



May 2018

# Oblate Newsletter

## SACRED HEART MONASTERY

Yankton, South Dakota

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Pictured in the back row (left to right) Noreen Duchene, Barb Rezac, Elizabeth Kleinschmit, Linda Bruning, and Betty Adam. Front row (left to right): Patricia Loeffler, Jan Hausmann, and Joan Burt. The group is pictured with S. Patricia Heirigs Oblate Director and far right Prioress S. Maribeth Wentzlaff.

Linda Bruning, Noreen Duchene, Joan Burt, Jan Hausmann, Elizabeth Kleinschmit, Patricia Loeffler, and Barb Rezac, were received as Oblate Novices. Betty Adam made her Final Oblation and eighteen Oblates renewed their Oblation. Many of their family and friends attended the ceremony and the reception in the Chapter Room after the ceremony. Ken Varilek, monastery dietary director, made a special cake for the occasion.

It is recommended that Oblates renew their Oblation at least once a year. This practice is very helpful in having Oblates persevere in the promise which they made at the time of their Final Oblation. Renewal of Oblation may be done privately or in common with a group of Oblates as we did at Sacred Heart Monastery last month. If you make it privately, use the suggested form at the end of this newsletter. Send the form to me after you renew your Oblation. You can do this any time, but the feast of Pentecost, May 20, or St. Benedict, July 11, are good days to renew your Oblation.

Sister Maribeth Wentzlaff and I traveled to Sioux Falls, SD, on May 9, 2018, for the Oblation Ceremony. One Oblate transferred into the Sioux Falls Chapter and the rest renewed their Oblation. Ginny Cheek, a faithful member of their group, died on Sunday, May 6, 2018. May she rest in peace!

**The next Oblate meeting in Yankton is on Sunday, May 20, 2018, at 1:00 pm in the Chapter Room. We will have our Presentation from the Oblates who attended the Fourth International Oblate Congress in Rome last fall. James Rea from Lincoln, NE, with an Oblate from Schuyler, NE, will give a power point presentation about their experiences and insights at the Congress. Lois and Howard Lehmkuhl will share the "Vision" statement from the Congress. Oblates, many of the ideas about the future of the Oblates will be discussed, so plan to attend this presentation as it is our regular meeting for May.**

The feast of Pentecost is on May 20, 2018, and with this feast, the Easter season comes to a close, but the Christian continues to live the Resurrection Mystery. With the help of the Holy Spirit, our lives have been renewed, and we are strengthened to walk the journey with the Spirit during the summer.

Dear Oblates,

God bless each of you! You are all a part of our Sacred Heart Monastery. Together we make a difference in the world of our everyday lives, no matter where we are or what we do.

Finally after three snow storms in April, with an accumulation of 20 inches of snow, spring has come! It was amazing to see all the green grass after the snow melted. So in the middle of May we can say, "Spring is really here!"

On Sunday, April 22, 2018, we had a very beautiful Oblation Ceremony in Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel. Seven women,

This is our last newsletter until early September 2018. Our first fall Oblate meeting is on September 16, 2018. Our topic will be the "Liturgy of the Hours." Have a wonderful, relaxing summer and enjoy God in His nature.

God's Blessings,  
Sister Patricia Heirigs

## *Oblate Yankton Meetings 2018:*

MAY 20 SEPT. 16 OCT. 21 NOV. 18 DEC. 16

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

### **OBLATES REGIONAL GATHERING AT ST. BENEDICT'S RETREAT CENTER, SCHUYLER, NE**

The monks at Christ the King Priory, Schuyler, NE, have agreed to host the 2018 Oblate Regional Meeting on September 8-9, 2018, at their Retreat Center. Father Volker Futter will be the host, and he has reserved 30 rooms for religious and Oblates who plan to attend this meeting and stay overnight. The cost for a single room is \$44.00 for a night and \$37.00 per person for a double room. Meals are not included so breakfast is \$7.50, noon meal is \$8.95, and the evening meal is \$9.70. When you register for a room, you will need to tell them which meals you will eat.

The focus for the weekend will be looking into the future of Oblates and their role in Benedictine life and in society. Oblates will be carrying a vital part in religious communities as membership is declining and aging. Also, Oblates carry a powerful witness in and for society. Oblates will be the bridge of what has been or what will be. We can never underestimate the giftedness of the Oblates. The first conference will begin at 2:00 pm on Saturday, September 8, 2018, and the Regional Gathering of Oblates will end after lunch on Sunday, September 9, 2018. Please let me know by August 15, 2018, if you plan to attend. Please make your reservations soon as there are only 30 rooms available.

To register contact either:

Fr. Volker Futter, OSB  
Christ the King Priory  
1123 Road 1, PO Box 528  
Schuyler, NE 68661  
402-352-2177  
frvolker@benedictinemissionhouse.com

St. Benedict Center Retreat House  
1126 Road 1, Box 528  
Schuyler, NE 68661  
402-352-8819  
retreats@stbenedictcenter.com

■ **THE YANKTON CHAPTER OF OBLATES** will begin the discussion of a new book, "Preferring Christ" by Norvene Vest in October, 2018. You can get your own book on line, or from Amazon for as little as \$5.00 or as much as \$24.95. Get the latest copyright date. You can also buy your book from the Monastery Gift Shop for \$24.95 plus tax. There is a possible discount depending on the order. If you think you would want a book from our Gift Shop, would you please email me? (patricia.heirigs@mtmc.edu) or call (605-668-6017) and leave a message. We need to know by June 15, 2018, so we will know how many books to order.

## *Prayer Requests:*

For all the Sisters who have had surgery recently  
For healing for Joan Lammers  
For the Oblates who have cancer  
For the new Oblates who became Novices  
For good vocations to our Monastery  
For a safe and relaxing summer for all

Our September 16, 2018, meeting is on the "Liturgy of the Hours." We will be using the "Shorter Christian Prayer" books then. You may purchase them from our Gift Shop for \$19.95. Let me know if you want a prayer book.

## Deaths:

Bob Cabalka – son of Oblate Janene Cabalka  
Curt Streff – brother of Sister Joyce Streff  
Edmund Goettertz – brother of Sister Louise Marie Goettertz  
Carol Kolbeck – sister-in-law of Sister Marita Kolbeck  
Michael Schaefer – father of Brother August Schaefer, OSB  
Ginny Cheek – Oblate from Sioux Falls  
Bill Uhing –father of employee Diane Cameron

## Monastery Happenings during December & January

We have heard several performances of the MMC Choral groups in our Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel under the direction of **Dr. Brandon Connell, Mount Marty Choir Director**. Each performance was outstanding. The MMC Band, under the conductor Scott Olson, gave several concerts in Marian Auditorium. Four of our Sisters; **Kathy Burt, Candyce Chrystal, Corinne Lemmer, and Debra Kolecka**, as well as several adults from the college and Yankton also perform with the college band.

In early April **Sisters Maribeth Wentzlaff, Sharon Ann Haas, and Mary Kay Panowicz** attended the LCWR New Leadership Workshop at Mundelin, IL. Later that month **Sisters Maribeth and Sharon Ann** went to the LCWR (Leadership Conference of Women Religious) Regional Meeting at St. John's University in Minnesota.

**Sisters Corinne Lemmer and Marlene Stetz** attended a Stephen Ministry Workshop in Sioux Falls, SD, in April. Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

At the last large cohort of the Spiritual Direction Ministry Formation Program in April, eleven women were certified as spiritual directors. Three tutorial participants finished their second term and shared their residency. Several groups of spiritual directors have scheduled reunion retreats this summer.

Five women participated in the Triduum Retreat during Holy Week at Sacred Heart Monastery.

The fifth grade pen pals from Sacred Heart School, Yankton, SD, enjoyed a picnic on the patio with their Sister pen pals. It was the last meeting with the pen pals for this year. On the same day the fifth graders from St. Mary's School in Sioux Falls, SD, had a mini retreat and tour of the Monastery.



**Sisters Clarice Korger and Kathy Burt** traveled to the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND, for the Third Annual Vocations Jamboree. The keynote speaker was Dr. Gianna Beretta Molla. Dr. Molla is the child with whom her mother, St. Gianna, was pregnant when she was diagnosed with cancer. Since her mother died a week after her birth, Dr. Molla travels to countries to tell her story. She also visited friends in Lincoln, NE, during her visit to the United States.

Our Sisters are still supporting alternatives to the death penalty in SD. Three speakers gave a panel discussion for all the Sisters on human trafficking in SD. Besides being most informative, they alerted us to the places in the community where human trafficking takes place. Please pray for an end to this violent crime.

**Father Valerian Odermann** will return to his Monastery in Richardton, ND, for the summer. During that time Abbot Adian Parcher from Lacey, WA, will assist us.

**Mike and Gerrie Healy** joined us for prayer and supper in April as we recognized them for being the Yankton Citizens of the Year 2017. We prayed a blessing over them at the meal and thanked them for all they have done for the Sisters over the years.

**Sister Kathleen Crowley** completed her term on the Avera Board as a System Member. **Sister Penny Bingham** has been appointed to fill Sister Kathleen's position. Sister Penny also will be an assistant to **Sister Candyce Chrystal** in the Education Department of MMC while Sister Candyce serves as the Interim Dean of Academic Affairs this next year. **Sister Candyce** was recently recognized as the *Marquette University's School of Education 2018 Alumni of the Year*. She was chosen for the impact that she has made in education.

Sacred Heart Monastery will host the Novice and Director Institute the last weeks in May. **Sister Sharon Ann Haas** is organizing and directing this NADI and many of the Sisters are giving presentations. There are 8 Novices and 8 directors from throughout the United States participating in this Institute.

**Remember our May 20 Meeting on our Oblate presentation at 1:00 p.m. in the Chapter Room.**

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## *Oblates of St. Benedict*



### *RENEWAL OF OBLATION*

I renew my oblation as an Oblate of St. Benedict for the community of Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, South Dakota. I promise again to serve God and all people according to the Rule of St. Benedict. Through my daily prayer and work may I be inspired to live in Christ and to bring His love to the world and His peace to all hearts.

Oblate Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Place \_\_\_\_\_