



Oblate Newsletter

SACRED HEART MONASTERY

Yankton, South Dakota

JANUARY 2025

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As we begin the New Year of 2025 we reflect on the message of Pope Francis as he officially inaugurated the 2025 Jubilee Year with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope." The Pope had the solemn opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve.

At Yankton we had our celebration of the beginning of the year of "Pilgrims of Hope" at Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel on Sunday, December 29. The Yankton parishioners of St. Benedict's and Sacred Heart were invited to attend.

Sister Jeanne Weber gave the reflections at our opening ceremony. She used the model of the beatitudes to explain the various ways "hope" is a part of our lives. Hope helps us recognize the weaknesses we experience in our lives. Hope is not based on what is seen but on what is not seen. Sister Jeanne stated, *"The surest foundation for hope is a life of prayer, the prayer by which we allow God, slowly and secretly, to transform our hearts to the divine heart. Hope sings, Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God. As we begin this Jubilee year of hope, we pray, be here, Word-made flesh, transforming our broken wounded weakness, making it blessing and hope for all peoples."*

Enjoy the prayer Pope Francis encourages us to recite all year long.

Sister Patricia Heirigs

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May you grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform
from within both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

UPCOMING MEETINGS - Chapter Room

Sunday, January 12

1:00 P.M. Current Oblates are reading *Strangers to the City* by Michael Casey. **Chapter 10: Christ**

2:30 P.M. NEW OBLATES will read Ch. 3 pp. 20-30 (Life Gifts/Values for Oblates) in the book *Reaching for God* by Roberta Werner. Also read pages 61-63 on Liturgy of the Hours. Additionally, S. Sharon Ann Haas will present on *Lectio Divina*.

Sunday, February 16

1:00 P.M. Current Oblates are reading *Strangers to the City* by Michael Casey. **Chapter 11: Contemplation**

2:30 P.M. NEW OBLATES will read pp. 30-38 in the book *Reaching for God* by Roberta Werner. Additionally, S. Doris Oberembt will present on *Contemplation*.

Message for MMU Oblates

Dear MMU Oblates – Happy New Year! Each year as we come to the end of the Christmas season, I find myself turning to the following poem by Howard Thurman for reflection and prayer because it helps me remember the meaning of Christmas and take it with me into daily life all year long. And, I think St. Benedict would encourage us to reflect on it, as well, and put it into practice. Even though I think I may have shared this with you before, I think it bears repeating:

I also think of the title and refrain of a Christmas song that I became aware of several years ago: “Wherever Love is born, it is Christmas morn today.” – by Kathy Sherman, CSJ

Let us keep each other in prayer throughout 2025!

May God bless you abundantly this year!
Benedictine peace

Sister Rosemarie Maly

MMU MEETING SCHEDULE

Wed., Jan. 22 @ 4:00 P.M.
Fri., Jan. 24 @ 3:00 P.M.
Sunday, Jan. 26 @ 3:00 P.M.

The Work of Christmas
When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.
by Howard Thurman

Upcoming Opportunities

January 17-18: Mount Marty College (MMU) Theater Production *Alive and Kicking* in Marian Auditorium.

January 18-19: Chapter meetings for the Sisters.

January 23: Game Night with MMU students, staff, and sisters in the Chapter Room.

January 25: Desert Day.

January 27-29: Mass in Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel for Catholic Schools Week.

February 2: World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life.

February 10: Feast of St. Scholastica. MMU Prayer Partners get together for Vespers with Sisters.

February 11: Annual Employee Mission Meeting.

February 13-14: MMU Board of Trustees Meeting.

February 16: Yankton Monastery Oblates Meet.

February 22: Desert Day.

March 5-April 9: Lenten Scripture Study on Wednesday mornings or evenings. Visit YanktonBenedictines.org/scripture-study to learn more.



*Save
The
Date*

Oblation Ceremonies
April 27, 2025



Monastery Happenings

Our **community garden** produced among many things, tomatoes, watermelon, and beans. However, the apple trees outdid themselves. We had many, many apples. We are blessed often with many different dishes of apples!

Sisters Carmy Luke, Marietta Kerkvliet, and Clarice Korger attended the **National Religious Vocation Conference Convocation** in early November in Minneapolis. The theme was "Walking Humbly Together." The conference called upon the participants to reflect on topics like racism, interculturality and how to help people who are discerning a vocation to religious life. S. Clarice was recognized for the 10th Anniversary of her completion of the Orientation Program for Vocation Directors.

S. Carmy S. Clarice



S. Marietta



Over twenty **Thanksgiving Food Baskets** were given to families in the Yankton area. This project is sponsored by MMU but several sisters also participated in it this year.

The sisters made over 30 turkeys for the **Yankton Community Feast** open to all on the eve of Thanksgiving. Our nearly 100 year old oven did most of the work.

Sacred Heart Middle School Students performed their **Christmas Program** in BMM Chapel on December 18. Many sisters met their Pen Pals that evening.



The **Cedar Catholic School Choir** performed for the sisters on December 20 in our Chapter Room.

The **Advent Retreat** on December 7 was well attended by Zoom. The theme was "Mary's Song: An Invitation and Response."

Several Sisters rode on the Monastery's float in the Yankton Holiday Parade of Lights on December 5. The theme was **Bridging Winters Past**.



The Christmas liturgies were beautiful with the **festive decorations in the Gather Space and Chapel**. We celebrated Christmas lovingly and joyfully in our monastic home and chapel.



On December 28, several sisters helped Sister Kathy celebrate Christmas with her **ERTH group**, designed for people with cognitive disabilities.

The sisters and employees shared a **Christmas coffee** together on Monday, December 30.

The **New Year's Eve Prayer Vigil** focused on the theme of *hope* following the recommendations of Pope Francis. After prayer the sisters enjoyed a party in the Chapter Room.



Prayer Requests

For good health for the Sisters who have been injured lately.
For Sister Marita Kolbeck as she recovers from illness.
For just and honest people to be responsible for our government.
For peace in the war-torn countries.
For all the oblates and their families.



In Memory

Dave Stiefvater – S. Joyce Feterl’s brother-in-law
Janice Wermers – Deceased S. Madonna Schmitt’s sister
S. Michaelleen Jantzer – Watertown sister

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TBA

News from Nebraska

FRIDAY MORNING PRAYER OFFERED TO PATIENTS AND STAFF AT MADONNA

Nebraska Benedictine Oblates continue to say Liturgy of the Hours (LOTH) or Lauds every Friday morning at 7:30 am., in-person in Madonna’s Chapel and via Zoom. In addition, LOTH is being offered to patients at Madonna via closed-circuit TV. Staff are welcome to join us in the Chapel. If you are interested in receiving the Zoom link for LOTH on Friday mornings, please contact Carol Barry at majorcarolb@yahoo.com.



Oblates ready to say LOTH on Friday mornings in-person and via Zoom. We would love to have you join us.

News from Nebraska

CHAPTER GATHERINGS

The Nebraska Benedictine Oblates in Lincoln continue to meet at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital for our Chapter Gatherings on the second Sunday evening of every month, September through May. All Gatherings are offered hybrid, in-person and on Zoom. Oblates are warmly encouraged to attend for fellowship, discussions, and praying the Liturgy of the Hours. We start our Gatherings in the Donlan Conference Center and then adjourn to the Chapel for Vespers. The Donlan is to the right of the front door as you enter Madonna.

Reflections are being offered by different Oblates and we continue to discuss our chapter book, *Engaging Benedict: What the Rule Can Teach Us Today* by Laura Swan. Please see CHAPTER BOOK READINGS below of our readings for upcoming months. Reflections were offered in October by Barb Michael—*Centering Prayer* and in November by Carol Barry—*Lectio Divina*. We will continue to focus on the topic of prayer for Reflections during the upcoming Chapter Gatherings.



Vespers being said by Oblates at the conclusion of the Chapter Gathering.

REFLECTIONS BY OBLATES:

We are fortunate to learn from our fellow Oblates when we gather for Chapter Gatherings. Various Oblates are sharing their knowledge and understanding by providing a Reflection. If you are interested in presenting a Reflection at our meetings next year, please give your name to one of the Deans; we certainly encourage your participation.

INTEREST IN YOUR BENEDICTINE EXPERIENCE

We are interested learning more about your experiences with Benedictine spirituality as an Oblate. We believe all Oblates have wisdom to share with each other and with the world, so you are invited to participate by answering the questions below. Your permission will be requested for inclusion of your responses in upcoming newsletters or on the website. Please answer the following questions and send your responses to [Charlotte Liggett at cmliggett2010@aol.com](mailto:cmliggett2010@aol.com) at your earliest convenience.

1. How has the Holy Rule or studying the Holy Rule helped you as Christian?
2. What spiritual practices have been strengthened because of your exposure to St. Benedict, the Sisters, or other Oblates?
3. Which charisms or values of Benedictine spirituality have enriched your life and how?
4. Do you have a story about your journey as a Benedictine Oblate that you would like to share?

NOTE: If you would like to meet with Charlotte and talk through these questions so she can record your answers, that can be arranged. Please contact her at the above email address.

SAYING GOOD-BYE

Sadly, we are saying “good-bye” to **two** Nebraska Benedictine Oblates: Deacon Richard J. Drueke, who passed away November 5, and Darla Weisbeck, who passed away on December 21. Both were from the Lincoln Chapter.

News from Nebraska

SNOW/ICE AND CHAPTER GATHERINGS

It's that time of year again! If we have more than three inches of snow we will NOT meet in person, but WILL meet entirely via Zoom. Should we have a snowstorm that seems hard to judge, an email will be sent. For those without email, please call someone with email. This announcement applies to Chapter meetings and Spiritual Pauses. In all cases, use your best judgment. Be safe!

SHORTER CHRISTIAN PRAYER INSTRUCTIONS

We remain in **Ordinary Time**: Jan. 6 - Mar 5 (Ash Wednesday).

March 9: First Sunday of Lent. We begin Week I with Sunday Evening Prayer I on page 37. The antiphons for Sundays in Lent are in **red**. At the reading turn to pp. 405-428. One week of text is given for the Lenten season. We repeat these daily prayers every week of Lent and continue until Palm Sunday

April 13: Palm Sunday - Turn to page 429.

April 17: Easter Triduum begins on Holy Thursday - Turn to page 436.

April 20: Easter Sunday - Turn to pp. 464-486.

We remain in Easter season until Pentecost Sunday, June 8 at which time we return to Ordinary time.

Liturgy of the Hours for each day of the year can be found at Universalis.com. Navigate to the link for "Yearly Calendar."

CELL BOOK READINGS



Reading assignments for Cell groups in *Grace: On the Journey to God* by Michael Casey are as follows:

January - Ch. 4 *Grace of Alternation* (pp 42-54)

February - Ch. 5A *Grace of Temptation* (pp. 55-63)

March - Ch 5B *Grace of Temptation* (pp. 63-71)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Chapter meetings for Lincoln and Omaha Oblates at Madonna (Donlan Conf. Center) - Sundays, January 12, February 9, and March 9, all at 7:00 P.M.

We will continue a hybrid approach by meeting in person and on Zoom. Watch for email notifications from Lead Dean Carol Olson.

Spiritual Pauses*

Saturday, January 18 at 9:30 a.m. - Rule of Life
Madonna (Donlan Conf. Room)

Saturday, April 12 at 9:30 a.m. - Visio Divina with
Illuminations & Icons
Madonna (place TBD)

**Spiritual Pauses will be held hybrid (in-person and virtual). We will use the same Zoom link as for the Chapter Gatherings.*

CHAPTER BOOK READINGS

Reading assignments for Oblates in *Engaging Benedict: What the Rule Can Teach Us Today* by Laura Swan is as follows:

January: Ch. 7 (p. 107-116)

February: Ch. 8 (pp. 117-122)

March: Ch. 9 (pp. 123-136)

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