



Oblate Newsletter

SACRED HEART MONASTERY

Yankton, South Dakota

September 2017

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Dear Oblates,

The summer went so fast that it is hard to believe it is September already. The cooler days in August, along with the much needed rain, helped the parched earth green up again. It was not the best year for our garden as the plants struggled to bring forth their fruit during the dry season.



Left to right: S. Sharon Ann Haas, Sub-Prioress, S. Maribeth Wentzlaff, Prioress, and S. Mary Kay, Procurator.

Many activities occurred at our Monastery during the summer months. Our Monastic Community gave the prior administration of Sisters Penny Bingham, Jeanne Weber, and Mary Kay Panowicz a farewell party before they left their positions. We enjoyed the delicious meal and fun times as we all celebrated together. We celebrated with joy when our new Prioress, Sister Maribeth Wentzlaff, was installed on June 3, 2017, as our 14th Prioress.

We rejoiced with our golden jubilarians, Sisters Joelle Bauer, Rosemarie Maly, and Sharon Ann Haas as they celebrated with their family and friends on July 8, 2017. We are so grateful for their many years of ministry and service they have given to the Church and our Community. During our



Golden Jubilarians Left to right: Sisters Rosemarie Maly, Joelle Bauer, and Sharon Ann Haas

August Chapter Days, we had the wonderful opportunity to celebrate and honor our diamond jubilarians of 60 years, Sisters Aidan Bourke, Kathleen Crowley, Margretta Doyle, Thecla Holzbauer, and Kathleen Courtney. Sister Ann Kessler was honored for her 70 years of monastic profession. These six Sisters gave 370 years of dedicated service to the Church.

We also experienced the sad occasions when three of our beloved Sisters died. Sisters Leonette Hoelsing and Pierre Roberts died in June and Sister Angeline Keating died on August 22, 2017. May they find that peace which is a singular pleasure that they experience when they reach the fullness of life.

Labor Day came early this year. It was a good time to reflect on the dignity of work and how we can respect and value whatever work each of us does. St. Benedict has Chapter 48 of the Holy Rule dedicated to the daily manual labor. "The brothers/sisters should have specified periods for manual labor as well as for prayerful reading.

God's Blessings,
Sister Patricia Heirigs



Diamond Jubilarians Top row left to right: Sisters Kathleen Crowley Aidan Bourke, and Kathleen Courtney. Bottom row left to right: Sisters Margretta Doyle, Ann Kessler, and Thecla Holzbauer.

Next Meeting:

The Yankton Oblate Group will meet on Sunday, September 17, 2017, at 1:00 pm in Room 215 at the Monastery. We will discuss chapter 26 on "Serving the Local Church." On the back of this newsletter is a short survey asking your opinion about the day of the week, the time, and other questions about our Oblate meeting. Either e-mail, mail, or bring your ideas to our September meeting. Thank you for sharing your ideas.

Upcoming Opportunities: (Further information listed on website)

- The Opening School Mass at MMC will be on Wednesday, September 13, 2017, at 9:00 am. Mission Day will be a part of that day as all the students and many of the faculty perform service projects throughout the city of Yankton.
- Sacred Heart Monastery Concert series will present *The Rawlins Trio*, a group from the faculty at USD on Sunday, September 17, 2017, at 3:00 pm in Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel.
- The Fall Theology Institute is on Saturday, September 20, 2017, from 9:00 am to noon. Professor Vincent Smiles will speak on “*Being Human: From the Discoveries of science to the Face of God.*” Contact: **S. Marielle Frigge** at mfriggetmc.edu
- Our annual *Holiday Fair* will be held on October 21, 2017, from 9:30 am-11:30 am in our Chapter Room. Homemade jams and many of the Sister artists’/crafters’ creations will be featured.
- *The Fall Oblate Retreat, “Five Steps to a Vibrant Christian Life,”* given by Father Thomas Hillenbrand, OSB, will be the weekend of October 27-29, 2017.

Prayer Requests:

Many of our Sisters have had surgery this summer and some are doing their ministries again but we continue to pray for them.

Please pray for *Sisters Margo Tschetter, Cynthia Binder, Bonita Gacnik, Bernadette McGowen, Valerie Cheney, Louise Marie Goettertz, Joelle Bauer.*

For good vocations to our Monastery

For all the Oblates and their families

Deaths:

Sister Leonette Hoelsing

Sister Pierre Roberts

Sister Angeline Keating

Jeanette Schramm—Oblate

Angela McGillick—sister of Sister Kathleen Courtney

Donna McDevitt—sister of Sister Joelle Bauer

Father Francis Wehri—brother of Sister Matthew Wehri

Abbot Brian—Assumption Abbey, Richardson, ND

Monastery Happenings during the Summer of 2017



S. Mary Jo Polak speaking with a conference attendee.

Sisters Maribeth Wentzlaff and Clarice Korger attended the Upper Midwest Member Area Gathering for the National Religious Vocations Conference at St. John's, MN. They gave one of the main presentations about the relationship between College Campus Ministry work and our Monastery Vocation efforts. **Sister Maribeth** shared her vocation story at the conference.

Sister Marielle Frigge gave a conference retreat to the Sisters at St. Gertrude's Monastery in Cottonwood, ID.

Sisters Mary Carole Curran, Mary Jo

Polak, Peggy Venteicher, and our employees Ken Varilek, Jane Elle, and Raelynn Coldwell attended the Avera Caring Professionals Conference in Sioux Falls. The theme was, "*Nurturing the Caregiver.*"



Employees Recognized: From left to right: Prioress, S. Maribeth Wentzlaff, Rod Goeden, Physical Plant; Dee Williams RN; Dale Jansen, Director Physical Plant/IT; Carrie Kleinschmit, receptionist; Laurie Groetken, CNA, and S. Mary Kay Panowicz, procurator. Not pictured: Nancy Knight, CNA; Anita Wootton, RN; Kevin Sivertson, Housekeeping.

Sisters Jeanne Ranek and Emily Meisel from the Watertown Monastery presented the "*Dream Work and Spiritual Journey Conference*" at Immaculata Monastery in Norfolk, NE. Our **Sisters Sharon Ann Haas, Peggy Venteicher and Novice Terry Lafferty** joined other religious for this workshop.

At our Monastery Employee Recognition Picnic on June 14, 2017, eight of our employees were recognized for their many years of service to Sacred Heart Monastery, with the most years of service being 35 years.

Mount Marty All-School Alumni met at the end of June with an outstanding number of alumni returning to the Mount for this event. **Sister Sharon Ann Haas** presented the lecture of the "First 80 Years of History at MMC," to a large group. **Sister Madonna Schmitt** received the *Alumni Service Award* for the many years of her services at the College.



Sister Madonna Schmitt pictured with Alumni Service Award. Left to right: Bob Kappel '79 Distinguished Service to Church and Community award, Outstanding Young Alumni, Daniel Filsinger '13, and Dan Wagner Distinguished Professional Achievement Award.

Every three years the members of our St. Gertrude Federation meet to discuss events and policies in the 14 Monasteries that comprise our Federation. This year it was Sacred Heart Monastery's turn to host this week long conference. There were 45 Sisters representing the 14 Monasteries in our Federation and we were able to house them all within our Monastery. During this Federation Chapter the delegates elected **Sister Jeanne Weber** as their Federation President for the next six years with Sister Mildred Busch as her secretary.



Left to right: Sister Pricilla Cohen of Cullman, Alabama, Fr. Mark of Subiaco (past president), S. Bonita Gacnik, and new VP, Sr. Celine of Norfolk.

In July the Sisters at our Monastery were privileged to have **Father Jerome Kodell, OSB**, former Abbot of Subiaco, AR., present the annual retreat for them.

Sisters Bonita Gacnik, Barbara McTague, Phyllis Hunhoff, and Patricia Heirigs attended the biennial meeting of the North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors in Duluth MN, this summer. The theme for the conference was, "*Benedictine Values and Practices: Tools for Living for Life.*" **Sister Phyllis and Carol Olson** gave a presentation for new

Oblate Directors. **Sister Bonita** completed her two terms as President of the North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors and will continue to do the web site for this group as well as continue as Sacred Heart Monastery's On-line Oblate Associate Director.

Sister Mary Jo Polak represented our Peace Center at the biennial conference of the Association of Benedictine Retreat Centers at Subiaco Abbey, Arkansas.



S. Maribeth Wentzlaff pictured with S. Debbie Borneman, SSCM

Sisters Maribeth Wentzlaff and Jeanne Weber took part in the LCWR meeting in Florida with over 800 other prioresses or leaders from communities throughout the US and other countries. (Pictured on left)

Sisters Patricia Ann Toscano and Marietta Kerkvliet attended the Monastic Worship Forum at Subiaco Abbey, Arkansas.

Sisters Maribeth, Sharon Ann, Peggy and Novice Terry attended the T4 Symposium at St. Leo, Florida. The T4 project has been designed to provide a means for women in religious formation to relate with each other and to share experiences. T4 also provides a library of information related to religious formation.

Sister Penny Bingham assisted the Sisters at St. Paul's Monastery, MN, as a member of their visitation team.

Sisters Jeanne Weber and Mildred Busch traveled to Ferdinand, IN, to learn about their new roles as Federation president and secretary.

Sister Maribeth gave a presentation to the Resident Assistants at MMC on the role of a vocation.

Sister Jennifer Kehrwald attended the board meeting for the Sisters of Mt. Angel, OR.

The Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery hosted a “*Get-Acquainted Gathering*” in the Chapter Room for the incoming Freshman of MMC before school started. Later all the freshmen and their families attended the blessing ceremony in Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel.

Sister Sharon Ann Haas gave a brief history of MMC and **Sister Marietta Kerkvliet** shared information on the core value of “Life Long Learning.”



Sister Jeanne, President of the Federation of Saint Gertrude

May God bless and strengthen you in love.
May you be rooted in the Word.
May you continue to listen
with the ear of your heart
to the promptings of the Spirit;
and may God give you courage
to stand faithfully in the present moment
and to embrace the future in hope and joy.
Amen.



Photo on left: Sr. Margretta Doyle in the center around orientation leaders and incoming freshman of Mount Marty College.

Sister Maribeth spoke to the Rotary Club in Yankton on her role as prioress with a brief history of Sacred Heart Monastery and all the works that the Benedictine Sisters do in the Yankton Community.

Sister Robertha Mmole, a *Benedictine Sister from Tanzania, Africa*, is living with the Sisters and taking classes at MMC for her degree in Religious Studies.



From left to right: S. Anna Dangel pouring water, S. Sharon Ann Haas handing out ice cream, Sub-Prioress, and S. Maribeth Wentzlaff, Prioress hading out ice cream treats.

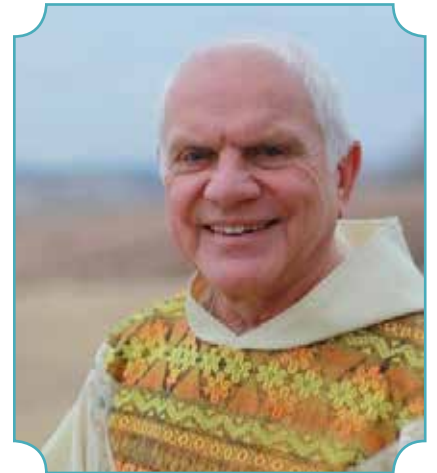
– *Fall Oblate Retreat* –

“*Five steps to a vibrant Christian Life*”

Presenter is: *Fr. Thomas A. Hillenbrand, O.S.B.*

Born in Evansville, IN in 1939 Fr. Tom professed his vows to Benedictine Monastic Life on August 15, 1960 and was ordained a priest on May 27, 1965.

During his many years of monastic life and priesthood, he served the Blue Cloud Community at Marvin, SD as Novice Master, missionary at Resurrection Priory in Coban, Guatemala – a dependent house of Blue Cloud Abbey – and as Abbot. Preceding the assignment to Guatemala, he ministered as chaplain at Sacred Heart Monastery & Mount Marty College in Yankton, SD, and as pastor at St. Michael Indian Mission on the Ft. Totten Indian Reservation in North Dakota. After the closing of Blue Cloud Abbey in Marvin, SD, in 2012, Fr. Tom transferred his stability as a Benedictine monk to Christ the King Priory in Schuyler, NE in 2013.



**Friday, October 27 at 5:00 p.m. —
Sunday, October 29, 2017 at noon**

The retreat is available to both women and men

| The retreat costs **\$120** Scholarships are available. |

Please Register by **October 20, 2017** for the retreat opportunity listed

To Register: Contact S. Patricia Heirigs by visiting our website at

<http://yanktonbenedictines.org/oblates> or

(605) 668-6017 or (605) 668-6000

