



OBLATE NEWSLETTER

Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, S.D.

September, 2010

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

Dear Oblates,

On this hot windy day it seems more like July than the end of August. However, fall is just around the corner and we will soon have our next Oblate meeting. It will be good seeing you again as we start another year. I hope your summer was relaxing with some good times with family and friends.

The summer here at the monastery zipped by with various activities –and a lot of rain in the beginning. It was like “mud season” for several weeks, inviting us to reflect on our own lives. In *A Mystic Garden*, by Gunilla Norris she speaks about mud saying: “The ground is saturated. Life teems below the surface. Right now, in this messy, volatile weather . . . a transition is happening. . . .Can we trust our own confused, inner mud season as much as the one outside the window? . . .Somewhere it is said that every blade of grass has its own angel whispering, “Grow. Grow!” . . . What would happen if we listened for that loving whisper meant for us?” As we encounter the mud seasons of our lives let us listen to the inner Voice inviting us to grow.

Our community “begins summer” with a gathering of all sisters for our Chapter meeting. The first night is a “fun night” when we celebrate our Jubilarians with a party. This year Srs. Eileen O’Connor, Esther, and Jacquelyn marked 50 yrs., Srs. Ann Fasbender, Doris and Marcine 60 yrs., Srs. Jeanette and Laetitia 70 yrs. and Srs. Leonette, Henrietta and Vera 75 yrs. What wonderful witnesses to the fidelity of monastic life all of these women share with us. Several continue to be very active as they minister in various ways throughout the monastery.

The second night we remember in special prayer those who have died the past year. At the time of the Chapter our most recent death was Sr. Jane Klimisch who would have celebrated her 70th year as a Benedictine. Shortly before our late July Chapter meeting our community learned Sr. Martin’s diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. Within a few short weeks she was welcomed Home by God. Both of these women’s illness and death were unexpected and we were quickly reminded of the Rule where Benedict tells us to “keep death daily before our eyes.”

This coming year will be significant for our community as we prepare for the election of our next prioress. **At the end of this Newsletter is a prayer for our Oblates. We ask that you join us by praying several times a week for wise and open direction to the Spirit as we prepare for our election.**

The last several days we have had hot, dry winds, drying the soil. Gunilla says, “In the heat of life the inner thirst grows. The more we put out, the more we need to be filled with living water. . . . There is always this fundamental necessity to be infused with God’s love and energizing power. And now it is time to come together again with Oblates to share God’s love and power. See you soon!!

Blessings, Sr. Joelle

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, Sept. 19th at 1:00 p.m. in the Chapter Room

As we begin this new year of meetings, we will spend time sharing the events of our lives this summer. Our meeting will open with a special remembering prayer for Oblate Bunny Gilday who died. We will also talk about planning for some upcoming happenings during the year. Please begin reading Chapter 5 to page 125 in *Desiring Life*. If there is time we will talk about this chapter.

UP-COMING EVENTS

- **A Leadership Conference for Women: Benedictine Spirituality in the Workplace**
Speaker: Norvene Vest at Sacred Heart Monastery – **Sept. 25, 2010 from registration at 8: 30 a.m.– Closing & Prayer at 3:00 p.m. There is a cost of \$35.** Norvene is a noted Benedictine writer and speaker. All women are welcome and encouraged to come. There is a cost of \$35 which includes the conference and lunch. Please email bgacnik@mtmc.edu if you want to attend. You can also let me know if that is easier for you.
- **Theology Institute:** Oct. 2, 2010 Sr. Genevieve Glen, OSB, “Up from the Water: Living the Paschal Mystery through Chaos to Transformation” 9:00-12:00 in Monastery Chapter Room. Oblates are welcome – no cost to participate.

RB READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER:

The suggested readings for Sept. are the Prologue through Chp. 7, the 2nd degree of humility. I encourage you to reflect on the Prologue, noting the various guides for living a spiritual life.

RETREAT FOR OBLATES

A semi-quiet retreat with the topic of **Rooted in Love**, is scheduled October 22nd-24th. The retreat theme focuses on Benedictine stability. It will invite you to deepen your various commitments by being Rooted in Love. The retreat begins the evening of Oct. 22nd and ends the morning of Oct. 24th. 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. Hopefully we will have some Oblates from each chapter who will be able to make this retreat. This same retreat will be offered in the spring. If finances are difficult for you at this time there is a scholarship available. Please contact me if you are interested in this.

MONASTERY HAPPENINGS THIS SUMMER

- Srs. Carol Jean, Erin and Maribeth attended the “Rome Experience” this summer, learning more about the Rule of Benedict and visiting St. Benedict and Rome sites. They also had the opportunity to visit our “founding Motherhouse” in Maria Rickenbach, Switzerland
- Sr. Bonita spent several weeks in Tanzania and Kenya, Africa helping to install computers and teaching computer skills to religious women
- In late June our community welcomed, Sr. Mary Jo Polak as she began her transfer process from Our Lady of Peace Monastery in Columbia, Mo.
- Sr. Jacquelyn spent time in Kenya, Africa this summer working with the new East Africa director for education
- Dayspring sisters had “pitting parties” in early summer with cherries picked by the garden crew from our orchard trees. About 85 lbs. were prepared and in the freezer, waiting for the bakery staff to prepare delicious surprises!

- Srs. Andree, Jill, Julie, Carmy, Denette, Doris, Kathy and Patricia H. attended the Monastic Institute at St. John's
- Seven students from Western Nebraska spent several days at the monastery for "Come and See Plus". learning about monastic life, including prayer, work and leisure. We are grateful for their help removing lilac branches as the bushes were lowered
- Sr. Eileen O. attended a Youth Theology and Ministry camp at St. John's in Collegeville, Mn.
- Sr. Joyce S. attended the workshop "Thomas Berry and the Great Work of Our Time" in Calif.
- A "give-away" from our Sisters was organized by Sr. Esther for the people of Marty following severe flooding in that area
- Jennifer Knight was accepted as a Postulant at Evening Prayer in late July.
- Sr. Julie renewed Profession during Evening Prayer this summer
- Sr. Aidan received the alumni award for Distinguished Service to Mt. Marty College at the alumni banquet.
- Several sisters attended the American Benedictine Academy meeting in Atchison early August.
- We welcomed 16 Presentation Sisters from various nations who were on a Ministry Pilgrimage following a retreat with the Presentation Sisters in Aberdeen.
- Sr. Mariel Kang from Korea will be attending Mt. Marty College the next four years. It is good to have another international sisters with us.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- +Oblate Eleanor "Bunny" Gilday
- +Oblate Irma Helgeland & Sr. Dorothy brother, Bill Olinger
- +Oblate George Sandhoff's father, Anthony Sandhoff
- + Oblate Paul Jensen's mother, Victoria Herron
- +Sr. Jane Klimisch
- + Sr. Rachel's sister, Agnes Forsting
- +Sr Louise Marie's sister, Magdalen
- +Sr. Carol's mother, Ann Baumert
- +Sr. Anna's uncle, Reuben Morck
- +Sr. Martin Mergen
- For the sisters of Our Lady of Peace Monastery in Columbia, Mo. as their motherhouse continues the process of dissolving
- +Sr. Gabriell's sister, Doris Skelly
- + Sr. Henrietta's sister, Agnes McIntyre

PRAYER FOR OBLATES: God of all Faithfulness, in these challenging times, we ask you to enlighten the hearts and minds of all the sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery as they prepare to elect the next Prioress. May they select a sister among them who is best able to lead the Monastery into the future in the Benedictine way of life according to Your will. We ask this in Christ's name and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Have a great September, and I hope to see many of you at the meeting!
If you have anything for future Newsletters please let me know.*

