



October 2017

# Oblate Newsletter

## SACRED HEART MONASTERY

Yankton, South Dakota

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Dear Oblates,

The beautiful season of autumn has arrived in all its glory. It is a time when the days get shorter, and we begin to prepare for winter. The abundant rains in August and September, and now into October, have refreshed the earth so everything is beautiful and green again, along with the glorious colors of the trees. So in your daily lives, strive to seek God everywhere and in everything as you experience the beauty of nature.



Staff and Students from Mount Marty College picking up items that the Sisters collected for Houston, TX.

October is the month dedicated to reflection on our participation in the Church's mission. There are many saints who are models of this participation; among them is St. Francis of Assisi. He was a true missionary of the joyful hope born of Christ's victory over death and our share in His Risen life. We are all asked to be witnesses of that same hope. Joy is the sure sign of true Christian hope.

Last year Mount Marty College started Mission Day to involve the entire faculty, staff, and students in service projects throughout the city of Yankton. So, this year, the project was organized to collect goods for Houston, TX, to give the people relief from the hurricane. The city of Yankton, MMC, and the Sisters collected items for the victims, and a local trucking company took them to Texas.

We Sisters are praying for all the people who have been affected by the natural disasters recently, the cities damaged by the hurricanes and earthquakes, and the many people killed in Las Vegas. Pray for healing and an end to violence in our world. The Catholic Church, faithful to her mission, is committed to peace, justice, and the good of all.

On September 27, 2017, we celebrated the Funeral Mass for Sister Laetitia Kilzer, the fourth Sister to die in the last four months. Sister Laetitia was the chemistry teacher at MMC for 33 years. Several of her nieces and nephews, and former students and friends attended her Celebration of Life. St. Irenaeus said, "The glory of God is a person fully alive." Sister Laetitia was an excellent example of that; besides being a dedicated teacher who loved her work, she loved each student she taught.

Enjoy the beauty of this fall season. Read chapter 72 in the Holy Rule about the "Good Zeal of Sisters and Monks." Do something good for someone whom you don't see very often. Enjoy life!

God's Blessings,  
Sister Patricia Heirigs

## Next Meeting:

The Yankton Oblate Group will meet on Sunday, October 15, 2017, at 1:00 pm in Room 215 at the Monastery. We will discuss chapter 27 on "Building Christian Unity."

Thank you for your responses to the short survey about the day of the week and the time for our monthly meeting. The overwhelming response was to keep the meeting time the same as it is now, that is, the third Sunday of the month at 1:00 pm. A couple of people wanted Saturday and only one wanted it in the evening. We received quite a few suggestions of names of books for our next discussion group. We will be working on making the selection sometime this year as we need to finish our current book first. Thank you for your many suggestions.

## *Upcoming Opportunities:* (Further information listed on website)

- Please remember that our annual Holiday Fair will be held on Saturday, October 21, 2017, in our Monastery Chapter Room, from 9:30 am-11:30 am. Homemade jams and jellies and many of our Sister artists'/crafters' creations will be featured.
- The Fall Oblate Retreat, "Five Steps to a Vibrant Christian Life," given by Father Thomas Hillenbrand from Christ the King Priory in Schuyler, NE, will be held the weekend of October 27-29, 2017. We still have a few places available so call (605-668-6017) or e-mail (patricia.heirigs@mtmc.edu) as soon as possible.
- The Yankton Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held Wednesday evening November 22, 2017. The Sisters will be furnishing and helping prepare some of the food for the meal. If any of you would like to help, please call 605-668-6000 and give your name. Thank you.



- Christmas Vespers will be performed by MMC students 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.
- The Advent Retreat, "The Joys of Mary" is the topic for the Saturday, December 9, 2017, half-day retreat in the Chapter Room at the Monastery. Sister Mary Jo Polak will be presenting it.

## *Prayer Requests:*

Please continue to pray for our Sisters who have had surgery recently: Sisters *Jill Young*, *Thecla Holzbauer*, and *Jacquelyn Ernster*.

Other prayer requests include:

Oblate Janene Cabalka's son Bob who has cancer

For Luana Johnson's friend who has a serious illness

For favorable weather for all farmers, gardeners, and all those who care for the land.

For all those whose lives have been affected by the hurricanes and earthquakes and the many people who were killed and injured in Las Vegas

*For good vocations to our Monastery*

*For all the Oblates and their families*

## *Deaths:*

**Sister Laetitia Kilzer**

**Betty Pulkrabek**

**Oblate JoAnn Flow**

**Eleanor Padrnos**

**Betty Streff** — mother Sister Francine Streff

**Bob Titus**

## Monastery Happenings during September 2017



Lieutenant Mike Guson presenting "What to do if an intruder enters the building."

High school students from seven parishes in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota came to the Monastery for their Confirmation retreat. Several Sisters participated in sharing their experiences of their call to Religious Life. The students reflected on their "call" and the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**The Rawlins Piano Trio** performed in Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel recently. Their outstanding performance was well received by a wonderful audience.

**The Spiritual Direction Residency** group met at the Monastery in September. They will complete their program in the spring of 2018. Several groups, who have finished their Spiritual Direction programs in recent years, came back for an annual reunion retreat.

**Dr. Vincent Smiles** gave an excellent presentation on "*Being Human: From the Discoveries of Science to the Face of God*" for our Fall Theology Institute. The many people who attended it were well pleased with the presentation.

During the month of September, the Sisters and employees have been involved in training on how to use the new phone system.

The Sisters and employees attended a workshop on "*What to do if an intruder enters the building.*"



Sister Doris Oberembt and Carol Rueb, activities, get ready to serve guests at **The Banquet**.

On September 28 the Sisters helped with the **Yankton Banquet** which is hosted by the various groups and organizations of Yankton. Besides the Sisters, several of our employees, Oblates, and college students helped. It was a wonderful example of community togetherness and sharing our gifts with others.

Many Sisters have attended workshops, given presentations, or prepared for meetings here at the Monastery. **Sister Clarice** attended the *Benedictine Vocation Directors Conference* in Minnesota the first week in October.

**Sister Clarice Korgor** has developed events to involve the MMC students with the Sisters in the Monastery. Future activities include Subs with the Sisters, Prayer Partners, and Game Night. Another group is called Strings of Yarnia, who plan to meet and knit or crochet little hats to give to the alumni when they have a baby.

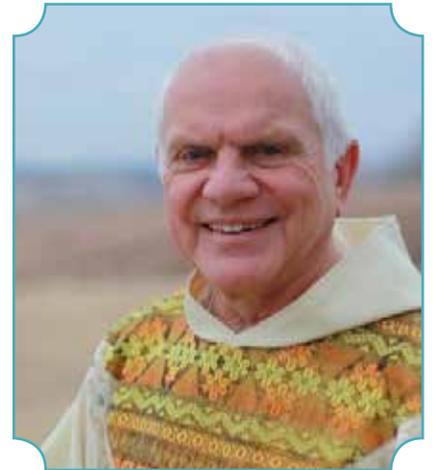
# – *Fall Oblate Retreat* –

“*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**

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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

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

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

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

