Dr. Stebbins will explore some spiritual and theological insights from the Christian tradition that can help us find a foundation of real meaning and joy even when the world around us is in turmoil. Dr. Stebbins is the Senior Vice President of Mission Services for the Avera Health System. **Registration is requested: [eneville@mtmc.edu](mailto:eneville@mtmc.edu) or call 605-668-6000. All are welcome / No admission fee**

### **BENEDICTINE LECTURE**

Lynn Maxwell, who has performed in New York, will be doing a one woman show about the life of Hildegard of Bingen on Thursday, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 in the newly renovated Marian Auditorium. She begins with Hildegard as a young girl and ends with her as Prioress. Lynn has done extensive study and research on Hildegard's life, including trips to Bingen Germany. Her depiction of Hildegard is well done and includes musical instruments and chant of that time.

Oblates are encouraged to attend this free lecture which is about one of the great Benedictine women of the late 11<sup>th</sup> and early 12<sup>th</sup> century. You will learn about Benedictine life during these centuries.

### **DISCERNMENT RETREAT**

Oblates – if you know of a woman who may be interested in a retreat about discernment, please invite them to attend: **A Discernment Retreat: Listening to God's Choice for me:** for Catholic Women ages 18-35. It will be held, November 18-20, 2011, at Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, SD. 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. Registration is limited. 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](mailto:joanne.dickinson@mtmc.edu) or call 605-668-6292 .

### **HOLIDAY FAIR**

The annual Monastery Holiday Fair is Oct. 28, 2011 from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Homemade breads, jams, noodles and artist/crafters creations are available. Proceeds from the sale of food items is used for the International Sisters Education Fund.

## ***OBLATE DARHURNI'S BOOK***

At the Sept. Oblate meeting Dar shared that he had written a book of poems and drawings, *Confronting the Lunar*. If you are interested in purchasing the book you can contact: Dar Hurni at [darhurni@q.com](mailto:darhurni@q.com). or Dar Hurni 4055 Monroe St. Sioux City, Ia 51108.

## ***MONASTERY HAPPENINGS IN SEPTEMBER:***

- Several sisters responded to a request to participate in letter-writing ministry to some of the inmates at the State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls.
- September is Fire Safety Awareness Month and an informational fire- safety in-service was held during a community night
- Sr. Marietta attended a training program for vocation and formation personnel in Colorado Springs
- Sr. Debra attended the South Dakota Academy of Physician Assistant's fall conference in Sioux Falls
- Sr. Francine gave a retreat for the Religious Education Teachers of St. Benedict's Parish
- Sr. Denette was appointed as Chair of the Federation Finance Committee
- MMC freshman joined the sisters for an ice cream treat in the Chapter Room at the beginning of the semester
- Many sisters attended various events as MMC began its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration
- Sr. Debra attended the fall conference sponsored by the Nurse Practitioner Association of S. D.
- 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. Jeanne R. returned from her travels in the Philippines where she conducted three retreats and led the discernment for the election of Prioress at .
- We have been listening to interesting historical readings on Sunday evenings which tell about the founding of the Federation of St. Gertrude.
- Srs. Barbara M. and Maribeth attended the Diocesan Vocation Directors meeting with Bishop Swain and other vocation directors from the diocese
- Srs. Maribeth and Barbara M. talked to the Religion Classes at O'Gorman High School about vocations.
- Sr. Norma helped with the "Walk in Her Shoes" which raises awareness about domestic abuse

## ***PRAYER REQUESTS***

- + Oblate Helen Paulson
- + Mary Lou Haverkamp – sister-in-law of Sr. Elise
- For continued healing for Sisters Andree and Arthur following surgery
- For vocations to religious communities, especially Sacred Heart Monastery and to the priesthood
- + Silvio Scalabrini, Sr. Corinne Oberembt's brother-in-law
- Dennis Vogel, Srs. Rosemary and Stephanie's brother-in-law and Sr. Jeanne W. uncle
- Evelyn Starzl - 85 who fell Saturday and broke her arm, and for her family who care for her
- For God to bless those who are having difficulty with "letting go and letting God" do his work

## ***UPCOMING EVENTS:***

Oblate meeting Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the Chapter Room – Since we did not have time to discuss Chapter 4, "The Tools for Good Works" in *The Rule of Benedict: A Spirituality for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* at our September meeting, so we will discuss it at the October meeting. Be prepared to share your insights.

*May this month be filled with praise for God's gifts of autumn beauty!*

