

April 2011



## Newness of Life

By Sister Louise Laroche



Christ is Risen! ...and just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. (Romans 6:4).

This Easter Season and beyond we are once again invited to “live in newness of life.” Just how are we to experience the glory and new life as we see gloom and doom all around us

— loved ones being diagnosed with terminal cancer, large numbers of unemployed, children going to bed hungry, devastation of countries like Japan, and the continued suffering of the people of Haiti? The list goes on and on. However, as the Easter gospels relate, Jesus’s disciples also experienced darkness and uncertainty, unable to see the Easter light. For example, the two Marys, Mary Magdalene and “the other Mary” were surely confused and discouraged that Easter morning as they were going to the tomb. Their teacher and friend Jesus, the one who brought so much healing and life to others, had been executed as a criminal. Their hopes for a better world marked by goodness and compassion had died along with Jesus. Their hope for God’s kingdom here on earth had died as well. Their lives, once full of hope, were marked by confusion, chaos, and unbelief. We know that the story does not end there. We know that the message of Easter is the message of hope and new life.

What is this new life that God promises us through Jesus? Simply put, it is Jesus living in us (Galatians 2:20). We see this new life in the lives of those who live out their faith through the lens of the Paschal Mystery, whose radical transformation-salvation is at the heart of our Christian identity. We too are partakers in this transformation into new life. We witness this in the transformation

*Continued on page 2.*

“*The life of a monk ought to be a continuous Lent. ...however, few have strength for this... during the days of this season... . let us add something above the usual measure of our service... . by way of prayer and abstinence to offer to God with the joy of the Holy Spirit and so look forward to Holy Easter with joy and spiritual longing.*”

—Rule of St. Benedict Chapter 49



Monastery Immaculate Conception  
802 E. 10th Street  
Ferdinand, Indiana 47532-9239  
812-367-1411, ext. 2827/2829  
[www.thedome.org/oblates](http://www.thedome.org/oblates)  
[oblates@thedome.org](mailto:oblates@thedome.org)

in Peter, who goes from not understanding Jesus' words, to interpreting them through the lens of the Resurrection. We witness this transformation in Paul, who sets out as being the executioner of Christians, to become the man on fire for Jesus telling others that we are "to die and rise with Christ." I witnessed this new life in a Haitian priest named Father Enorce Brunot. I have had the privilege of translating Father Brunot's correspondence for his sister parish in Jasper, Indiana. His letters reflect a man who is at times tired and frustrated with the hopeless situation surrounding him daily, yet he is a man who reflects God's hope and love for God's people. There is a deep-seated joy and hope in him and in the people he serves despite the hopeless situation that has existed in Haiti for decades and now is even made more hopeless by the earthquake of 2010. Following the tragic shooting of 10 young schoolgirls in a one-room Amish school in October 2006, we witness this new life in forgiveness and reconciliation. "In the midst of Amish community's grief over this shocking loss, they didn't cast blame, they didn't point fingers, they didn't hold a press conference with attorneys at their sides. Instead, they reached out with grace and compassion toward the killer's family." (LancasterPA.com). In the past two years our own community has experienced the deaths of four sisters in their early sixties. As we shared their life stories we realized the impact they had on others. Although we grieve their absence, among us their spirit lives

on, encouraging us to be bearers of life and hope. Father Brunot, the Amish Community, and our own Benedictine sisters are evidence that Jesus has risen from the dead and is alive in the world today.

The challenge for you and for me is to never take this newness of life for granted but to live it as fully as possible each day. We are to nourish this life in Christ and to explore more deeply God's presence and power in our lives and in the lives of those around us. Having passed through death to new life, Jesus is as close as his Spirit who abides in us. Let us implore the Spirit to see and experience the paschal mystery on a deeper level, for it is only then that we will comprehend the following more fully:

- sacraments as encounters with God
- Eucharist as an opportunity to encounter the person of Christ as we feast at the banquet table
- the Body of Christ seen in our suffering neighbor
- the cross as glory
- eternity as right here and right now and yet to be

I leave you with an image of the glory of the risen Lord penetrating through the darkness offering hope and comfort. Images of the Haitian people singing in the streets, giving praise to God amidst the destruction and devastation around them. Let us join them in singing "Alleluia" for the signs of new life in our own lives and in the lives of others. Yes! "Christ is truly Risen!"

## Monastery Moments and Oblate Offerings

### May 11–26

**NADI (Novice And Directors Institute)** — This two-week experience with novices and their directors from several Benedictine communities explores Benedictine themes and elements of monastic life found in the Rule.

### May 15

**Oblate Meeting** — Oblates Patti and Mel Schroeder will present St. Frances of Rome, the patroness of Oblates. Reservations suggested.

### May 28

**Golden Jubilee** — Sisters Dolores Folz, Mary Rose Hasenour, Mary Jane Kiesel, Doris Marie Knebel, Barbara Ann Offerman, Paulette Seng, and Charlene Ann Wheelless will celebrate 50 years of monastic profession with the religious community and family and friends. Note that Sister Barbara Ann is a member of the Oblate Leadership Team.

### June 13–18

**Camp Marian** — Three day camps for 5th and 6th grade girls and for 7th and 8th grade young women as they pray and play with the sisters.

### June 24–30

**Come & See Week** — For young women who are discerning a vocation to the religious life.

### June 29 – July 7

**Federation Conference** — Prioresses and delegates from each of the communities that belong to the Federation of St. Gertrude meet at the monastery. Sister Joella Kidwell is currently President of the Federation.

### July 1–6

**North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors (NAABOD)** — Some 90-100 Oblate Directors will meet at St. Meinrad. The focus of the meeting is "Embracing Creation with Reverence and Hospitality: Listening to Scripture and Rule Speak." Speakers include Sister Kathryn Huber. Oblates from Ferdinand will help provide hospitality services during the meeting.

### July 3

**NAABOD** — Oblate Directors from the meeting at St. Meinrad will visit the Ferdinand monastery for evening prayer, a meal, and a tour. Ferdinand Oblates will help provide hospitality for this event. To volunteer, contact the Ferdinand Oblate office.

## Getting To Know the Oblates

# Gary and Carolyn (Herrmann) Adler

By Carolyn Adler

I was riding a bicycle with friends and Gary was finishing up running when I introduced myself at the Evansville Museum. We started dating soon after we met and found we had similar interests and backgrounds. Both of us are Catholic and went to Catholic grade school and high school. I went to Mater Dei and Gary to Rex Mundi. Both of us enjoy sports and outdoor activities. I have five siblings — two brothers and three sisters. I has a twin sister Marilyn. Gary also has five siblings — one brother and four sisters. Gary has sisters who are twins, Carolyn and Marilyn. Both of us having the same Catholic faith is important and continues to be a central part of our lives. We have always gone to Church together and have been active in the Church.

Gary and I started dating in 1977 and married in 1978. Gary's uncle, Father Albert Schmitt, came up from Texas to concelebrate the wedding with Father Kenny Herr. Gary's father, Jerry, was the best man at the wedding. My twin sister was the maid of honor.

Gary and I have two sons, Nick and Matt. Nick is the oldest and single. Matt is married to Jen and they have two children. Our grandchildren are Elizabeth, who is five, and Isabella, who is one.

In 1979 we built a house in St. Phillip, Indiana. The neighborhood is

quiet, scenic, and we have great neighbors. We are remodeling and updating our house, so this is taking a lot of our free time.

Gary has a Management degree from Indiana State Evansville. Gary has been in management and sales his entire career and is the local account representative for Flanders Electric in Evansville. I am in my first year of retirement. I taught physical education, health, and driver's education at Mater Dei High School. I coached girls varsity volleyball, basketball, and tennis.

Our parish is St. Anthony in Evansville, Indiana. Gary is a lector, and we are both eucharistic ministers and servers. I work with the vacation bible school during the summer.

We came to know the Sisters of St. Benedict through Gary's sister. Sister Jeanette was a Benedictine Sister at Ferdinand. Also, we both were taught by the sisters at Ferdinand. When Sister Jeanette developed cancer and passed away we wanted to keep our relationship with the sisters. Gary's mother, Olivia, became an Oblate and this is how we learned of Oblation. Sister Donna Marie Herr, who is a good friend of ours, was our mentor. Both Gary and I enjoyed learning about St. Benedict and meeting with our dear friend, Sister Donna Marie.



We are grateful for our friendship with Sister Jeanette's four classmates, Sister Eileen, Sister Agnes, Sister Donna Marie, and Sister Jane. We enjoy coming to the Oblate meetings and seeing all the sisters at Ferdinand and our fellow Oblates.

Gary's niece, Pauletta Jeter, is an Oblate at Ferdinand.

We start the day with the Liturgy of the Hours. Both of us enjoy the Psalms and readings. This has been a wonderful way to begin the day and puts the rest of the day in perspective. We both feel that being an Oblate has been a real help in our spiritual journey. The Rule of St. Benedict is a practical, timeless guide to living a Christ-centered life.

*Oblates* is published four times a year by the Oblate Leadership Team:  
Sisters Kathy Bilskie, Mary Victor Kercher, and Barbara Ann Offerman.

Send comments to the Oblate Office  
Monastery Immaculate Conception

802 E. 10th Street • Ferdinand, IN 47532 • 812-367-1411, ext. 2827/2829 • [oblates@thedome.org](mailto:oblates@thedome.org)



## Summer 2011 Oblate Director's Conference

Every two years Oblate directors and leadership personnel have an opportunity to participate in a Conference of the North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors (NAABOD). Since early February 2011, Sister Antoinette Purcell, OSB, Monastery Our Lady of Grace, president of NAABOD, and her special helpers have been planning for the conference scheduled for July 1-6, 2011, at St. Meinrad Archabbey. Three Benedictine monasteries in Indiana, St. Meinrad, Beech Grove, and Ferdinand, and St. Walburg in Covington, Kentucky, are hosting the event at St. Meinrad. Presenters have been named, special Oblate directors have been notified, registrations are underway, and volunteers from the Oblate membership are welcome to be an important part of the event.

We look forward to another interesting and challenging conference. The theme, "Embracing Creation with Reverence and Hospitality: Listening to scripture and Rule Speak," is certainly timely with natural disasters and human errors in just about everything that has an effect on daily life. To address this topic, three presenters — Sister Kathryn Huber, OSB, Ferdinand, Indiana, Kyle T. Kramer, director of graduate lay degree program and spiritual formation for St. Meinrad, and Sister Sheila Marie Fitzpatrick, OSB, Our Lady of Grace Monastery, Beech Grove, Indiana — will speak from their own lived experience.

Oblates from the hosting monasteries have a special role in this conference. Oblate directors may bring two Oblates to the conference sessions and participate in events specifically directed to Oblates. Other Oblates are involved by serving in the role of hospitality, from welcoming

participants, assisting with luggage, drivers (golf carts), snack preparation, set-up, clean-up, and departure needs. We, Oblates from Ferdinand, have the special role of offering hospitality when the conference participants visit Monastery Immaculate Conception. The date: Sunday, July 3, 2011. Mark your calendar and be present with us for an afternoon and evening including Evening Prayer at 5 p.m., dinner in the monastery dining room, tours of the monastery church, time to browse/purchase in the gift shop "For Heaven's Sake," and departure. Many hands and willing hearts make the visit a happy and memorable event for everyone, for all the Oblates who volunteer and especially the guests who experience the welcome and hospitality received.

Take your pick of volunteer possibilities — welcome and make guests feel at home, direct guests to church, assist in giving out prayer materials, assist in set-up, clean-up, be available for food service jobs, in general be yourself and help the guests be comfortable and at ease. Do we have a leader to bring together this Oblate Volunteer Hospitality Team? Contact the Oblate Office in person, by phone, e-mail, or at the Oblate Meeting on April 17, 2011. See the special reminder on the last page of this newsletter.

## Oblate Birthdays

### April

4 — Sharon Cavanaugh,  
6 — Lawrence Willegal, 7—  
Judy Bueckert, 11—William  
Heberling, 28—Shirley Stern,  
29—Marcia Brown, Carole Swim, 30—  
Ron Allery, Leeny Hardesty



### May

6—Linda Doyle, 7—Rita Langer,  
Barbara Poitra, 8—Mary Eileen  
Fritz, 10—Phyllis Claycamp, Debbi  
Vickers, 16—Ed Johnson, 20—Sharon  
Kilpatrick, 23—Bridget Tierney,  
27—Julie Beck, 28—Linda Begle, 30—  
Barbara Davis, 31—Gail Trotter

### June

7—James Werner, 8—Marlis Mahrer,  
12—Karen Rexing, 15—Bernadette  
Heeke, Phyllis Jollie, 20—Dayna Barlow,  
Joseph Marion, 21—Theresa Bauer,  
Anne Howerton, 24—Brenda DeMotte,  
30—Marilyn Becker

### July

4—Elaine Baumgart, 7—Mary Lou  
Bassler, Mary Taber, 9—Chihoko  
Wake, 11—Martha Schmitt, 12—Zella  
Kueneman, 13—Charles Luebbehusen,  
17—Mary Cheshire, 20—Ed Brown,  
Sandy Turner, 30—Judith Kissel,  
Carolyn Werner



**Pray for deceased sisters,  
Oblates, and relatives:**

Sister Mary Ruth Krack  
Sister Mercedes Emmert  
Sister Mary Sharon Hoehn  
Oblate Elaine Rodland  
Louise Smith, mother of Oblate Marcia Brown  
Monsignor Charles Koch, brother of  
Sisters Carlita Koch and Rosa Lee Koch  
Edna (Folz) Schenk, sister of  
Sister Dolores Folz  
Stanley Parisien, brother-in-law of  
Oblate Rita Langer

## St. Ann's Benedictine Oblates in the Turtle Mountain Times News



**Oblate Derrick Dixon**

Oblates from the St. Ann's Benedictine Oblate Chapter continue to keep the Benedictine values of prayer and work (service) alive

and well in the Turtle Mountain Indian Community in Belcourt, North Dakota. A copy of the Turtle Mountain Times News along with an envelope containing special clippings brought the good news from Oblate Marie Roberge.

Congratulations to the Belcourt Oblates. During the Turtle Mountain Family Week Community Meal and Awards Banquet to close the Turtle Mountain Family Week (Feb. 20-27) the St. Ann's Oblate Community and Oblate Derrick Dixon were among the honorees. An award "Organization of the Year Nominee" was given to St. Ann's Benedictine Oblate Community. The certificate recognizes that the Oblate community "provides and exhibits excellence in family values,

caring, sharing and being responsible in the community to pass on Indian traditions. We appreciate all your hard efforts." Oblate Patty Allery, who signed the certificate, was chairperson of the Family Week Committee. Stephanie Jay was co-chair.

Oblate Derrick Dixon was named "Professional of the Year." His profession? He is a teacher. The news identified Derrick as "Mr. Dedication." He was born in Danville, Illinois. The family moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he attended Milwaukee Boys Tech High School. He attended University of Wisconsin-River Falls, where he wrestled for three years and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Music. During his college years Derrick married his wife, Kathy, who graduated with a degree in Art. On a venture to move westward to Wolf Point, Montana, they stopped for a visit in Belcourt. Jobs were offered to both of them. They have lived in Belcourt 34 years. Derrick began coaching from the start. He has been defensive coordinator for the football team and is head wrestling coach. He is a music instructor and has created and

orchestrated outstanding high school bands. He credits the natural talent of the Turtle Mountain students. Kathy, his wife, got a job as art teacher. Derrick has been named an Honorary Tribal Member of the Turtle Mountain Tribe. Derrick said, "I think we need to treat everybody with consideration and respect, no matter who they are. I try to do everything that I can for the kids.

I want to make sure they are successful in life and not only on the mat. I ask them to accept winning and losing as a part of life and to use that knowledge as a basis of creating character."

In December 2010, the new Turtle Mountain Tribal Council named Council Representative for District 4, Zelma Peltier, as the Tribe's secretary-treasurer. Zelma, an Oblate of the St.

Ann's Oblate Chapter, will hold this official officer status until November 2012. She said, "We are very busy here, all board members have not been appointed, we are researching ideas to improve economic development for the tribe."



**Oblate Zelma Peltier**

## An Unfrazzled Life

So many things to do, so many meetings, so many interruptions, no time to think, no time to just be rather than being busy. No time to pray. Sound pretty normal? The March Oblate Retreat directed by Rev. Dr. Jane Tomaine, *Benedictine Spirituality for the Frazzled*, was an experience of taking a long look at Chapter 48 of the Rule of St. Benedict. The treasure discovered in the 25 lines of "The Daily Manual Labor" is a blueprint

to "unfrazzle" your life. Take time for a reflective reading of the wisdom of St. Benedict. You will find ordinary, practical recommendations to Unfrazzle Your Life! Check it out.

*Work is important yet, to be done in balance with prayer, study, meals, rest, etc. Idleness is the enemy; so is busyness and overwork. Balance for a rhythm of work, prayer and reading. Rest is allowed. Take time that is free for what is life-giving, supportive of spiritual journey. Flexibility in schedule according to seasons of the year and*

*life. Work through life challenges, don't be distressed by what life might bring. Encourage one another/encourage yourself. Moderation/Balance for a less frazzled life. Live in the present moment. Give an extra measure during Lent. Focus on what is really important. Use time wisely. There are appropriate times to be with others/appropriate times to be alone. Take a break, don't waste the time. Take account of the infirmities, differences and capabilities of people. Know your limits/tasks should not overwhelm others or yourself.*

SISTERS  
OF ST. BENEDICT  
FERDINAND, INDIANA

*Seek. Pray. Share.*

## *Oblates*

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## A Hands-Hearts-Hospitality Event!

Bring your willing hands, your generous hearts, and offer hospitality during the VISIT of NAABOD (North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors) Participants

**July 3, 2011**  
**4:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

### **OBLATES! Mark your calendar!**

Be the first to sign up for an evening celebration of prayer, dinner, tours, and gift shop visits. Join to welcome, guide, serve, and be present with Oblate guests.



*“... such service increases reward and fosters love” (RB 35:3)*

Let us hear from you before **May 16, 2011**, if you'd like to volunteer.  
Phone: (812) 367-1411 x 2827/2829 • E-mail: [oblates@thedome.org](mailto:oblates@thedome.org) or [mvictor@thedome.org](mailto:mvictor@thedome.org)