

It all starts with a picnic...



Greetings to all!

Recently we prayed, "The earth is filled with the goodness of God."

Surely the beauty of these summer days reflects the truth expressed here. One morning a tiny fawn stood outside my window looking around to find its mother. When it spotted mom, off it jumped. Every day we feast on God's goodness in the beauty of the hills and trees, the flowers and birds, the distant Missouri River.

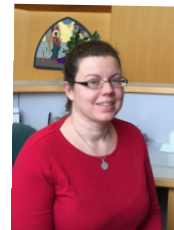
What a joy to witness the goodness of God in our sisters and guests. We celebrated Sister Maria Huber's First Monastic Profession, Sister Elizabeth Novy's 101st Birthday, the 60th Jubilee of Sisters Renee Zastoupil, Susan Lardy, Denise Ressler and Sister Madonna Wagendorf's 70th Jubilee. The earth is truly filled with the goodness of the Lord. Hope your summer was enjoyable and blessed with God's goodness.

I look forward to our first Oblate Meeting, September 10, 2017.

Oblate Updates

Don't Miss Oblate Sunday—October 8

It's not often that a job interview includes questions about the existence of an oblate program, but that's just what happened when **Daniel Barr** interviewed with the School of Arts and Sciences for a position as Chemistry faculty....the position just vacated when Sr. Nicole was elected prioress. Daniel started coming to the monastery for morning prayer and brought his visiting wife, Priscilla, with him to celebrate the Feast of St. Benedict. That was the weekend they found a home, and **Priscilla** joined him at the end of the fall semester after finishing



her nursing degree. She is a nurse at CHI St. Alexius Health. As if that was not enough of a transition to a new life, they both were welcomed into the Catholic Church on Pentecost Sunday.

Mary Lund has been considering becoming an oblate for several years and has watched her neighbor, Helen Helm, grow through her connections to the monastery and Church. Mary has faithfully attended oblate meetings and continues to deepen knowledge of the Benedictine



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Exciting News in the Community

Oblates—more oblations and our new candidates

deepen her knowledge of the Benedictine tradition.



Jane Greer, active as a core volunteer for Ministry on the Margins (that's understating her almost daily

presence), started attending oblate meetings and has indicated her desire to begin candidacy which we will celebrate on Oblate Sunday. Jane is also a volunteer at our switchboard and has made the

sisters' summer brighter by pontoon rides offered by her and her husband, Jim.

Karla Luther became an oblate candidate and is from LaCrosse, WI, Karla is also active in her parish in various ministries and a local gospel choir. Karla will be working with sisters via Skype as she reads and discusses *The Road to Eternal Life* and various Benedictine books.



It is with sadness that we inform our oblates of the death of **Claud Thompson**, husband of Phyllis Thompson of British Columbia. Phyllis presented our Oblate Retreat in 2010.

Mike and Cara Curry who made oblation in 2016, have relocated back to Michigan where Mike obtained a wonderful job. They are sorry to leave behind the oblate community and the many friends they made in Bismarck.

Schedule for 2017-2018

Meeting Dates/Times

September 10 Eucharist, Potluck, Meeting 11A-3P

October 8 11A Sunday Eucharist & Oblation of Daniel & Priscilla Barr, Mary Lund, Renewal of Oblation & Reception of Candidate Jane Greer, Meeting until 3P

November 5 Meeting 1-3P

December 10 Advent Retreat 10A-3P—Sr. Nancy Gunderson, OSB

January 14 Meeting 1-3P

February 4 Meeting 1-3P

March 4 Lenten Retreat 10A-3P

April 8 Meeting 1-3P

May 6 Eucharist, Potluck, Meeting 11A-3P

Monthly Lectio:

The Road to Eternal Life

Prologue, Chapters 32-33

Chapters 34-35

Chapters 36-38

Chapters 39-40

Chapters 41-42

Chapters 43-45

Chapters 45-47

Chapters 48-50

See you in the Fall

Live from NAABOD (North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors)



"Benedictine Values & Practices: Tools for Living, Tools for Life"

July 14-19, 2017

The 2017 NAABOD conference in Duluth was a wonderful time of prayer, teaching, and fellowship with Benedictine monks, nuns, sisters and oblates from around the country (and even the Bahamas!) providing a rich diversity of perspectives and insights. We were privileged to share the daily prayer

rhythm of the sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, who welcomed us into their community for the week with typically enthusiastic Benedictine hospitality.

Three speakers during the conference challenged us to think about the Benedictine vocation in the modern world. Fr. Rene McGraw spoke about the role of Benedictine communities in building the city of God in microcosm here on earth - imperfectly, to be sure, but we invite others to see the beauty and the presence of God now in our communities - a city of peace, where love and forgiveness and compassion abound. Sr. Theresa Schumacher invited us to meditate on the example of St. Scholastica as a model of peacemaking, who, instead of arguing, bowed her head and prayed. We studied representations of St. Scholastica in art and sculpture and discussed the character qualities that various artists sought to portray in her and how her story might speak to us today. Sr. Mary Reuter spoke on the subject of listening to God's voice in the ordinary aspects of our lives - finding and recognizing so-called "thin spaces" where we are more attuned to the presence of God and to what He is saying to us in the routine moments that are full of sacred potential. Earth is so thick with divine possibility, she reminds us, that it's a wonder we can walk anywhere without cracking our shins on altars.

One of the themes of the conference was the robust growth in oblates even in a time when religious vocations are struggling in many places. Discussion centered around the essential role of oblates in carrying the Benedictine mission and vocation into the world, as well as, in many cases, helping with the practical needs of their local monastic communities. Ideas that surfaced included times for common worship and common meals with the oblates and vowed religious, partnering in leadership of oblates programs and in the community, and exploring outreach opportunities to bring the Benedictine values to parishes, schools, and other communities.

A full set of DVDs from the conference has been ordered and will be available in the oblate library when it arrives, along with several books that were given, one copy to each monastery, at the meeting, including Sr. Mary Reuter's new book. I'm also happy to send my full notes to anyone who's interested. Thank you for allowing us to represent you all at this meeting; it was truly a time of blessing and refreshment! There are several oblate conferences coming up in the next year; Sr. Rosemary and Patricia have the brochures and information for anyone who's interested.

In Christ,

Daniel and Priscilla Barr



Sr.

We have a new Sister, a new Postulant and a new Affiliate!

Watch for your new issue of Tidings for all the details on the celebration as Maria Huber became Sr. Maria!

Maria Huber emerged from her novitiate on August 6 to become Sr. Maria Huber, OSB, as she made first monastic profession as a Sister of Annunciation Monastery. Maria joined her family for a few weeks of vacation



and is excited to resume her position at St. Anne's School working with pre-schoolers.

Krista Ferrell moved to Bismarck several years ago to pursue her discernment of religious life closer to us. She has been working with the Department of Transportation and has been accepted as a postulant and will move into the Monastery as we gather for evening prayer in early September. Krista is from a military family and lived most recently in Texas before pursuing religious life.



We are very excited that one of our very talented Benedictine Volunteers, Marena Hoogland, has decided to extend her volunteer service and continue discernment as an affiliate.



Marena volunteers around the monastery (including her debut playing the organ for the Liturgy of the Hours and Mass), and at Ministry on the Margins. Marena is from Wisconsin where her family owns a dairy farm.

Oblate Program
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