



Oblate Newsletter

SACRED HEART MONASTERY

Yankton, South Dakota

SEPTEMBER 2026

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Greetings to all Sacred Heart Oblates,

I hope you had some relaxing, fun days with family and friends this summer. Special days for our community this summer have been our celebration of Jubilees: 25 years - Sr. Carmy Luke; 25 years - Sr. Sarah Schultz; 60 years – Srs. Margo Tschetter, Marietta Kerkvliet, Kathryn Easley, Joyce Streff, and Jennifer Kehrwald, and 70 years - S. Louise Marie Goettertz. Each year during our August community days, we have a remembrance service of the Sisters who have gone home to God in the past year: Sisters Eileen Neville, Norma Norton, Carol Baumert, Kathleen Crowley, and Anna Dangel. I'm always amazed at the many ministries and accomplishments of our jubilarians and those who have passed away. We stand on the shoulders of some remarkable women.

And as you may have known, our building project continues. At the end of November, the plan is to have completed 2/3rds of the part that we will take down. The part that is left to take down is mostly our bedroom areas. Until the new assisted living rooms are completed, some of us will be living in the Retreat Center and Guest Department. So November and December will likely be rather chaotic with all the moving pieces. This has involved a lot of downsizing and letting go, and a good time to practice our Care Skills. The front part of the monastery will remain. We will do some refurbishing at a later time.

We're grateful to Mick Gibbs, a Sioux Falls oblate, who spoke to the Sioux Falls and Yankton Oblates about his oblate journey. Several oblats were able to join us online. Thank you, Mick, for sharing your inspiring story.

Thank you to all of you for your faithfulness to prayer, and the many ways you are of service to others. Hopefully you are able to attend the monthly meetings in your area. The Sisters keep you in prayer and in turn are grateful for your prayers.

In the spirit of Benedict,
Sister Sharon Ann Haas, Oblate Director

The first meeting of the Yankton oblats will be on **September 20 at 1pm in the Monastery Chapter Room**. They will be discussing Ch. VIII of *Saint Benedict's Wisdom* by Luigi Gioia.

The **new Yankton oblats** will meet from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. This first meeting will be informational.

DID YOU KNOW?

September is the transition from summer to autumn, the start of the new school year, and harvest celebrations. Its name comes from the Latin word *septem* (seven) because it was the seventh month in the early Roman calendar.

Message for MMU Oblates

Dear MMU Oblates -- As we begin another school year and a new season in our oblate journey together, my mind and heart are drawn to the title of a very small book, ALWAYS WE BEGIN AGAIN by John McQuiston II.

I will share with you a brief reflection from this book to help us remember that every day is an opportunity to begin again:

*At the beginning of each day,
after we open our eyes to receive the light of that day...,
We must resolve to treat each hour as the rarest of gifts,
and be grateful for the consciousness that allows us to experience it,
recalling in thanks that our awareness is a present
from we know not where, or how, or why. (Actually, maybe we do know?)*

*When we rise from sleep
let us rise for the joy of the true Work
that we will be about this day,
and considerately cheer one another on.*

*Life will always provide matters for concern.
Each day, however, brings with it reasons for joy.*

*Every day carries the potential
to bring the experience of heaven;
have the courage to expect good from it.*

*Be gentle with this life,
and use the light of life to live fully in your time.*

I encourage you to ponder these reflections from time to time in light of how they can help us see each day as a gift, and always begin again.

Blessings on this new year!

Sister Rosemarie Maly

Upcoming Opportunities

September 9: Scripture Study

An in depth study of *The Sermon on the Mount* led by S. Mary Jo Polak via Zoom or in person at the monastery for those in the Yankton area. Learn more at YanktonBenedictines.org/scripture-study/

September 12: Spiritual Enrichment Program

A program that includes eight Saturday-morning gatherings (via Zoom) from September through April to discuss sections of the book, *A Guide to Living the Truth* by Michael Casey and an option to meet with a spiritual director. Visit YanktonBenedictines.org/sep/ for more information.

October 16-18: Mount Marty Lancer Days

October 18: Homecoming Mass

Our meetings for this month are:

Tuesday, Sept. 22 @ Noon
Wednesday, Sept. 23 @ 4:00pm
Friday, Sept. 25 @ 3:00pm
Sunday, Sept. 27 @ 3:00pm

Upcoming Opportunities

Sacred Pause Retreat



Take a break in the middle of your busy day to refresh your faith, to pray and ponder on your relationship with God. The Benedictine Sisters invite you, Mount Marty University students, to one or more of the 50-minute retreats at the Monastery Peace Center.

Tuesdays and Saturdays throughout the semester. **Contact Campus Ministry Staff** (Ted, Kaylee, or S. Rosemarie) for more information.



Monastery Happenings



S. Barbara Kowalkowski graduated from the School of Theology in May after recovering from the stroke she suffered last fall.

S. Savio, a visiting sister from Tanzania, graduated from MMU on May 2. We had a graduation party for her with some of her Benedictine friends. She will attend the School of Theology at St. John's University in Collegeville, MN this fall.



S. Savio pictured with MMU President Mark Brown

The **Avera Race Against Cancer** had over 8600 participants in our region, including several sisters who walked and some who volunteered.

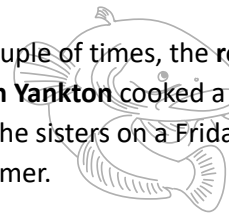


S. Clarice Korger received a certificate of Spiritual Direction from Sophia Center in Atchison, KS and now is working at the Avera Cancer Center in Yankton.

S. Marcine Quintus enjoyed her 100th birthday gathering on May 24. The sisters shared stories with her, and gave her many cards.



A couple of times, the **retired firemen from Yankton** cooked a catfish meal for the sisters on a Friday night this summer.



S. Carmy Luke has been involved in many activities with her vocation ministry. In June, she participated with the Youth in Theology and Ministry Program at St. John's. In July, she attended two National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) Workshops titled *Spirituality and Vocation Ministry* and *Impact of Families in Vocation Discernment* in Leavenworth, KS. S. Carmy is the Member Area Coordinator of NRVC and is assisting in planning the next convocation, to be held in Orlando, FL this fall.

The Monastic Congregation of St. Gertrude met in June with representatives from our 14 Benedictine Communities. **S. Jeanne Weber** has been the President of our Congregation for the past nine years. S. Jennifer Mechtild Horner from Beech Grove, IN was elected the next President and **S. Kathy Burt** from SHM was re-elected as one of the Council members. The Congregation is busy planning the Benedictine Jubilee which is in 2030.



Ss. Jeanne Weber and Jennifer Mechtild Horner

During the week of June 9-15, the Sisters reflected on their annual retreat. **S. Nancy Bauer** from St. Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph, MN gave the conferences on the different relationships in our Benedictine life.

On the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, June 29, we had a farewell luncheon for our chaplain, **Fr. Grant Lacey**, that we share with MMU. He has assigned to five parishes west of Mitchell, SD. **Fr. Randy Phillips** became our new chaplain, assuming the duties of Monastic and University Chaplain.

Fr. Grant pictured with his parents, Lois and Mike.



MONASTERY HAPPENINGS CONT.

Employees recognized during **Benedictine Awareness Week** for their years of service to the sisters were: *Pictured R to L: Christina, Brenda, Traci, Jenny, Linda, Dana, and Chris (not pictured).*



S. Thecla Holzbauer, with the help of several Care Center staff, made 997 World Mission Rosaries for the beatification of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen on September 24, 2006, in St. Louis, MO. This rosary project is part of an effort to make 75,000 rosaries for the occasion. Sister and her helpers were a few beads short of making 1000 rosaries.



The **Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)** meeting in Orlando, FL in August, celebrated 70 years of the organization. Ss. Mary Jo Polak and Jodie Zimmerman joined many women and men religious from all over the US for prayer, reflection, and contemplative dialogue on the meaning of future religious life.

Prayer Requests

- For all the Sisters suffering from colds
- For the safety of the construction workers on our new monastery
- For a good harvest for the farmers
- For all the requests on the prayer board.
- For successful peace negotiations with Iran
- For all Oblates and their families
- For those suffering loss during sudden flooding, especially those in Nepal and the Grand Canyon.

In Memory

- S. Anna Dangel, OSB
- Virgil Stetz, S. Marlene's brother
- Florence Rokusek, S. Janice's sister
- Bill Schramm, S. Arthur's brother
- Marlene Schramm, S. Arthur's sister-in-law
- Patrick Donahue, Oblate Teresa Donahue's husband.



Sixteen sisters traveled to Abbey of the Hills (formerly Blue Cloud Monastery near Marvin, SD), on June 15-16 to help **Fr. Denis Quinkert** celebrate his 50th anniversary as a priest. While there the sisters were witness to the blessing of the fireplace room dedicated to Fr. Denis.

SUMMER JUBILARIANS



Ss. Marietta Kerkvliet, Margo Tschetter, Kathryn Easley, Jennifer Kehrwald, and Joyce Streff (60 years), and S. Louise Marie Goettertz (70 years)



S. Carmy Luke (25 years) and S. Sarah Schultz (50 years)



On Sunday, August 30, **Mick Gibbs, Oblate** and CEO of the Avera Heart Hospital in Sioux Falls spoke with a nice group of sisters and oblates about what it means to be an oblate.



S. Anna Dangel, 91, died on July 16. She entered SHM in 1953. She was an educator who loved helping with retreats.

CONTACTS

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TBA

News from Nebraska

JUNE OBLATION CEREMONY

On Sunday June 14, 2026 the Nebraska Benedictine Oblates met at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital to welcome Judy Reid who was making her Final Oblation. We were joined by Sr. Sharon Ann Haas and Sr. Pat Heirigs from Sacred Heart Monastery (SHM) in Yankton, SD. All current Oblates attending the Oblation Ceremony were invited to renew their commitment to Benedictine spirituality and SHM. Family and friends of all Oblates joined us for the ceremony and reception. After saying Vespers together in the Chapel, we adjourned to the Donlan Conference Room and enjoyed a book exchange, refreshments and fellowship.



Pictured: Sr. Sharon Ann, Judy Reid, and Sr. Pat Heirigs



Oblates signing renewal documents

COMBINED OBLATE EVENT

The Lincoln chapter hosted a "Benedictine Movie Day" July 18, 2026 at Madonna Rehab Hospital. The movie, *Vision: From the Life of Hildegard von Bingen*, depicts the life of a visionary 12th century Benedictine nun, mystic, composer, and philosopher. Oblates from Christ the King Priory in Schuyler joined Oblates from Lincoln along with friends and others interested in learning about St. Hildegard. After the movie all enjoyed a light lunch along with good fellowship.



WEBSITE

The Nebraska Benedictine Oblate website has been updated recently. You are encouraged to go to www.nebraskabenedictineoblate.org and find 1) HOME page where you can link to our Facebook site by scrolling down, 2) SHM Oblate Newsletters - January 2025 through May 2026, and 3) Oblate Handbook. Additional changes have been made and this work will continue. If you have questions or suggestions for additions, please contact one of the deans. We want this site to work well for all NE Benedictine Oblates and anyone who might seek information by going to our website.

PEACE EVENT

If you are looking for Christian guidance on navigating current life, seek to find peace in today's world, and need a faith foundation to build upon, join us on **Nov 14 at 9:30am** for *Let Peace Be Your Quest and Aim: Benedictine Wisdom for Our Time*. We will share insights and guidance from Benedictine spiritual practices and the Rule of St Benedict, including times of silence, reflection, and sharing. There is no cost to attend. Join us in person at Madonna Rehab Hospital, Lincoln Campus, in the Donlan Conference Center; or via Zoom. Presented by Benedictine Oblates. Guests are welcome to join us.

News from Nebraska

SHORTER CHRISTIAN PRAYER INSTRUCTIONS

We are currently in **Ordinary Time** and will remain in Ordinary Time until the beginning of **Advent**, which happens on November 29, 2026.

Sunday, September 6, 2026 is the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, and we are in Psalm Week 3.

Sunday, November 29, 2026 will be the first Sunday in Advent and that week we will be in Psalm Week 1.

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

SAVE THE DATE

Chapter meetings in Lincoln at Madonna – Donlan Conference Ctr. All meetings are at 7:00 pm; In-person & via Zoom.

- Sundays 9/13/26, 10/11/26, 11/8/26, 12/13/26

Peace Events (discussed above) in Lincoln at Madonna – Donlan Conference Ctr.

- Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026; 9:30 am
- Use Chapter Gathering Zoom link to join virtually
- Spring, date TBD

HAVING A LITTLE FUN

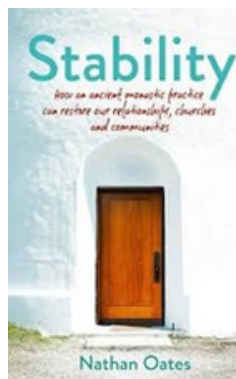
Carol Olson, Lead Dean, and her mother, Diane, also an Oblate of Sacred Heart, created a fun way for Oblates to pose with icons labeled St. Benedict or St. Hildegard of Bingen.



Rod Dolton as St. Benedict



Mary Shada as St. Hildegard



CELL BOOK READINGS

Reading assignments for *Stability*:
How an ancient monastic practice can restore our relationships, churches, and communities by Nathan Oates.

September: Introduction (p. 9-25)

October: Ch. 1 (p. 27-41)

November: Ch. 2 (p. 42-60)

CHAPTER BOOK READINGS



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

Reading Assignments:

Sept 13: No assignment. S. Sharon Ann Haas will be joining us via Zoom.

Oct 11: Interlude III (Ch. 8-11)

Nov 8: Ch. 12-16

Each month discussions at chapter meetings regarding selected readings will be based on the following three questions:

1. What spoke to you in the assigned Rule reading? (No Rule readings for September)
2. How does this reading affect your life today?
3. What stood out to you from the comments written by Norvene Vest?

CONTACTS

Lincoln	Carol Barry - majorcarolb@yahoo.com	Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, Donlan Conference Room 5401 South Street Lincoln, NE
	Charlotte Liggett - cmliggett2010@aol.com	
	Carol Olson - carol.olson@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	
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