



Oblate Newsletter

SACRED HEART MONASTERY
Yankton, South Dakota

MAY 2023

S. Patricia Heirigs, Oblate Director | Patricia.Heirigs@yanktonbenedictines.org
(605) 668-6017 | <http://yanktonbenedictines.org/oblates/>

Dear Oblates,

We had two beautiful Oblate ceremonies on April 16 and April 24, 2023, when nineteen women and men became **Benedictine Oblate Novices** at Sacred Heart Monastery. Six women and men also made their **final Oblation**. Congratulations to this wonderful group of Oblates. It is a blessing to see so many people willing to seek a deeper spirituality with God and to follow in the footsteps of other Benedictine Oblates. We will continue to pray for you and ask for God's blessings on you and your families.

The **Yankton Monastery Oblate Groups** will meet on Sunday, May 21, 2023. The Novices will complete Lesson 6 on their personal Rule of Life and meet in the Chapter Room. The other Oblates will discuss the rest of chapter one in "Strangers to the City," by Michael Casey, in Room 215 at the Monastery. This will be our last meeting until September 2023. Have a wonderful, relaxing summer, and enjoy God in nature and in each other.

God's Blessings, *Sister Patricia Heirigs*

I just want to add my congratulations to each of you who made your **first/Novice or Final Oblation**, and those who renewed yours, on Sunday, April 16, and Monday, April 24. I pray that you will have a refreshing and renewing summer. I very much look forward to continuing the Oblate journey with you in the fall. And, if our paths cross during the summer, it will be a blessing for me. In Benedictine Peace, *Sister Rosemarie Maly*



The **Sioux Falls Oblates** will meet on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at St. Mary's Parish Hall at 6:30 pm. We will bring a dessert to share. Coffee, tea, and water will be finished. I hope to see many of you there. Gratefully, *Sister Barbara McTague*

Upcoming Opportunities

- May 5** Mount Marty Bacculaureate Mass in Bishop Marty Chapel at 4:00 pm
Nurse Pinning in Bishop Marty Chapel at 7:30 pm
- May 6** Mount Marty University Graduation Undergrads - 10:00 am | Post-grads - 1:00 pm
- May 11-12** Mount Marty Board of Trustees Meeting
- May 20** Desert Day
- June 3** Eucharist and Installation of 15th Prioress, **Sister Penny Bingham, OSB**. This event will be livestreamed at 11 am on our YouTube channel: YouTube.com/@shmpublicrelations5390
- June 14** Abbot Primate Gregory Polan visits the Monastery (see ad below)
- June 18-24** Sister's Community Retreat w/ sisters from St. Martin's Monastery in Rapid City, SD
Given by Sister Michaela Hedican, OSB from St. Joseph's, Minnesota

Benedictine Spirituality: A Leaven for Contemporary Culture

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023
7:00 P.M.
SACRED HEART MONASTERY
CHAPTER ROOM

*There is no charge to attend
this in-person event.
This lecture is funded by the
Benedictine Service Fund.*

Register by June 9:
605.668.6292
YanktonBenedictines.org/benedictine-path
BenedictinePeaceCtr@YanktonBenedictines.org

 **Benedictine Peace Center**
SACRED HEART MONASTERY
Yankton, South Dakota



In Memory

Sister Madonna Schmitt, OSB died at the age of 94 on March 20, 2023. Her services were attended and celebrated by her many family members and friends. She was a music teacher and in October 2022, she was inducted in the Mount Marty Fine Arts Hall of Fame.



Bill Kleinschmit, husband of Oblate Elizabeth Kleinschmit

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

Monastery Happenings

On March 4, 2023, Sacred Heart Monastery **Ongoing Formation Team** hosted 45 guests and Sisters on Zoom. This was rescheduled from January 28 because of the snowstorm. Requests from persons too distant to attend were part of the reason for having the meeting on Zoom.

Several Sisters attended the **Mount Marty University Play, *Comedy of Errors***, from March 24-26, 2023. The acting was well done and added to the enjoyment of all who attended the play.



On Monday, April 10, several Sisters attended a preview show of **Yankton High School's spring musical *Disney's Frozen, Jr.*** which consisted of a large cast of over 50 high student students. Julie Amsberry, the Monastery Director of Communications, was the director of music for the play. Congratulations to Julie Amsberry for a job well done!

The Peace Center sponsored a **Triduum Retreat during Holy Week**, April 6-9, 2023. Four women attended and took part in all of the Triduum services.



On March 18, we joyfully elected Sister Penny Bingham, as the **fifteenth Prioress of Sacred Heart Monastery**. She will be installed as Prioress on June 3, 2023. Sister Penny has asked Sister Candyce Chrystal to serve in the role of Subprioress and Sister Bonita Gacnik to serve as Procurator. They will be the administrative team guiding us through our transformation process in the coming years. Sister Penny also served as our thirteenth Prioress before Sister Maribeth.



Prioresses of SHM

Back Row L to R: Ss. Jennifer Kehrwald, Kathryn Easley, Maribeth Wentzlaff
Front Row L to R: Ss. Penny Bingham, Aiden Bourke

The famous **"Game Night"** returned to the Monastery for the first time since Covid started. Mount Marty students came over to the Monastery and played games with the Sisters on Monday, March 27.



Some of the Sisters attended the **"Taize Prayer"** at St. Benedict's Parish on Sunday, April 2.



Tonya Schild, our Human Resources Manager/Assistant Accountant, gave all the Sisters an **Inservice on Severe Weather and Safety**. Every year we have an update on the fire and safety issues in the Monastery.

Sister Sharon Ann Haas attended the LCWR (**Leadership Conference of Women Religious**) Regional Meeting, from April 24-26, 2023, at St. John's, Collegeville MN.

Sacred Heart Monastery Council and Avera System Members met with the Presentation Sisters Leadership Members on Saturday, April 15, 2023, in Sioux Falls, SD. Members of the Catholic Health Association gave the group a better understanding of what it means to activate the MJP (Ministerial Juridic Person) a new way of sponsoring Avera.



Mount Marty University had two band concerts recently. The Jazz band and soloists performed on the evening of April 28 and the Concert Band played on Sunday, April 30, 2023. Both concerts were well attended and Sister Kathy Burt played in the Concert Band.

Prayer Requests

- For Sister Penny Bingham and her Administrative Team
- For all the Oblates in need of Prayer
- For those who suffer from cancer
- For Sister Kathryn Easley who is recovering from back surgery
- For all the people in Ukraine: soldiers, citizens, the elderly, and children
- For peace and unity in the world.
- For all the Oblates and their families



CONTACTS

Yankton

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Online

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Sioux Falls

S. Barbara McTague
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Sacred Heart Monastery
1005 West 8th Street
Yankton, SD

First Wed. of month 7:00-8:00 pm
Platinum Valley Apartments
6315 South Conie Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD

News from Nebraska

30-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

In June 2023 we will celebrate the 30th year of Nebraska Benedictine Oblates. For 30 years men and women of all faiths seeking the Benedictine Way of Life have gathered for prayer, study, and fellowship in and around Lincoln, NE. The first Oblate meeting in Lincoln was held in 1993. **We will mark this special occasion with a reception on June 11, 2023 at 2:00 pm at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in the Donlan Room.** We are excited about the possibility of Srs. Phyllis Hunhoff, Patricia Heirigs, and Mary Jo Polack celebrating with us in person. There will be an Oblation ceremony, Vespers, and time for fellowship. We will also have a book exchange, so bring Christian books that you may no longer want or need. Please plan on joining us as this is not an event you will want to miss!



OBLATE EVENTS

Oblates were treated to **virtual Visio Divina provided by Steve Blum** for five weeks during Lent. As many as 140 individuals, many of whom were Benedictine Oblates, attended this virtual event. The reflections and illuminations provided by Steve were excellent.

On April 22nd the Oblates were given a tour of **Annunciation Church in Lincoln NE**, which is a Greek Orthodox church. Charlene Gondring (Oblate) and Fr. Theodore Roupas conducted the tour which included explanations of the many icons that are in the church. The icons help worshippers connect with God, Jesus Christ, and saints. Oblates were then invited to stay for Vespers.



In addition, Oblates had an opportunity to meet in person at Madonna for a **Spiritual Pause regarding Visio Divina with illuminations from St. John's Bible and Icons.** This Spiritual Pause was provided by Charlene Gondring (icons) and Charlotte Liggett (illuminations) March 18, 2023.



The Sisters at Sacred Heart Monastery (SHM) hold **Desert Days**, when they engage in silence and prayer. We are invited to join them from our own homes in praying for our world, friends and family, or other requests/praises during the same days. The upcoming **SHM Desert Day is May 20.**

SHORTER CHRISTIAN PRAYER INSTRUCTIONS

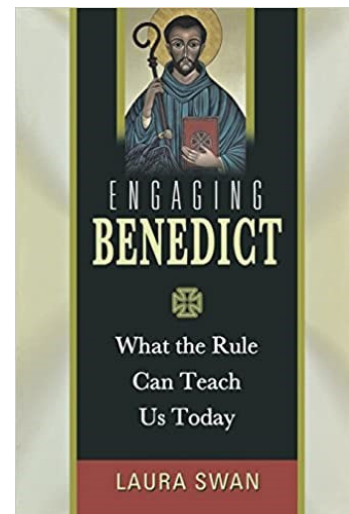
During the Easter Season, which started April 10th, we turn at the **Reading to pp. 464-486**. We remain in the Easter season until **Pentecost Sunday**, May 28, when we return to Ordinary time. We remain in Ordinary Time until Advent.

One resource you might like to check for the **Liturgy of the Hours for the current day** can be found at universalis.com.

NEW CHAPTER BOOK

A new book has been selected, which we will be reading for our chapter meetings over the next two years. The book is **Engaging Benedict: What the Rule Can Teach Us Today, by Laura Swan, OSB**. It is available in paperback and can be purchased either new or used from Amazon. Readings for each of our chapter meetings will be identified and provided in an upcoming newsletter.

Nearly fifteen centuries ago, Benedict of Nursia wrote a rule for Christians who wanted to live, work and pray together in community. With its core values of contemplation, hospitality, and simplicity, **the Rule remains as useful and fresh today as it was when Benedict created it** in Italy those many centuries ago. Author Laura Swan, a Benedictine Sister, looks at the Rule with a critical eye and uncovers gems for our world today. Readers will discover that Benedict's wisdom can shed much light on their own lives.



CELL BOOK READINGS:

Transformed by God's Word: Discovering the Power of Lectio and Visio Divina

May - The Last Supper

FRIDAY LAUDS

On Friday mornings at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital (Lincoln) chapel we gather for morning prayers. **Oblates can participate in-person or via Zoom as a hybrid model for Friday Lauds has been created.** If you are interested in participating in-person, just arrive at the Madonna chapel by 7:30 am Friday mornings and bring your Shorter Christian Prayer book. Oblates say Lauds and then gather for breakfast in the hospital cafeteria for fellowship. If you are interested in participating virtually, please contact Dean Carol Barry via email and she will share the Zoom link with you. Carol can be reached at Majorcarolb@yahoo.com

CONTACTS

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Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital,
Lau Room
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Lincoln, NE

Steinauer

Marcia Borchert
Marcia.Borchert@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org

Banquet Room
Convent House B&B
Steinauer, NE