



Oblate Newsletter

SACRED HEART MONASTERY

Yankton, South Dakota

NOVEMBER 2025

S. Sharon Ann Haas, Oblate Director | shaas@yanktonbenedictines.org
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Dear Oblates,

As I'm writing this, we're having a beautiful fall day. Fall is a favorite season of mine, a time to reflect on God's goodness. The peacefulness of these days, the beautiful colors of the fall leaves, and the abundant harvest can keep us mindful of God's never-ending blessings.

We have had several days to celebrate. On Halloween, we had a party for the Sisters and employees, with lots of creative costumes and tasty treats. On November 1, we celebrated All Saints Day, and on November 2nd, All Souls Day. I love to walk out to the cemetery these days, remembering the Sisters who have gone before us.

I hope you are able to enjoy some of these beautiful fall days. Take time to admire the leaves as they gently flit to the ground and dance in the wind.

May this Thanksgiving be a time of gratitude and a blessing for you, your family, and your loved ones.

God's Peace and Grace be with you, *Sister Sharon Ann Haas*



UPCOMING MEETING - Chapter Room

Sunday, November 16, 2025

CURRENT OBLATES

1:00 P.M.- Read Chap 3 (Eager for Trials) in the book *Saint Benedict's Wisdom* by Luigi Gioia.

BEGINNING OBLATES

2:30 P.M. - Read Ch. 5 (p. 96-103) in the book *Reaching for God*.

Message for MMU Oblates

Dear MMU Oblates -- November has become for us the month of remembering and giving thanks, beginning with the Feast of All Saints and All Souls' Day and ending with Thanksgiving Day toward the end of the month. With the Feast of all Saints and All Souls' Day, we are invited to take time to remember, celebrate and honor our loved ones who have gone before us, our families, friends, and all who have touched us in a special way through their lives as they share God's faithful and abundant love with us in their unique and special way.

Last night we celebrated our Sunday Mass for All Souls' Day in the monastery cemetery. As I sat in the midst of all the amazing women on whose shoulders our community stands and remembered many of these women and the story of their lives, under an almost full moon, my heart was filled with gratitude.

Sometimes I think it's easy to say the words "remember and give thanks"; it takes a bit more time to bring back the memories of our experiences with the people who have touched our lives in a significant way, and to cherish and savor these memories.

I suggest and challenge each of us to spend some time every day this month with someone who has gone before us and has made a significant difference in our life - perhaps a different person each day - recalling shared experiences in which memories were made; then take time to savor each memory and allow the gratefulness to well up in our heart, such that we may find ourselves saying with the psalmist: "I give thanks to you, my God, with my whole heart!" (Psalm 9:1)

Happy month of remembering, cherishing, savoring and celebrating the people who have helped you make memories in your life journey!

Gratefully in the spirit of St. Benedict,
Sister Rosemarie Maly

NOVEMBER MEETINGS

Sunday group – Nov. 16 @ 3:00pm

Tuesday group – Nov. 18 @ Noon

Wednesday group – Nov. 19 @ 4:00pm

Friday group – Nov. 21 @ 3:00pm

Upcoming Opportunities

November 2-8: National Vocation Week. As oblates, you can help promote the religious life and all vocations with your prayers. Several sisters helped record a video for our social media, a prayer for the Jubilee of Consecrated Life.

November 7-9: "Rock of Ages", fall musical presented by Mount Marty University (MMU) Theatre

November 13: Benedictine Lecture Series - RESCHEDULED from October

The Retreat Center is hosting an in-person, Zoom presentation by Fr. John Klassen on the topic "**Deep Listening: Obedience and Humility in the Rule of Benedict**". The presentation is open to Sisters and Oblates of Sacred Heart Monastery. It will be held in our Chapter Room at 7:00 P.M. I hope that some of you can join us. Register by emailing BenedictinePeaceCtr@YanktonBenedictines.org



November 14: Avera Health System is celebrating its 25th Anniversary in Sioux Falls. Some of the Yankton Benedictines will attend, along with the Presentation Sisters from Aberdeen.

November 23: MMU Band Concert at 4:00 P.M. in Marian Auditorium.

December 3: The Sisters are invited to a **Retirement Gathering for Dr. Marc Long**, the 11th President of MMU. Dr. Long has served MMU for 10 years. He will be moving to Missouri in January.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES CONT.

December 4: The Yankton Holiday Parade of Lights will be held in downtown Yankton. The theme is “Winter Wonderland,” and the sisters will participate once again.

December 6: Advent Retreat from 9:30-11:00 A.M. via Zoom. We will focus on “Joseph’s Fiat” and be led by the staff of the Benedictine Peace Center. All are welcome to join us. Find more information at <https://YanktonBenedictines.org/advent>

December 6: Christmas Vespers will be held at 4:00 and 7:00 P.M. in the Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel. MMU puts on this annual concert.

For over 20 years, the MMU campus community members have provided **Thanksgiving baskets** for families in need. Some of the sisters plan to provide baskets this year.

December 11: Benedictine Charism Forum with S. Lynn McKenzie. Join us online from 9:30-11:00 a.m. to learn about how the Benedictine charism is expressed in nations around the globe. Visit <https://YanktonBenedictines.org/charism> for more information.

Monastery Happenings

We had a big turnout of Sisters and MMU students and faculty for the **S’mores party on the patio**.

Game night with MMU students was held in the Chapter Room on September 30, and **Bingo Night** was held on October 20 and had wonderful prizes.

S. Mary Kay Panowicz and S. Debra Kolecka traveled to Rome September 24-29 to present the first report from Caring for Life Catholic Health Ministry to the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life, and Societies of Apostolic Life. Their presentation was most successful, especially their involvement in rural healthcare.

Barb Rezac, an oblate, participated in a Rome seminar during the summer of 2025. It was hosted by the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities. Barb gave a presentation to the sisters about the seminar, and gave a comparison between Pope Frances and Pope Leo and their similarities.

S. Marcine Quintus came home from Majestic Bluffs to the Monastery after being there for three months because of her stroke. She is doing very well in her recovery.

October 16 was the day the Sisters and friends of Yankton **signed a beam** to be placed in the new Monastery near the dining room and chapel. The cement floors are all in for phase one. As I write this, the walls are being installed.

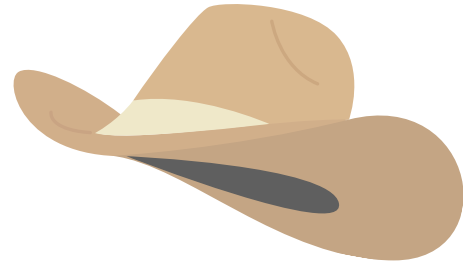


MONASTERY HAPPENINGS CONT.

October was Make a Difference Month. The Sisters and employees collected items to donate to Pathways Homeless Shelter, The Contact Center, and the Yankton Area Banquet.



MMU celebrated Lancer Days (Homecoming) during the week of October 20-26. Seven Sisters participated in the monastery float for the parade themed, "Wrangle the Broncos."



S. Peggy Venteicher received the 2026 Nursing Practice Award from the South Dakota Nurses Association on October 6 in Brookings, South Dakota. This award acknowledges a Registered Nurse involved in direct patient care.

Two sisters were recognized during Lancer Days. **S. Kathy Burt** received an alumni award for "Distinguished Service to Mount Marty." **S. Patty Ann Toscano** was inducted into the Mount Marty Fine Arts Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Gregorian Fine Arts Association.

The Sisters establish **Prayer Partners** with students, faculty, and staff of MMU. They received their matches recently and are forming new relationships.

Prayer Requests

- For good health for Sisters who have pneumonia.
- For quick recovery of Sisters who have had recent surgeries.
- For a safe and profitable harvest for all farmers.
- For all the hungry people in the world that they may have food.
- For peace and justice in the world, especially in war-torn countries.
- For all the prayer requests on our prayer board.
- For all the Oblates and their families.

In Memory

Adeline Oberembt, sister-in-law of
S. Doris Oberembt



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TBA

News from Nebraska

FRIDAY MORNING PRAYERS

All Oblates are encouraged to **virtually or physically pray Lauds with other Oblates**, every Friday morning at 7:30 am. If joining us physically, we gather first in the Madonna chapel and then go to breakfast together for fellowship and conversation. If joining us virtually, please contact Carol Barry (majorcarolb@yahoo.com) and she will send you a Zoom link. These are important times to strengthen our spiritual practices and doing it with other Oblates is comforting and confirming. We hope you can join us; no RSVP required unless joining us via Zoom.



LITURGICAL CALENDARS

Carol Barry has ordered and received Liturgical Calendars for 2026. The calendar depicts Advent, Christmas Time, Lent, Sacred Paschal Triduum, Easter Time, and Ordinary Time for the whole year starting with Advent. Calendars will be available at the NBO November chapter meeting. **Come and pick up your copy.**

O ANTIPHONS

You might want to use the **O Antiphons** during this special season. The final eight days of Advent are accentuated by the “O” statements that lead to the eight days of the Christmas octave. They are called the O Antiphons because they each begin with the letter O and address Jesus with a traditional title primarily from the prophecies of Isaiah and Micah.

The O Antiphons may be read at Evening Prayer, December 17th – December 23rd, before the Canticle of Mary. The O Antiphons end December 23rd because evening prayer on December 24th is the beginning of the Christmas vigil. If you are interested in using the O Antiphons you can find them at this link -

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/o-antiphons-advent>

PRAYER-CENTERED REFLECTIONS AT CHAPTER GATHERINGS

Several different Oblates have volunteered to present the Reflection at our chapter Gatherings. This year all reflections are centered on the Oblate Prayer. “Thank you’s” for Reflections given thus far – **September:** Barb Michaels; **October:** Carol Olson.

VESPERS AT CHAPTER GATHERINGS

Oblates are invited to help lead Vespers at our monthly chapter meetings. You will be provided with directions that evening and Carol Barry is available to give instructions and assistance. This is an excellent way to gain more knowledge of and experience with the Shorter Christian Prayer book that we use consistently. If you are interested in helping to lead in this manner, please contact one of the Lincoln deans – Carol Olson, Carol Barry, or Charlotte Liggett.

News from Nebraska

SHORTER CHRISTIAN PRAYER INSTRUCTIONS

Advent marks the beginning of the Liturgical Year.

Sunday, November 30 is the first Sunday of Advent. We begin with Evening Prayer 1 on Saturday night, November 29 (page 37). We are in Week I of the Shorter Christian Prayer. At the Reading turn to page 356. Follow the Psalter Week I – IV and at the Reading during weekdays, we turn to pages 362-378. These are repeated each week during Advent. One resource you might like to check for the Liturgy of the Hours for the current day can be found at universalis.com. Advent extends from November 30 until December 24. The Octave of Christmas starts December 25, 2025 and extends through January 1, 2026.

SAYING GOOD-BYE

Sadly, we are saying “good-bye” to **Rev. Dr. Ebb Munden**, who has been a member of Nebraska Benedictine Oblate community. Rev. Munden passed away on September 2, 2025.

SAVE THE DATE

Chapter Meetings:

2nd Sunday of each month @ 7:00pm:

Nov 9, Dec 14, Jan 11

All meetings are in Lincoln at Madonna in the Donlan Conference Room. Meetings are in-person and via Zoom. After our meeting we will adjourn to the Chapel for Vespers. Please watch for email notifications from Lead Dean Carol Olson.

CELL BOOK READINGS



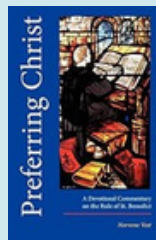
Reading assignments for *Grace: On the Journey to God* by Michael Casey are as follows:

November - *The Grace of Prayer: Contemplation* (pp. 110-123)

December - *The Grace of Faith* (pp. 124-135)

January - *The Grace of Revelation* (pp. 136-146)

CHAPTER BOOK READINGS



Preferring Christ: A Devotional Commentary on the Rule of St. Benedict by Norvene Vest.

Reading Assignments:

November: Interlude I, Ch. 1-2, pp 17-38

December: No reading assignment.

Instead we will focus on questions regarding readings from the Holy rule and Norvene Vest.

January: *Preferring Christ*: Ch. 3 & Ch. 4 (vs. 1-38)

Each month **discussions at chapter meetings** regarding selected readings will use the following three questions:

1. What spoke to you from the assigned?
2. How does this reading affect your life today?
3. What stood out to you from the comments by Vest?

Spiritual Pauses: *Hybrid meetings (Donlan Conf Room and/or via Zoom)*

Sat, Dec 13 at 9:30 A.M.- Topic: *Liturgy of the Hours*

Sat, Jan 17 at 9:30 a.m. - *Commitment to a Monastic Way of Life* (formerly *Composing a Personal Rule of Life*)

March Date TBD - *Visio Divina*

NOTE: Liturgy of the Hours has been canceled. If you are seeking help with praying Liturgy of the Hours, please contact one of the Deans.

CONTACTS

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