



November 2017

Oblate Newsletter

SACRED HEART MONASTERY

Yankton, South Dakota

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Dear Oblates,

We continue having this beautiful fall weather with the cooler days and nights, but with no snow yet. November is the month we traditionally reflect on thanksgiving and gratefulness. We Sisters shared in an abundance of fruits and vegetables, especially tomatoes from our garden for which we are most grateful. Most of the farmers in the surrounding areas have harvested their crops already. It is definitely FALL.



A beautiful tree outside the front entrance of the Monastery
Photo credit: Sister Jill Young

During November we celebrate several feasts and holidays. All Saints Day was a joyous feast commemorating several past and present saints. Pope Francis said, "Saints are our sisters and brothers who have received the light of God in their hearts and have transmitted it to the world. This is the purpose of life, to pass on the light of God to others."

We also celebrated All Souls Day remembering the six Sisters who died this past year: Sisters Ann Fasbender, Jeanette Klimisch, Leonette Hoising, Pierre Roberts, Angeline Keating, and Laetitia Kilzer. May they rest in peace!

Everything we have, we receive as a gift from God-gifts that are freely given with no expectation in return. But in receiving God's gifts, we often wonder what we could ever give back to Him. The psalmist asks this too, "How can I repay the Lord for all the great good done for me?" Our offering of worship in the Eucharist is a fitting offering of giving God's gift back to Him. During this Thanksgiving season, recognize your gifts, reflect on them, offer yourself as an acceptable sacrifice and give back to God what is due Him.

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, December 3, 2017, and as People of God, we are still waiting for Christmas and the Gift of Jesus, when this Gift becomes a reality in our lives.

May this time of Thanksgiving give us time and space to pause and be grateful for the many gifts and blessings that we have received in preparation for Advent.

God's Blessings,
Sister Patricia Heirigs

Next Meeting:

The Yankton Oblate Group will meet on Sunday, November 19, 2017, at 1:00 pm in Room 215 at the Monastery. We will discuss chapter 28 on "Benedictine Oblates and Interreligious Dialogue." We had a wonderful discussion on building Christian unity last month, and this chapter continues on that same theme. If you can, please plan to attend.

The new people planning to become Oblates will prepare their first lesson in their book. Both groups will meet at the same time at 1:00 pm at the Monastery.

Upcoming Opportunities: (Further information listed on website)

- The Sisters and their college prayer partners will meet and pray Vespers together on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, in Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel. Afterwards they will visit together in the Chapter Room.
- On November 16 we celebrate the feast of St. Gertrude the Great, the patron saint of the federation to which our Monastery belongs.
- November 17 is the founding date for Sacred Heart Monastery, when in 1880 five Sisters arrived in Maryville, Missouri, to start an independent convent in America. After living for a short time in Maryville, MO, and in the towns of Zell, Yankton, and Vermillion in South Dakota, they finally moved back to Yankton, and settled there permanently in 1908. The Sisters originally came from Maria Rickenbach in Switzerland and have been in America for 137 years.
- The Yankton Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held the evening of November 22, 2017, with the Sisters furnishing and helping prepare some of the food for the meal. If any of the Oblates would like to help the Sisters, please call the Monastery (668-6000) or Sister Sharon Ann (668-6002) or email (shaas@mtmc.edu) or Sister Joelle (668-6009) or e-mail (jbauer@mtmc.edu). Thank you for your kind consideration.
- On Thanksgiving Day we are having Mass celebrated in Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel at 10:00 am. You and your family are welcome to attend.
- The First Sunday of Advent is December 3, 2017. We will have the blessing of the Advent wreath at our evening meal.
- ***Christmas Vespers*** will be performed on Saturday, December 2, 2017, at 7:00 pm and two times on Sunday, December 3, 2017, at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm in Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel. This year MMC has a new music director, Brandon Connell, who shows promise of some new musical innovations. Please call 605-668-6000 for free tickets. They will be available at the MMC Bookstore, or the SHM Gift Shop on Monday Nov. 13 at 12:00 p.m. Limit 6 tickets per person. Be sure to indicate which day and performance you want to attend.

A free will donation will be collected at the performances.
- Sister **Mary Jo Polak** will present an *Advent morning of reflection entitled "Joys of Mary"* on Saturday, December 9, 2017, from 9:30 to noon in the Chapter Room. Sister Mary Jo will lead us in reflecting on the stories from the Gospel of Luke, used in praying the "Joyful Mysteries" of the rosary. If interested, call 605-668-6000 or 605-668-6021.



Prayer Requests:

Please continue to pray for our Sisters who have had surgery recently and for those who suffer from cancer.

Other prayer requests include:

For the Oblates who have cancer, especially Oblate Angie Hejl

For Oblate Janene Cabalka's son who has cancer

For all the people who have been violently killed lately in the world

For good vocations to our Monastery

For all the Oblates and their families

Have a November filled with love and gratitude and blessings on your Thanksgiving!

Deaths:

Cheryl Vannoy—niece of Sister Aidan Bourke

Lucille Healy—cousin of Sister Patricia Heirigs

Robert Healy—brother-in-law of Sister Rosaleen Dickes

Jerry Weier-- cousin of Sisters Anna Dangel and Louise Marie Goettertz

Roger Swanson--uncle of Sister Jill Young

Monastery Happenings during October 2017

Sisters **Maribeth Wentzlaff** and **Sharon Ann Haas** attended the Regional LCWR meeting at the Abbey of the Hills (the former Monastery of Blue Cloud). **Sister Maribeth** was elected the Vice-Chair of the Region.

Recently **Sister Debra Kolecka** was honored with the “*Nursing Practice*” award at the SD Annual Nurses’ Convention that was held in Yankton, SD.

The **Sisters’ Holiday Fair** was held in our Chapter Room on October 21, 2017, with a large crowd present. Many people enjoyed a morning of browsing among the tables and purchasing over a thousand different items of crafts and gifts made by the Sisters. The Sisters wish to thank all those who in any way joined with us to help make this Holiday

Fair a huge success! During the time of the Fair the people had the added attraction of hearing the **Yankton’s Children Choir and MMC Chamber Choir and Smooth Benediction groups**. Each group performed twice in the Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel throughout the morning.



Sister Mary Carole Curran and guest look over the varieties of jellies available at the annual Holiday Fair.

During the weekend of October 27-29, 2017, the Monastery hosted our **Fall Oblate Retreat**. **Father Thomas Hillenbrand, OSB** from Christ the King Priory in Schuyler, NE, gave the presentations on Friday and Saturday called “Five Steps to a Vibrant Christian Life.” **Sister Doris Oberembt** gave the closing conference on Sunday about the Image of God in our lives. Fourteen

Oblates from Lincoln, NE, Sioux Falls and Yankton, SD, attended this retreat. All of them were very appreciative of this retreat, saying that they liked the balance between the conference times and the quiet times. The concept of “Centering Prayer” was important to many in the group. (Photo below)



On November 5, 2017, five women **Linda Bruning, Noreen Duchene, Joan Burt, Jan Hausmann, and Elizabeth Kleinschmit**, attended an **Oblate Orientation** for new members here at the Monastery. In the next few months they will begin to study the guidelines for beginning Oblates. They will meet on the third Sunday of each month at 1:00 pm, at the same time the other Oblates meet. If you know of anyone who would like to become an Oblate, please inform them of this meeting.

Sacred Heart Monastery Monastic Council will meet on November 11, 2017, in Sioux Falls with the Presentation Sisters Leadership Team about the sponsorship of the Avera Health System.

Our **Monastery Social Justice Committee** presented information from the “South Dakotans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty.” **Sisters Louise Marie Goettertz and Mary Jo Polak** attended a conference, in which Dr. Paula Caplan, a psychologist, spoke about the ability of intellectually challenged and mentally ill to make a moral decision and understand its legal implications. Our monastery has chosen this year to focus on these two social issues, Human Trafficking and the Death Penalty.

Sister Lynn Osika, our monastic librarian, recently sent four boxes of spiritual books to the Benedictine Sisters in Tanzania, Africa. She received an appreciative thank you letter from **Sister Auxilia Hokororo** who said the books could not have come at a better time. They will use them for their young Sisters who are in formation and for the Sisters at their motherhouse.

Sister Clarice Korger and twenty other Benedictine Vocation Directors traveled to Minnesota to attend the Biennial National Benedictine Vocation Directors’ Conference. The theme this year was, “Listening with the Ear of Your Heart throughout the Generations.” Besides listening to the speakers, the group had the chance to see the St. John’s Bible in the newly dedicated gallery at St. John’s.

A new group called ‘Coffee and Canvas’ met recently on the monastery patio and enjoyed coffee and goodies while they were learning to paint. Communications Director, **Raelynn Coldwell** led the group in their interpretation of a fall scene on canvas.



A few of the attendants from the coffee and canvas. Top row from left to right Amelia Schmit, Jessica Schmit, Ann Marie, Emily VanDerhule, Novice, Theresa Lafferty and Sister Barbara Kowalkowski. Front row: Rebecca Foos and Raelynn Coldwell