



April 2018

Oblate Newsletter

SACRED HEART MONASTERY

Yankton, South Dakota

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Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen! Let us rejoice and be glad!



S. Maribeth Wentzlaff (left) holds the Easter Candle while Fr. Valerian Odermann (right) shares in a blessing.

On Sunday, April 22, 2018, we will have our **Oblation Ceremony** in connection with the Sisters' mid-day prayer. It will be held at 1:00 pm in Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel and all are invited to attend the ceremonies. The Oblates will sit in the middle pews and the Sisters will be in the outside pews. This year we have one Oblate making her final oblation and seven women becoming Oblate Novices. All the rest of the Oblates will renew their oblation together. After prayer and the Oblation ceremonies, a reception will follow in the Chapter Room so the Oblates and Sisters can visit and enjoy each other's company.

We still have room in our Oblate April retreat, April 27-29, 2018. Please read the retreat flyer on the back of this page. The theme of the retreat is "Scripture and the Rule of Benedict," and is presented by our chaplain, Father Valerian. Oblates are encouraged to make a retreat every year and this one will be very enriching in Scripture and the Rule. If you are interested, please e-mail me, patricia.heirigs@mtmc.edu or phone 605-668-6017.

On Sunday, May 20, 2018, at 1:00 pm we will have the presentation about the Fourth International Oblate Congress in Rome. Sacred Heart Monastery had two couples represent us at this Oblate Congress and they will share their experiences and insights with us. James Rea from Lincoln, NE, with an Oblate from Schuyler, NE, will give a power point presentation and Lois and Howard Lehmkuhl will share the "Vision" statement from the Congress.

Please plan to attend this presentation as many of the ideas about the future of the lay Oblate in monastic communities will be discussed. Following the meeting refreshments will be served in the Chapter Room.

The Yankton Chapter has finished our discussion of the book, "The Oblate Life." Next fall we will begin our new book, "Preferring Christ" by Norvene Vest. You can get your own copy either on line, or from Amazon or buy it from our Gift Shop. Get the latest copyright date, (I think it is 2015.) We will start discussing this book at our November meeting. In September we will have a meeting on the Divine Office and we hope to get copies of the "Shorter Christian Prayer." More will be explained in our May Newsletter.

As we await yet another snowstorm, please keep each other in prayer. I hope to see many of you at our Oblation ceremonies on Sunday, April 22, 2018.

– *Spring Oblate Retreat* – *“Scripture and the Rule of Benedict”*

Presenter is: *Fr. Valerian Odermann, O.S.B.*



Being a product of the Prairie to our “Dakota” neighbor, Fr. Valerian Odermann grew up working as a ranch hand in the badlands of western North Dakota. He became a monk and was ordained a priest of Assumption Abbey, Richardton, ND. His educational background includes studies and degrees in philosophy, mathematics, pastoral theology, religious studies, and education. In his good-humored nature he remarks “educated beyond my intelligence!” His passion for many years has been teaching, which spans a variety of ages from elementary to college level. He says I am, “Privileged to be part of profound transformations and a blessing to get paid for doing what one loves.” He served a decade and a half in Bogotá, Colombia at the Abbey’s foundation (Tibatí). Living “on the edge” where life’s concerns ran deeper than “liking” someone on Facebook. Fr. Valerian came to the southern “Dakota” and is now living in Yankton, SD. He shares, “I’m being made holy by the Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery” where he serves as chaplain to both the Sisters and college students at Mount Marty College.

Friday, April 27, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. —

Sunday, April 29, 2018 at noon

This retreat will be offered again on (Presenter pending)

Friday, October 26, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. —

Sunday, October 28, 2018 at noon

The retreat is available to both women and men

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

Please Register by **March 31, 2018** for the retreat opportunity listed above.

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

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

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



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