



February 2019

Oblate Newsletter

SACRED HEART MONASTERY

Yankton, South Dakota

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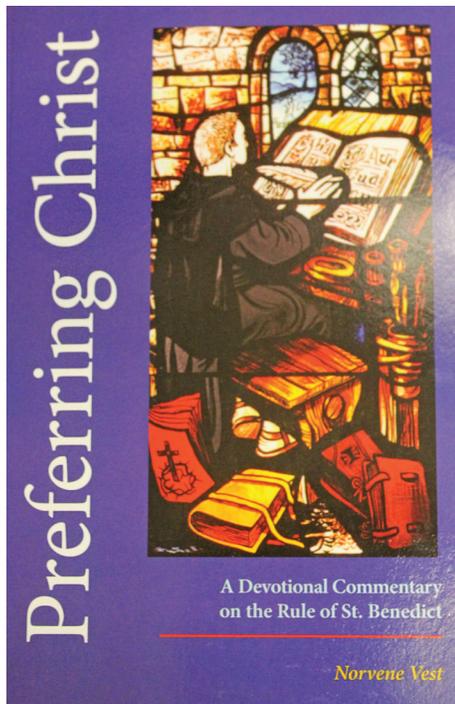
web: <http://yanktonbenedictines.org/oblates/>

Dear Oblates,

The year 2019 is going fast. We are already halfway through February. We know it is winter in South Dakota as the temperatures have been very cold, but fortunately, we have had little snow in the New Year.

The Oblates in Yankton have been learning about their new study book, “Preferring Christ,” by Norvene Vest. When we studied chapter two on the qualities of the prioress, we invited Sister Maribeth Wentzlaff, our prioress, to the meeting. While discussing this chapter, Sister Maribeth added how her role as prioress fits into the Rule of Benedict. “A prioress who is worthy to govern a monastery must always remember what she is called, and fulfill her title through her deeds.”

Our next Yankton Oblate meeting is this Sunday, February 17, 2019, at 1:00 pm in Room 215 at the Monastery. We will be finishing chapter four on “The Tools for Good Works,” starting with verse 41 and chapter five on “Obedience.” Please come prepared to add your reflections about the chapters.



Mark on your calendars the remaining meeting dates for this year: March 17, April 28, and May 19. **PLEASE NOTE that our April Meeting is on the fourth Sunday of April because Easter comes on our regular meeting.** That day is April 28, 2019, when we have our Oblation Ceremony in Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel. Please plan to be present for the ceremony in the Chapel by 12:45 p.m. so we can be ready for prayer. A reception will follow in the Monastery Chapter Room after the ceremonies. Everyone is welcome to attend. Hopefully, many of you will be able to attend for the renewal of your Oblation.

As we move through the season of **Ordinary Time**, let us stay focused on the daily practices that help us keep Jesus as the center of our life. You do not need to create a special place in which to serve God. Use the circumstances and time where you find yourself. Give the next five minutes to God, and then five more minutes after that. Cleaning the house, doing the dishes, or washings the clothes are ways of offering everything to God.

We have more copies of our books, “Preferring Christ” and the “Shorter Christian Prayer Book” in our Gift Shop.

God’s Blessings,
Sister Patricia Heirigs

Oblate Yankton Meetings 2019:

February 17th
March 17th
April 28th
May 19th

Upcoming Opportunities:

● **Scripture Study Series:**

Specific Programs offered in the Peace Center include the Lenten Scripture Study Series.

“**Life Eternal**,” is the topic for Sister Doris Oberembt’s morning group which will be held on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:00 a.m. beginning March 6, 2019.

“**Parables of Matthew and Luke**,” is the focus of Sister Mary Jo Polak’s Wednesday evening group meeting from 7:00-8:30 p.m. beginning on March 13, 2019.

Please call 605-668-6292 to register.

● **The Lenten Retreat’s topic:**

“**Navigating Rough Waters in a Beloved Church**,” is scheduled for the first Saturday of Lent, Saturday, March 9, 2019. This half-day retreat is from 9:30-12:00 noon. To register 665-668-6292.

● **Spring Theology Institute**

Saturday, March 23, 9:00 a.m.-noon, in the monastery chapter room. No charge, but registration requested for planning purposes: call 605-668-6000 or e-mail mfrigge@mtmc.edu. Participants will view and discuss the film "Pope Francis: A Man of His Word," directed by noted film director, Wim Wenders; the film results from a direct invitation to Wenders to interview the pope in person.

- Since many other opportunities present themselves for individual retreats, we will not have an Oblate Retreat offered this spring. We are still planning for an **Oblate Retreat in October, 2019..**

Prayer Requests

For all the Sisters in the Care Center

For the Sisters and Oblates suffering from colds

For the Sisters who have had surgeries and for their quick recoveries

For an end to human trafficking

For vocations to religious life, especially Sacred Heart Monastery

For peace in the world

Prayer Requests:

Pat Rush – brother of Sister Delores Rush

Ruth Morrisey – sister of Sister Rosalie Sitzmann

Ann Lemon – sister of deceased Sister Angeline Keating

Ray Wermers – brother-in-law of Sister Madonna Schmitt

Andrew Mack – brother-in-law of Sister Marita Kolbeck

Marilyn Schultz – mother of Sister Sarah Schultz

Sister Muriel Spartz of Watertown, SD

Oblate Margaret Hunhoff – cousin of Sister Phyllis Hunhoff

Monastery Happenings:

On Sunday, February 10, we Benedictines were privileged to celebrate the **FEAST OF ST. SCHOLASTICA** at our Sunday liturgy. Father Valerian Odermann, in his homily, reminded us of the famous scene where Scholastica and her brother Benedict met for their yearly visit near Monte Cassino. They shared a meal together and had a spiritual discussion. When it was time for Benedict to return to his Abbey, Scholastica begged him to remain and continue their visit. He refused, saying his Rule required him to be back in his monastery by nightfall. Scholastica put her head down and prayed, and then raised it to see a thunderstorm raging outside. Benedict complained, “God forgive you, sister, what have you done?” Scholastica replied, “When I appealed to you, you would not listen to me. So I turned to God and He heard my prayer.” Benedict gave in and stayed the night. Three days after this last meeting, Benedict was standing at the window of his room and saw his sister’s soul leave her body in the form of a dove. Benedict brought Scholastica’s body to the Abbey and buried her in the tomb he had prepared for himself.



The new **SPIRITUAL GROWTH PROGRAM** meets monthly on Saturdays in the Peace Center. Sister Penny Bingham led the group on December 8, 2018, on the topic, “Christ: the Heart of an Incarnational Spirituality.” Sister Doris Oberembt guided the group on February 9, 2019, on “Living the Paschal Mystery: Transformational Spirituality.”

Even though we had a snow storm on December 1, 2018, a group of brave people attended Sister Penny Bingham’s excellent presentation for the **ADVENT RETREAT** entitled “The Dance of Darkness and Light.”

Sister Clarice Korger, along with two Sisters from other Religious Communities, spent two weeks on a **MISSION TRIP** to El Paso, Texas. The Sisters were part of the volunteers who operated houses of hospitality for migrants and refugees. They worked at Annunciation House, a Catholic organization in El Paso, which has been helping the migrants, homeless, and economically vulnerable people of the border region since 1978.

Sisters Maribeth Wentzlaff and Sharon Ann Haas attended the **INTERFAITH DAY** at the State Capitol in Pierre, SD, in January. Various religions were present; it was organized by the Lutheran Church.

The Sisters enjoy the time of prayer and solitude on the Desert Days at the Monastery. Our Lenten **DESERT DAY** is scheduled for a Saturday during March 2019.

Sisters Maribeth Wentzlaff, Mary Kay Panowicz, Debra Kolecka, and Penny Bingham attended the **AVERA HEALTH STRATEGIC PLANNING** meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona, in February, 2019. Mount Marty College is having their quarterly **BOARD MEETING** this week.

Terry Crandall of Yankton gave a presentation to the Sisters on February 5, 2019, on **BIAS, PREJUDICE, and RACISM**. This was sponsored by the Social Justice Committee. February 8 was the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita and a **DAY of PRAYER** for all those involved in human trafficking.

Lent:

Lent is a time to find the joys of God's light during the forty days following Ash Wednesday. It is a time to seek joy in life and in the gifts of God's grace.

In his Rule, St. Benedict encourages a mindset that seems somewhat austere. In Chapter 49, Benedict says, "The life of a monk ought to be a continuous Lent. Since few, however, have the strength for this, we urge the entire community during these days of Lent to keep its manner of life most pure and to wash away in this holy season the negligences of other times."

So as Lent approaches, (Ash Wednesday is March 6, 2019), let us make the effort to walk more closely with the Lord, meditate upon his suffering, and have a greater appreciation of the joy of the Gospel.

Next Meeting:

February 17, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. in the Room 215. Read chapter 4 beginning with verse 41 and chapter 5.



***Have a faith-filled February
with much love and renewal!***