



January 2015

Oblate Newsletter

SACRED HEART MONASTERY

Yankton, South Dakota

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Dear Oblates,

Christmas was wonderful at the Monastery, from the long, patient season of Advent, to the fun activities of decorating for Christmas, and finally, the celebration of Emmanuel, God with us, on the feast of Christmas. Decorating began in earnest after December 17, and soon the whole Monastery was festive with the lights, bulbs, and the Christmas trees everywhere. This beautiful transformation helped us go from Advent into Christmas and to all the feasts that followed. The liturgies, parties, the gifts, the messages, and the love manifested in each one of us made this season so joyous and faith filled.

All the Sisters received a little book called “Waiting in Joyful Hope.” It contained reflective scripture readings for daily use during Advent and the Christmas season. Among the messages, we read, “Millennia have passed since Genesis, centuries since Nazareth, but still the Word of God is alive among us, and still the promises are being kept! So, when the decorations are put away and the tree taken out, when the thank you notes have all been sent, when the carols vanish from the supermarkets, there is no call for the post-holiday letdown we sometimes experience. Then we need to take up Jesus’ gift of new life, not once, but every day. We continue on with renewed faith. Even if we break our New Year’s resolutions, Jesus has not broken his!”

I hope your Christmas season was filled with family and friends and that you had time to spend with them and enjoy their life and company. As the New Year of 2016 begins, let us explore new ways we can practice mercy, show patience and love to others, and remember God is always with us!

**God’s Blessings,
Sr. Patricia Heirigs**

Next Meeting:

January 17, 2016, at 1:00 pm in the Chapter Room. We will discuss chapter 14 on “Prayer” in [The Oblate Life](#). Refreshments will be provided by Angie Hejl, and Arlyne Brim will be our reader at the Liturgy of the Hours. Cathy Charging Hawk and Marge Stoebner are praying for vocations during the month of January.

Oblate Yankton Meetings 2016:

February 21 | March 20 | April 17 | May 15

Upcoming Opportunities: (Further information listed on website)

New Scripture Study Series:

Gospel of Luke

Taught by Sister Doris on
Wednesday mornings from
10:00 to 11:45 a.m. starting
February 3, 2016.

The Eucharist in Scripture

Taught by Sister Mary Jo on
Wednesday evenings from
7:00 to 8:30 p.m. starting on
February 3, 2016.

Please register by January 25, 2016, by calling 605-668-6292

Lenten Retreat: | February 13, 2016 | This is a half-day Lenten Retreat from 9:00-12:00 p.m.

Theology Institute: | April 9, 2016 | This is only in the morning from 9:00 to 12:00 p.m.

Oblate Retreat: | April 22-24, 2016 | “Forms of Prayer”

Prayer Requests:

Sister Marie Helene who is still recuperating in the Care Center.

All the Sisters who have been sick lately.

Those friends, relatives, and oblates who have requested the Sisters’ prayers.

Deaths:

Philippine Feist---sister of S. Christine Knoll

Dorothy Kralicek ---sister of S. Leonette Hoelsing

James Fasbender--- brother of Srs. Ann, Veronica, and Bennett

Father Tim Lange

Monastery Happenings in December of 2015

Many of the Sisters attended the Oblate party on December 20th and visited with the Oblates.

The Yankton Catholic Daughters hosted a Christmas Party for all the Sisters in the Chapter Room in December. Games were played, prizes were given, and delicious desserts were served. Everyone enjoyed the fun and visiting. **Sister Maribeth Wentzlaff** is the spiritual leader for the Catholic Daughters.

Among the joyous festivities during the Christmas season, we experienced the sadness of **Father Thomas Wordekemper** leaving us to go back home to Assumption Abbey in Richardton, ND, where he is now pastor of three parishes. After Mass on December 13, 2015, the Sisters invited the congregation, who attend our 10:00 Sunday Mass, to the Chapter Room where they could wish farewell to Father Thomas. The Sisters had a farewell dinner for Father Thomas that evening in the Monastery dining room. He will be missed. (Mother and daughter, S. Jeanne Ranek)



Sister Debra Kolecka gave the Commencement address at the MMC Graduation ceremony on Saturday, December 19, 2015. She spoke about the four core values, encouraging the students to practice them as they go forth from MMC.

Several Sisters sang for the Bach Luncheon at the Trinity Lutheran Church in December. **Sister Patricia Ann** played, as part of a group of organists, a prelude to a Christmas carol, "Quem Pastores."



A number of our Sisters assisted on moving day with the transfer of residents from Avera Yankton Care Center to the new facility at Majestic Bluffs. Each Sister stayed with a resident until his/her room was ready for them. (picture left) Resident Hilda Raymond is checked in by **Pam Rezac** and **Mike Healy** after arriving at the Avera Sister James Care Center. She is flanked by move day volunteers **S. Julie Peak** (left) and **Nancy Johnson**.

Many of the Monastery employees attended a Morning Coffee with the Sisters on December 28, 2015.



Left to right: Kathy, Doris, Dale & S. Anna Dangel



Left to right: Ken Varilek & S. Louise Marie Goettertz



Left to right: Theresa, Courtney and Jane Elle



Father Valerian Odermann, who is replacing Father Thomas from Assumption Abbey, arrived on January 4. Father got here just in time to help us celebrate Sister Penny's feast day. He is getting acquainted with the Sisters in the Monastery and the College faculty and staff. We are all happy to have him with us. (Picture left to right **S. Sarah Schultz**, **S. Madonna Schmitt**, **S. Maribeth Wentzlaff**, **S. Penny Bingham**, **Fr. Valerian**, and **S. Louise Marie Goettertz**.)

Remember:

Our next meeting is on January 17, at 1:00 pm with our discussion on "Prayer." Following the meeting, we will have refreshments provided by Angie Hejl.

Use the following website to find the daily Mass Scripture Readings:

<http://www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie/category/liturgy/monthly-mass-calendar/>

A reminder to continue to follow events and happenings by visiting www.yanktonbenedictines.org

STAY SAFE AND WARM THIS JANUARY!

The Little Rock Scripture Study

Let the Mercy of God Touch You Through the Scriptures



The Gospel of Luke, Part 2

Luke's Gospel has been called, "The Gospel of Mercy." This study, facilitated by Sr. Doris Oberembt OSB, meets on Wednesday mornings, 10:00 to 11:45 a.m. for 7 weeks. It is a continuation of last fall's study, but new members are welcome.

The Eucharist in Scripture

This study will be facilitated by S. Mary Jo Polak, meeting 7:00-8:30 on Wednesday evenings for 6 weeks. The materials look at meals and other symbols in both the Old and New Testaments, which will deepen our appreciation of the Eucharist.

Both groups will meet on Wednesdays, beginning on February 3, but skipping Ash Wednesday so you can attend services.

Please register by January 25 to allow time for ordering materials.

To inquire about an appropriate donation and to register, call 605-668-6292, or

E-mail S. Doris at doberembt@mtmc.edu or S. Mary Jo at maryjo.polak@mtmc.edu.



An offering of
Benedictine Peace Center
Sacred Heart Monastery
Yankton, South Dakota

www.yanktonbeneditines.org/Center

Come and invite a friend. Each group should have a minimum of 8 people.