



## Spirituality of the Eucharist: Called, Nourished, and Sent

First, I want to say that I am aware that some of you are not Catholic. However, as Oblates of this monastery, you are often present for the Eucharistic liturgy in addition to the Liturgy of the Hours. And the reality is that the Rule of Benedict predates the Protestant Reformation. Therefore, the Eucharist would have been a central part of the life of Benedict's communities. However, at that time, daily Mass was infrequent. Generally, it is believed that the monks would have gone to the nearby parish church for Sunday Eucharist and would have had a daily communion service led by the abbot (who probably was NOT ordained). So, today, we want to look at the Eucharist and gain some understanding of what it is that we do during the Mass.

Many of you have probably heard the Eucharist called the "source and summit" of the Christian life. This phrase came out of the Second Vatican Council's document *Lumen Gentium*, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church. This document defines the church as the people of God and discusses what makes us Church, what makes us the body of Christ. After talking about baptism and the priestly characteristic of those who are baptized, the document says:

"Taking part in the Eucharistic sacrifice, the source and summit of the Christian life, they offer the divine victim to God and themselves along with him. And so it is that, both in the offering and in Holy Communion, in their separate ways, though not of course indiscriminately, all have their own part to play in the liturgical action. Then, strengthened by the body of Christ in the Eucharistic communion, they manifest in a

Teaching by Sister Anita Louise Lowe  
Oblate Meeting, September 17, 2016



Sister Anita Louise speaks to the Oblates about the Eucharist.

concrete way that unity of the people of God which this most holy sacrament aptly signifies and admirably realizes." (LG 11)

Let's digest that paragraph a bit. In the Eucharist, we, the baptized—not just the priest—offer Christ—the divine victim—to God. And, we offer ourselves as well. We are active participants in the Eucharistic sacrifice, both in our offering and in receiving communion. Through our participation in the Eucharist, we make visible the unity of the Christian people. We become Church. We become the Body of Christ. That's why it's important for us to realize what we do each time we come to the Eucharist. As Christians, we are called to the Eucharist, we are nourished there, and we are then sent forth to be for the world that which we have received.

Let's start with an overview of the Eucharist throughout the centuries, culminating in the rite we now have since the Second Vatican Council. Then, we will look briefly at the various parts of the Eucharistic celebration in order to understand what it is that we do during these moments.

### History

As we begin to look at the history of the Eucharist, we can start by looking at the various names by which it has been called. In the First Letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul speaks of the Lord's Supper. This reminds us that the Eucharist began as a meal. We also find in scripture the term "breaking of bread." This phrase was borrowed from a ritual at Jewish meals. The name Eucharist itself appears in the Gospel, mainly



Sister Anita Louise visits with Candidate Heather Eichholz

*Continued on page 2.*

in the stories about Jesus and the multiplication of loaves. The word is Greek for thanksgiving and tells us the purpose of our gathering—to give thanks.

The Eastern Church speaks of the Divine Liturgy or the synaxis. Synaxis simply means assembly. We, in the Western world, have long called this the “Mass.” The term came from the dismissal rite: “Ite missa est.” “Go, the Mass is ended.” This dismissal, however, means more than that an event has ended. Rather, it sends us out...it missions us. At times we may call it “the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.” This term emphasizes the sacrificial nature of Christ’s offering, as well as of our own offering of self. Others, mainly Anglicans and other Protestants, speak of Holy Communion, specifying that particular action of the event and noticing the quality of union with God that occurs through reception of the Eucharist.

Each of these terms is valid and accurate. And, each is limiting in some respect to a certain function or aspect of the Eucharist. In the beginning, we note the use of meal imagery. It’s important for us to remember that the Eucharist began as a meal. Sacred meals have been a major part of many religious traditions. There are generally four different types: humans eaten by gods, humans eat the gods, humans and gods share a meal, and commemorative meals. We won’t spend a lot of time here...just enough to understand and see the influence on our understanding of what it is we do.

Humans and gods share a meal. This is communion, a covenant meal. The sacrifice was burnt so as to offer part of the meal to the gods.

Commemorative meal. The Jewish Passover is the best example. By sharing in a meal, the people recall an event and pass on the history of that event to the next generation. They not only recall the event; they make it present again in the here and now.

The Eucharist can be seen in all these ways. We offer ourselves to God. We consume the bread and wine—we “eat the gods.” We share a meal—we create a covenant. And we commemorate a past event, making it real and present again in the here and now. To read the rest of Sister Anita Louise’s presentation, go to <http://www.thedome.org/oblates/presentations/>.



**Sister Linda Selaya, Oblate Mel Schroeder, and Tom Burke listen intently to Sister Anita Louise's presentation on the Eucharist.**

## Alice, an Ambassador of Christ's Love

Dear Fellow Oblates in Ferdinand, Indiana,

Thank you for allowing me to introduce myself in such a unique way. I write to you from a prison cell in which I experience such freedom of spirit and soul that words fail me. My name is Alice and I am delighted to be numbered among you other Oblates and Oblate Candidates to share this journey.

I have been incarcerated in this facility since October 17, 1990, so this weekend is an anniversary of sorts. Short of a miracle, I will spend the rest of my life in this prison. When I first arrived, I was convinced that there was no God. Through the loving influence of Kairos prison ministry, I was introduced to a God of love and forgiveness. As years passed, I began to slowly allow that love to transform my thinking.

Through the ministry of one of our prison chaplains, Jackie Burns (also an Oblate of St. Benedict’s Rule) and I became part of a group of six women who are reading *Monastery of the Heart* by Sister Joan Chittister. When I read the book for the first time, I said, “This could be the handbook for the Ohio Reformatory for Women.” As I read *Monastery of the Heart*, I realized that this book had many practical applications for life here in my community.

Over the past years our little group has grown in size into an average attendance of thirty women every other Tuesday evening. I began feeling a call for a deeper relationship with the Rule about two years ago and the Lord made a way for me to become an official Oblate Candidate.

My current life is rich and full. I am responsible for managing the production of polymer clay jewelry for Kindway. I serve as a resident facilitator in an intensive re-entry program called Embark sponsored by Kindway. I also am a facilitator for thirty women in a similar re-entry program.

In addition, I mentor a group of seven women who create quilts for children placed in foster care. The team of jewelry makers and quilters number about twenty. We work and live in the same building. There is not a single day that I don’t find myself looking to the Rule of St. Benedict for guidance for us in how to live our best lives in community. Every woman on these teams has a story and much healing to do. I see my function as an ambassador of Christ’s love to each one. My greatest struggle is finding balance in my life, another reason the Rule is so valuable.

Thank you for welcoming me into your community. God-willing, I will someday share with you in person. Alice

*Alice was introduced to the Ferdinand Oblate program by Oblate Shirley France, who volunteers at the Ohio Reformatory of Women. Shirley and Jackie Burns, an Oblate of Erie, facilitate the “Monastery of the Heart” program in prison. Sister Kathryn Marie Huber served as Shirley’s Oblate Candidate mentor at Ferdinand and now serves as Alice’s mentor. Alice hopes to make her Oblation at the prison during the Easter Season.*





# Oblate Picnic July 31, 2016



**Sister Brenda is somewhat dismayed to discover that she won brown E's instead of brownies.**

This past July, the Oblates joined the sisters in the monastic dining room for their annual Oblate picnic. The sisters provided an enjoyable meal for those in attendance. Sister Catherine Duenne entertained and led the group with a variety of fun, hilarious games. The winners of the game received amusing, inexpensive prizes. One major benefit of the picnic was that both groups made some new friends.



**Sister Ann Francis Hillenbrand and Sister Barbara Lynn Schmitz are having fun with their Mad Libs papers..**



**Oblate Theresa Bauer concentrates during the Left and Right Story while Sister Kathleen Marie Cash prays that the bottle of bubbles is not left behind.**



**Sister Mary George Kissel (left), Sister Mary Carol Kinghorn, and Sister Mary Benet Goodrum enjoy the entertainment.**



**Sister Geneva Stumler (standing) chuckles as Sister Catherine Marie leads games. At the table are Sister Mary Karen Hill, Sister Mary Oliver Reising, Sister Helen Maurer, and Sister Jolinda Naas.**



# “The Gift of Shared Leadership”

## Oblate Regional Conference – October 2-4, 2016

by Oblate Kathy Knust



Oblate Kathy Knust and Oblate Mary Taber visit during a recent Oblate meeting.

*The Gift of Shared Leadership*, an Oblate regional conference for Oblate directors and future Oblate leaders of the Midwest Woodlands Region, was held at St. Meinrad Archabbey from October 2 through October 4, 2016. The 2013 North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors (NAABOD) Conference called for regional meetings to address the need for future Oblate leadership roles. Those attending the 2014 Midwest Woodlands Regional Oblate Directors' meeting brainstormed about Oblate leadership development. The Gift of Shared Leadership Conference was the result of the regional meeting and is an important step towards addressing this need in our region.

Ten monasteries sent representatives to the conference with a total of 50 participants attending. The conference included opportunities for prayer, daily Mass, networking and socializing with Oblate directors and Oblates. Reverend Dr. William Wilson, a retired Methodist minister, presented an inspirational keynote address about shared leadership between the monastic community and Oblates. Dr. Wilson has also been an Oblate in St. Meinrad Archabbey for 15 years.

Brother Simon Hermann, OSB, facilitated a presentation entitled “The Prologue as a Starting Point.” Those present examined together how monastic life, particularly the Prologue to The Rule of Benedict, sheds light on the beginning stages of developing leaders in the church, including Oblates.

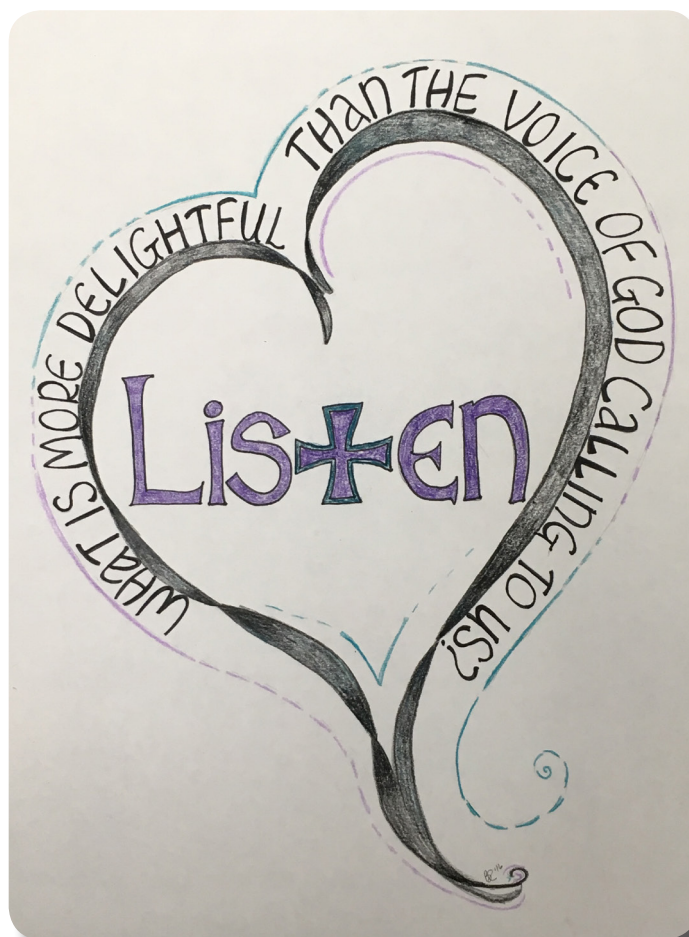
A panel discussion with Oblate director, Sister Antoinette Purcell, OSB, from Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, Oblate director, Father Meinrad Brune, OSB, from St. Meinrad Archabbey, Theresa Bauer, an Oblate from Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, and Kevin Cheers, an Oblate from St. Scholastica Monastery in Chicago, offered perspectives on the relationships between the Oblate director and Oblates in shared leadership.

In her session, “Living and Leading on Purpose,” Dawn Rowley, an executive coach, a vice-president of human resources, and a Hudson Institute Certified Coach, helped

participants explore personal values, what is most important to them and how that connects to how they live and lead. Through individual exercises, reflection and small group discussions, attendees gained greater self-awareness and began to plan to live their lives “on purpose.”

Conference participants included Sr. Brenda Engleman, Oblate Director for Monastery Immaculate Conception, who was a member of the planning committee for the conference, and Oblates Theresa Bauer and Kathy Knust.

Members of the musical group Stillpoint from Monastery Immaculate Conception, Sister Brenda Engleman, Sister Mary Louise Uebelhor, Sister Anita Louise Lowe, Sister Rose Wildeman and Sr. Ann Hillenbrand provided music for the two morning Masses.



*Oblates* is published four times a year under the leadership of Oblate Director Sister Brenda Engleman.

**Send comments to the Oblate Office**

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# North Dakota Oblates Share Their Story

by Derrick and Kathleen Dixon

We are Derrick and Kathy Dixon and we are both from Wisconsin. Derrick is from Milwaukee, which is a large city, and I am from Bayfield, which is a small town of 550 in the extreme northern part of the state on Lake Superior. Bayfield is located on the mainland and is considered the gateway to the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (Park).

Derrick and I met while we were both attending the University of Wisconsin in River Falls and were married during our senior year. After graduation, we began looking for employment. River Falls guaranteed job placement if we were willing to relocate. Derrick and I strongly felt that we did not want to live in a large city. So we put in our applications everywhere in smaller school systems. Over the July 4th weekend, Derrick traveled to Belcourt for a job interview and shortly afterwards he was offered a job. Interestingly enough, I was interviewed over the phone and was hired immediately.

We moved to Belcourt in August, 1977, and have been working as teachers in the same school system since then. Derrick teaches high school music, both vocal and instrumental. I teach high school visual arts. We both work with Gifted and Talented students in an after school program. In addition, Derrick is the head wrestling coach. We were intending to only stay in Belcourt five years, but instead discovered that we very much felt at home here and we extended those five years into forty years.

When arriving in Belcourt, Derrick and I were happy to discover a strong Catholic community and quickly joined the parish at St. Ann's. Over the years, we have been actively involved as Eucharistic ministers and parish council members. Derrick also volunteered as a Confirmation teacher for many years during the 80's and 90's and is still a lector for Sunday Mass. He also serves on the St. Ann School Board. We are both Oblates of St. Benedict. As Oblates, we have found a path to live out our faith through prayer and work. This program has been a perfect fit for us.

We have three daughters: Reanna, Megan, and Marisa. Reanna and Megan both live in Bonita Springs, Florida.



**Oblate Derrick Dixon and Sister Wilma Davis pause for a photo during the Dixons' recent visit.**

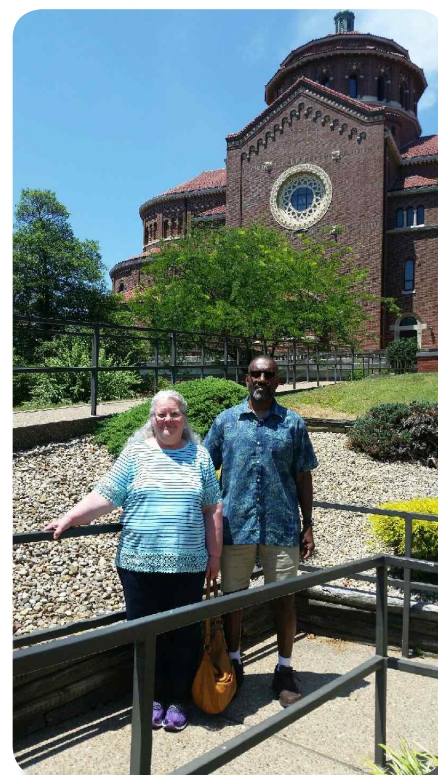
Marisa lives about a mile from us in Belcourt. Reanna and her husband, Tom, have two daughters. Megan and Durell have one daughter. Marisa and Cody have a son and a daughter.

Recently Derrick and I were able to visit with Sister Wilma Davis in Ferdinand. It was wonderful to see her again as she was a vital part of our early experiences here at St. Ann's Parish in Belcourt. While visiting Sister Wilma, we also spent the afternoon and evening with several other sisters who have traveled to Belcourt over the years. The monastery, church and surrounding grounds are so beautiful and peaceful and gave us many lasting memories. We are thankful that we had this opportunity, and we treasure the time we spent there.



**Left: Oblate Derrick Dixon, Sister Mary Victor Kercher, Sister Wilma Davis, Oblate Kathy Dixon, and Megan Dixon visited with one another during the Dixons' recent trip to Ferdinand.**

**Right: Oblates Kathy and Derrick Dixon pose in front of Monastery Immaculate Conception Church.**





## 2016 Visit to Belcourt, North Dakota

by Oblate Theresa Bauer



**Back row (L to R): Sister Jane Will, Oblate Theresa Bauer, Sister Brenda Engleman. Front row (L to R): Oblate Phyllis Jollie and David Jollie.**

Visiting Belcourt, North Dakota, has been on my bucket list for about 48 years. When the opportunity to make the biennial trip to visit the Oblates there with Sister Brenda Engleman and Sister Jane Will came up, I jumped at the chance. We made some wonderful friends there and observed life on a Chippewa Native American Reservation.

After a 20-plus hour drive, we reached our destination on September 19 and checked into the Queen of Peace Spiritual Center on St. Ann's Mission, which was to be our home base for the next week. The following day (Tuesday) we met our hostess and leader of the local Oblates, Phyllis Jollie, who took us on a tour of the reservation. First stop was to see the buffalo and then we drove around town to see important sites such as the beautiful campus of Turtle Mountain Community College, the hospital, the public schools, and of course, the family home of Sister Mary Claude.

A few words about Phyllis Jollie: she and her husband are retired from owning and managing a local store (now closed) on the reservation, among many other endeavors. They are very involved in helping the less fortunate members of the tribe. Phyllis answered so many questions I had about the natives: Do they practice any of the tribal spirituality – only a few do (or do both) because of the 90% Catholic faith; how do they feel about our calling them the politically correct “Native Americans” – she said OK, but “First Americans” is even better. I asked how close the Turtle Mountains are to the reservation. She pointed to some rounded mounds in the distance and said, “There they are.” I wonder what they would think if they saw our Southern Indiana rolling hills that are, indeed, mountains in comparison!

On Wednesday, Sister Brenda, Sister Jane, and I visited the

beautiful International Peace Gardens, not far from Belcourt. The Gardens are still colorful even in the fall and on a drizzly day. We all set foot in Canada for the first time. The next day, we drove into Canada to the town of Brandon, Manitoba, for lunch and a little shopping.

On Friday, we set up for the day of reflection that Sister Jane was to present to the Oblates on Saturday while Sister Brenda and I added music to the day. Sister Jane repeated her excellent talk on prayer and *Lectio Divina* to eight of the eleven Oblates who could attend. At the end of the day, Sister Jane blessed each Oblate and Sister Brenda presented them with Oblate pins. In return, they said a blessing for us and gave us beautiful handmade rosaries. It was quite a wonderful and emotional moment.

On Sunday, our last full day in Belcourt, we attended Mass at St. Ann's Church on the Mission just across from where we stayed. St. Ann's is a small church that fills up four times every weekend. I was surprised to find a small pipe organ in the balcony of St. Ann's. I was even more surprised and delighted to find that it was in excellent repair and tuning and I enjoyed an hour of playing it earlier in the week. The parishioners were happy to hear it for the first time in a great while when I played the recessional after Mass. There are four other parishes on the reservation to serve so many Catholics.

Another 20-plus hour trip brought us back home on Tuesday, September 27. Among our cherished memories will be the tightly knit, friendly people we met; evidence of flourishing of the Benedictine spirituality, and the fact that Sister Wilma and Sister Mary Claude are legends among everyone in Belcourt.

Oh, and if you ever visit Belcourt, you must have breakfast at the North 40 Café in Rolla, North Dakota, about six miles down the road.



**The Belcourt Oblates participate in a retreat on “Silence” under the direction of Sister Jane Will (not pictured)**



# Rite of Reception of Candidates

On September 17, 2016, the Rite of Reception of Oblate Candidates was held in St. Gertrude Hall during Midday Prayer. The five new Candidates were Reverend Faye Bilskie from Vincennes, Indiana, Heather Eichholz from Owensboro, Kentucky, Daphanie Hoppes from Noblesville, Indiana, and Bill and Lisa Muller from Evansville, Indiana.

The Candidates received The Holy Rule of St. Benedict, a St. Benedict's medal, Sister Joan Chittister's book, *Wisdom Distilled from the Daily*, a study guide and a Benedictine medal and chain. Throughout their journey, they will discover ways to apply St. Benedict's values in daily living. Their preparation will also include a personal study with a sister companion and regular attendance at Oblate meetings during this next year.



**L to R: Candidates Reverend Faye Bilskie, Heather Eichholz, Daphanie Hoppes, Bill Muller and Lisa Muller are greeted with enthusiastic applause after the Rite of Reception. Their companion sisters are Sister Celeste Boda, Sister Kathryn Huber, Sister Maura Beckman, and Sister Jane Will.**



**Sister Maura Beckman is looking forward to being new Candidate Daphanie Hoppes' companion for this coming year.**



**Oblate Patti Schroeder excitedly discusses the Oblate program with Inquirer Gail Burke and her husband, Tom.**

**Reverend Faye Bilskie shares her experience of being an Oblate inquirer.**



You are invited to be in touch with the Sisters of St. Benedict in prayer. Use the following link:

**[mms://web-srv.thedome.org/churchcam](https://mms://web-srv.thedome.org/churchcam)**

You can also download a liturgy schedule from the Oblate page: **[thedome.org/oblates](https://thedome.org/oblates)**



# Six Candidates Make Their Final Oblation

## October 16, 2016



**Oblates Stephanie Smith, Dianne LeDuc, Jeanne Zack, Arleta Weyer, Shirley Demuth, and Marcia Stroud pause for a photo after the Oblation ceremony.**

On October 16, 2016, six women became Oblates of the Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, Indiana.

Oblate Candidates Shirley Demuth of Ferdinand, Indiana; Dianne LeDuc of Chantilly, Virginia; Stephanie Smith of Ferdinand, Indiana; Marcia Stroud of Brookville, Indiana; Arleta Weyer of Ferdinand, Indiana; and Jeanne Zack of St. Charles, Missouri, made their Oblation in the church at Monastery Immaculate Conception during a simple ceremony incorporated into Morning Prayer. Sister Barbara Lynn Schmitz, prioress, officiated at this ceremony.

The candidates spent a year studying the Holy Rule and the Benedictine way of life under the guidance of their companions. Shirley's companion was Sister Maura Beckman; Dianne's companion was Sister Jane Will; Stephanie's companion was Sister Linda Bittner; Marcia's companion was Sister Betty Drewes, Arleta's companion was Sister Eileen Reckelhoff, and Jeanne's companion was Sister Betty Drewes.

During their Oblation, candidates promised to dedicate themselves to the service of God and humankind according to the Rule of St. Benedict, as far as their state in life permits.

After making their Oblation individually, they received a Benedictine pin and a framed certificate of Oblation. Sister Barbara Lynn accepted their Oblation and admitted them into spiritual union and affiliation with the Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, Indiana.



**Arleta Weyer signs her Oblation document.**



**Shirley Demuth signs her Oblation document.**



**Stephanie Smith receives her Oblate pin.**



## Photo Gallery October 16, 2016



**Dianne LeDuc shares a grin with Sister Barbara Lynn Schmitz during the Oblation ceremony.**



**Jeanne Zack reads her Oblation document..**



**Oblate Arleta Weyer, Inquirer Jim Weyer, and their son, Brandon Weyer, listen to the presentation at the Oblate meeting.**



**Marcia Stroud receives her Oblation document from Sister Barbara Lynn Schmitz.**



**Oblate Jeanne Zack is filled with the Holy Spirit.**



**Sister Sylvia Gehlhausen entertains Oblate Julie Beck and new Oblate Stephanie Smith at the Oblate meeting on October 16..**



## Chapter 58 of the Holy Rule: On the Manner of Receiving Brothers/Sisters

Teaching by Sister Louise Laroche  
Oblate Meeting, October 16, 2016



Sister Louise Laroche (center) is pictured here with Sister Lisa Marie Schutz (left) and Sister Lynn Marie Falcony (right) after the Entrance to Novitiate ceremony that was held last November.

Chapter 58: “On the Manner of Receiving Brothers/Sisters” was the topic at the Oblate gathering on October 16, 2016. Sister Louise Laroche, formation director, took sections of this chapter and talked about newcomers in Benedict’s time, newcomers in the monastery today, and newcomers to the Oblate program. She began by having us look at this chapter through the eyes of Benedict. What did Benedict mean by not granting an easy entrance? How were the spirits tested to see whether they were from God? We could just imagine Benedict drilling a newcomer with questions like: Why do you want this life? How badly do you want it? Are you willing to endure hardships for this way of life? Benedict wanted to impress on the candidates that this decision was not to be taken lightly.

Sister Louise went on to say that today an applicant does not spend four or five days knocking at the door as in Benedict’s time. Today this is replaced by many visits, tests, gathering of documents and interviews which are all part of the discernment process. Sister Louise also explained the stages of incorporation and the program of studies for those in formation. She then invited the newer members, Postulant Roxanne Higgins, Novices Lynn Falcony and Lisa Schutz, to share their experience as being new members and also talking about their formation into the Benedictine way of life.

Postulant Roxanne Higgins from Kingston, Jamaica, the newest member since August, shared, “What attracted me to this community was the importance of living a balanced life. The rhythm of pray, eat, work, pray, eat, work, pray, eat, recreate was all very appealing. Even though this structure makes balance easier to obtain, I have observed that I have to consciously strive to maintain it.”

Novice Lynn Marie Falcony from Evansville, Indiana, said, “I had an introduction to community life three years ago through doing service projects with some of our sisters in Evansville. I entered the monastery two years ago and am completing my

novice year this November. I am so grateful for this past year and the opportunity to spend time getting to know God, myself and my community better.”

Novice Lisa Marie Schutz from Crown Point, Indiana, commented, “I chose to enter this monastery for the prayer schedule and community living. I was also looking for a balanced life of prayer, work, and leisure. In addition, seeing the sisters living and working well together greatly attracted me to this community.”

Sister Louise invited the new Oblates, who had just made their Oblation on Sunday morning, to also share about their formation and what this year’s preparation meant to them. They spoke enthusiastically about the gifts of being an Oblate associated with this particular monastery.



Sister Louise leads the formation group and the new Oblates in a vocation prayer at the end of the presentation.

Right: Sister Lisa Marie Schutz and Sister Lynn Marie Falcony address the Oblates and sisters in attendance at the October 16 Oblate meeting.





# Monastery Moments and Oblate Offerings

November 11–13, 2016

**Brewing with the Spirit: A Monastic Craft Beer Experience** will be held at St. Benedict's Brew Works. Brewers and owners will share about the rich history of beer. They will lead the group through reflections on gospel parables, about grain, earth, yeast, and water. Size of retreat is limited to 12 people. Registration: 6:00 p.m. (ET) Friday. Program begins at 6:30 p.m. and runs until 2 p.m. on Sunday. Presenters: Andy Hedinger and Vince Luecke

November 19–20, 2016

**Christkindlmarkt** For service opportunities email Sister Briana Craddock at bcraddock@thedome.org or contact her at (812) 367-1411, ext. 2682. Thank you.

November 29–30, 2016

**How to Read the Gospel of John with Understanding** will be held in the monastery from 6:45 a.m. to 8:15 p.m. (ET) both evenings. Presenter: Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB. Registration is at 6:15 p.m. both evenings.

January 22, 2017 (Sunday)

**Silence in the Holy Rule** will be held in St. Gertrude's Hall at 1:00 p.m. (ET) Presenter: Sister Mary Ann Verkamp

February 18, 2017 (Saturday)

**Hospitality in the Holy Rule** will be held in St. Gertrude's Hall at 1:00 p.m. (ET). Presenter: Sister Helen Jean Kormelink

March 18, 2017 (Saturday)

**The Book of Glory: Lenten Reflections on John 13-21** will be held in the monastery from 9:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (ET) Registration is at 9:15 a.m. Presenter: Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB

March 31–April 1, 2017

**Healing and Music** will be held in Kordes Center from 7:30 p.m. Friday to 4:00 p.m. Saturday (ET). Presenter: Ruth Stanley Registraion: 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 31.

April 13–16, 2017

**Triduum Retreat** will be held in Kordes Center from 3 p.m. Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday morning. Come away for a silent retreat during Holy Week. Retreat includes participation in liturgical celebrations with the sisters in the monastery church. Registration: 2:30 p.m. (ET) on Holy Thursday.

April 22, 2017 (Saturday)

**"Be Salt...Be Light...Be Fully Alive"** will be held in St. Gertrude's Hall at 1:00 p.m. (ET). Presenter: Sister Karen Joseph

## Pray for the Sick

Oblate Richard Higgins  
Oblate Joann Rubeck  
Oblate Don Stanton  
Oblate Elaine Nolan

## In Memoriam

Oblate Derrick Dixon's mother, Martha Hunter, died on June 15

Oblate Ruth and Peter Keethers' son, Michael, died on September 4.



**Oblate Carol Dunn (right) and Malvina Craig perform with their a capella group, Second Wind, at a recent celebration at the monastery.**

## Oblate Birthdays

### November

3—Peg Albertson, 4—Ellen Stanton, 6—Phyllis Schmits and Rev. Faye Bilskie, 9—Heather Eichholz, 10—Bob Cadwallader, 18—Mel Schroeder, 29—Patricia Hopf

### December

7—Elaine Nolan, 13—Lillian Keplin, 14—Dolores Gourneau, 20—Stephanie Smith, 26—Marcia Stroud, 28—Jeanie Jollie

### January

6—David Richards, 13—Lynn M. Belli, 16—John Kohl and Jackie Richards, 26—Joann Rubeck, 30—Kathy Knust and Rev. Pamela Gale Smith





## Oblates

Monastery Immaculate Conception  
802 E. 10th Street • Ferdinand, Indiana 47532-9239  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*“Your way of acting should be different from the world’s way; the love of Christ must come before all else.”*

Rule of St. Benedict 4: 20-21

## Share the Joy of Being an Oblate of St. Benedict

We encourage all Oblates and Oblate candidates to share their joy of being an Oblate with others. Talk about your Oblate experiences with your friends, relatives and members of your church. Be on the lookout for persons that might be fine Oblates. Give Oblate brochures to interested persons. At various times during this next year, we plan to have “Bring a Friend” meetings. Why not invite someone to come to learn more about the Oblates from another Oblate? For more specific details, check on page four. Sr. Brenda Engleman, Oblate Director



Sister Dolores Folz, Candidate Bill Muller, Candidate Lisa Muller, Oblate Sharon Bittner, Oblate Arleta Weyer, and Inquirer Jim Weyer enjoy the Oblate Picnic and one another's company.