



September 2018

Oblate Newsletter

SACRED HEART MONASTERY

Yankton, South Dakota

S. Patricia Heirigs, Oblate Director

(605) 668-6017

email: patricia.heirigs@mtmc.edu

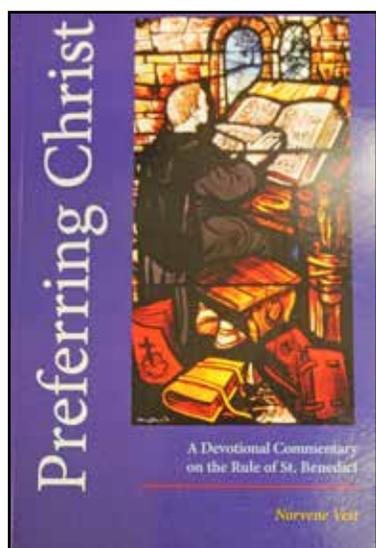
web: <http://yanktonbenedictines.org/oblates/>

Dear Oblates,

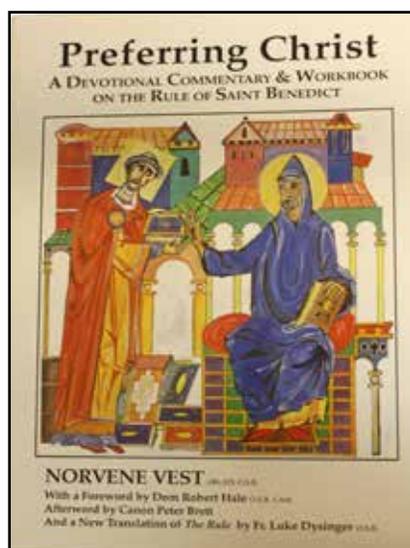
We had a busy, but truly spiritual summer with many religious celebrations. It was the first time in many years that we had the three steps in religious life celebrated. Theresa McGinn, from Fort Lauderdale FL, was welcomed into the novitiate on Sunday, August 5, 2018. Theresa will begin to study the Rule of Benedict, take classes to learn about the Benedictine way of life, spend time in prayer, and take part in the daily activities of the monastery.

Novice Terry Lafferty from Philadelphia, PA, made her First Profession to live a life of obedience, stability, and conversion of life according to the Rule of St. Benedict, on August 4, 2018, in the presence of Sister Maribeth Wentzlaff and the Sisters and her family. Sister Terry will continue teaching in the Religious Studies Department at Mount Marty College.

Sister Peggy Venteicher from Pierce, NE, made her Perpetual Monastic Profession on July 28, 2018, in the presence of our monastic community, her family, and friends. Sister Peggy is a Registered Nurse at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, SD.



New version of "Preferring Christ" available in our gift shop.



Older devotional commentary and workbook copy of "Preferring Christ"

commentary and workbook is no longer in print, but still can be found on Amazon and some of you may have a copy, which you may still use. The newer book is the same material but in book form, and we have copies of that in our Gift Shop (\$18.00 plus tax). Norvene Vest offers in her book, "Preferring Christ," the spiritual wealth of the ancient Benedictine charism that many people today are seeking. This book helps us explore the solid, balanced wisdom of St. Benedict's Rule which has nourished and guided innumerable Christians for fifteen centuries.

We will be entering soon into the autumn months of this present year and will be surrounded by the rich harvest of fruits and vegetables that have been slowly maturing over the hot months of summer. It becomes easier for us to believe in the process of planting and harvesting, of seeds falling into the earth and dying to bring forth a hundredfold of new life. Let us continue to pray and work for peace in ourselves, with our God, and with one another.

Our Oblate Chapter in Yankton will have several new beginnings this coming year. Our first meeting is Sunday, September 16, 2018, 1:00 p.m. in our Chapter Room with a very **IMPORTANT SESSION: Learning about the Liturgy of the Hours**. We have a special speaker to teach you how to use the **Shorter Christian Prayer** book for Morning Prayer (Lauds) and Evening Prayer (Vespers). Marcia Straatmeyer, Oblate of Lincoln, NE, will be here to walk you through the process. The books (\$15.95 plus tax) will be available at the meeting. If you already have a copy of the **Shorter Christian Prayer** book, please bring it with you to the meeting. We will be using the **Shorter Christian Prayer** book for Vespers at all of our monthly meetings after this orientation.

Starting on October 21, 2018, we will be studying the book, "Preferring Christ," by Norvene Vest for the next three years. The first edition, which is a devotional

God's Blessings,
Sister Patricia Heirigs

Oblate Yankton Meetings 2018:

SEPTEMBER 16: LITURGY OF THE HOURS by Marcia Straatmeyer

OCTOBER 21: Begin book, "Preferring Christ" Read Foreword, Introduction, and Prologue

NOVEMBER 18: Read chapters 1 & 2 in "Preferring Christ"

DECEMBER 16: Read chapters 3 & 4 in "Preferring Christ"

Upcoming Opportunities: (Further information listed on website)

The Opening School Mass at MMC will be on Wednesday, September 12, 2018, at 9:00 am. Mission Day will be a part of that day as all the students and faculty will perform service projects throughout the city of Yankton.

■ **Scripture Study Series:**

Register by September 15, 2018, to participate in this fall series.

The Book of Revelation – Wed. mornings for 8 weeks beginning Sept. 26 led by Sister Doris Oberembt

The Parables, Part I – Wed. evenings for 6 weeks beginning Sept. 26 led by Sister Mary Jo Polak

■ **NEW: Two three-day silent conference retreats:**

Sept. 21-23 (weekend) "Praying the Scriptures with Mary" led by Sister Mary Jo Polak

Nov. 7-9 (mid-week): "Prayer of the Heart Retreat" led by Sister Jeanne Ranek

■ **Holiday Fair:**

Our Holiday Fair will be held on Saturday, October 20, 2018, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in our Chapter Room in the Monastery. If any Oblate would like to help with the Fair, please call Sister Fran Streff at 668-6265.

■ **Serving the Yankton Banquet:**

On Thursday, September 27, 2018, the sisters are preparing and serving the Banquet. This is always a time to reach out to those who need a meal or the opportunity to socialize with others. If any Oblate would be willing/able to help serve with the Sisters, please inform Sister Joelle Bauer, (jbauer@mtmc.edu or 668-6009) so you can be added to the list. We would be so grateful for your help.

- **Sister Macrina Wiederkehr** will give a presentation at St. Benedict's Center in Schuyler, NE, on September 28-29, 2018. Sister Macrina has written several books on spirituality and is the author of "Seven Sacred Pauses," in which she shows the wisdom of pausing at the hours of Divine Office and invites us to pause, pray, and live in tune with each hour.

- **The Fall Theology Institute** will be on October 13, 2018, from 9:00-12:00 noon in the Monastery Chapter Room. Sister Teresa Wolf, OSB, from Watertown, SD, will speak on the "Christian Response to Human Trafficking." Sister Teresa will combine data on human trafficking activity in SD and build upon Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching to discuss how Christians are called upon to respond to modern day slavery.

- **The Fall Oblate Retreat** will be from Friday, October 26 - Sunday, October 28, 2018. The presenter will be Father Valerian Odermann on the topic, "Scripture and the Rule of Benedict." Please RSVP by October 19. See the flyer on the back page.

Prayer Requests:

All the Sisters who are sick with colds
All Oblates and family members who have cancer
For all the Oblates and their families
Vocations to religious life, especially Sacred Heart Monastery

For peace in the world
For an end to human trafficking
For the many prayer intentions on our Prayer Board

Deaths:

Dolores Lingren – mother of Sister Denette Leifeld
Kevin Lingren – step-brother of Sister Denette Leifeld
Gloria Sebold – sister of Sister Norma Norton
Marlys Forster – aunt of Sister Francine Streff
Darrell Herbst – uncle of Sister Francine Streff
Sister Grace Feldhacker
Sister Amanda Wolf of Watertown, SD
Sister Anita Valdez of Clyde, MO
Kitty Keating Strubert – sister of deceased Sister Angeline Keating
Oblate Sue Albert from Sioux Falls, SD

Monastery Happenings The Summer of 2018:

Before summer began, our Monastery hosted the **Novice and Director's Institute (NADI)**. Eight novices and eight directors from throughout the United States participated in this institute. Sister Sharon Ann Haas, along with her team, planned and organized the two week event, which focused on the theme, "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." (Group pictured above).



Our **Sister Grace Feldhacker** died in early June. She was the 16th child in a family of 17 siblings and the last one to die. Many of her nieces and nephews came to help us celebrate her gift of life.



Two of the employees honored for service at the picnic.

Sister Karen Joseph from Ferdinand, IN, gave a conference to the Sisters who entered the Monastery after 1983. There were 17 of them who had the opportunity to get to know each other better and share how they live in community.

Many of the Sisters attended **MMC Alumni Days** at the end of June. The Sisters sponsored the "Tailgate Party" in the Chapter Room giving the Sisters a chance to visit with the alumni. On that same day the Master Gardeners of Yankton toured our flower gardens in front of our chapel and Marty House.

The Sisters and employees celebrated together our annual **Employee Picnic** honoring four employees. This fun night gives us an opportunity to thank and honor these people who assist us with our daily house ministries.

During Benedictine Awareness Week (July 9-13) we had several ways of celebrating St. Benedict. On July 9 the Sisters had coffee with our employees. Both Vespers and the Solemnity of St. Benedict were celebrated in the Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel. On July 12 Avera Sacred Heart Hospital treated the Sisters to ice cream sundaes and on July 13 everyone had root beer floats. It was a great week to remember that we are Benedictines and that God is in everyone and everywhere. (See photo at right).



Sister Debra Kolecka attended the UNMC Pharmacology Conference in Norfolk, NE. and the Missouri Valley Symposium in Yankton in July.

Sisters Sharon Ann Haas, Carol Baumert, along with Heather Underwood, and Father Andrew Kelly attended the Spirituality of Aging Conference given by **Sister Joyce Rupp** in Sioux Falls, SD, on July 26.

Sisters Lynn Osika, Kathleen Courtney, Marielle Frigge, and Mary Kay Panowicz attended the American Benedictine Academy at St. Benedict's in St. Joseph, MN, in July.



Sister Mary Jo Polak and the Social Justice Committee have made efforts to spread the awareness of Human Trafficking in Yankton. They made a display, and had a table at Riverboat Days and made posters to be distributed to parks throughout the state.

Sisters Maribeth Wentzlaff, Sharon Ann Haas, and Jeanne Weber attended the LCWR in St. Louis, MO in August. There were over 800 leaders of religious women and men from around the world. The Benedictine prioresses met together at this gathering.

Sister Mary Carole Curran celebrated her **60th Diamond Jubilee** on August 3, 2018, at the evening Mass, followed with dinner with all the Sisters. Sister Mary Carole recently retired from her ministry at Avera Medical Group Behavioral Family Health in Yankton. (Pictured in the middle below with S. Sharon Ann Haas (left) and S. Maribeth Wentzlaff (right)).

Residential Volunteer Kim Mosqueda shows display that she helped make for awareness of Human Trafficking.

LISTEN WITH
THE
EAR OF
YOUR HEART
PROLOGUE,
RULE OF ST. BENEDICT



— *Fall 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, 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 **October 19, 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**



Yankton Benedictines
SACRED HEART MONASTERY
Yankton, South Dakota