

January 2013



“Let us consider how we ought to conduct ourselves in the presence of God and God’s angels, and so assist at the Divine Office that our mind may be in harmony with our voice.”

—Rule of St. Benedict
Chapter 19

Thank you, Sister Mary Victor!

By Sister Jane Will, Subprioress

For several years the religious community has used a team style of management to provide the monastery’s leadership to the Oblate community. While a leadership team will continue, I am announcing that Sister Mary Victor Kercher will be retiring from this particular ministry with the Oblates, February 1, 2013. She has faithfully and enthusiastically served as part of the Oblate leadership team for ten years. I know that the sisters very much appreciate all the service Sister Mary Victor has given to Oblates in behalf of the religious community. And from Oblate comments, I know that you, too, have valued Sister Mary Victor’s interaction with you. Our gratitude was expressed to Sister Mary Victor at our January 20th Oblate meeting.



Sister Mary Victor will not be sitting in leisure. She will continue her vital work with our Mission Appeal efforts, both coordinating the appeals provided in various parishes and, frequently, offering the appeals herself. Sister Mary Victor is also often called on to provide translations from Spanish or Latin to English and vice versa.

Sister Barbara Ann Offerman and Sister Kathy Bilskie, the other members of the Oblate Leadership Team, and I, community liaison with the Oblate Team, express our sincere gratitude for Sister Mary Victor’s untiring and loving service to this important ministry.



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March 17 retreat focuses on gift of faith; RSVP by 3/11

During this “Year of Faith,” the Church invites us to explore and get excited about what it is that makes us Christian. What do we believe? Why do we believe? How can we deepen and grow in the faith that has been passed down to us, the faith of our ancestors? To encourage and strengthen our exploration, Stillpoint, a group of sister-musicians from the monastery, will offer the Oblate retreat in March. The program, a combination of song and narrative reflection, will be designed to inspire and help retreatants celebrate with gratitude the tremendous gift of faith. The retreat is March 17, 1-3 p.m. (ET). **Reservations are required by March 11.**

Members of Stillpoint



Oblate Birthdays



February

1 — Richard Huggins, 7 — Lynn Steiden, 10 — Judy Powers, 11 — June Berg, John Wallace, 12 — Zelma Peltier, 16 — Mary Ann Stoll, 18 — Rita Kohl, 24 — Carolyn Adler, 26 — Patti Schroeder, 29 — Mary Martha Salas

March

2 — Joann Desjarlais, 10 — Beverly Belgarde, 12 — Scarlett Winters, 17 — Patty Allery, Kathy Dixon, 21 — Paula Dumont, 22 — Verna Jeanotte, Ruth Keethers, 25 — Denise Leinenbach, 29 — Gary Pope

April

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

Oblates

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Sisters Kathy Bilskie and Barbara Ann Offerman.

Send comments to the Oblate Office

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Thank you, Oblate Volunteers

The Liturgy Office thanks the following members of the Oblate community who assisted with the Christmas Eve Liturgy at the monastery: Ruth Goepfrich, Judy Luebbehusen, Charlie Luebbehusen, Shirley Stern, Mary Eileen Fritz, Mel Schroeder, Patti Schroeder, Phyllis Claycamp, Denise Leinenbach.

Other volunteers were Ed Talucci, Steve Willis, and Lynn Belli.



Pray for the deceased relatives of Sisters and Oblates:

Martina Luebbehusen, mother of Sister Barbara Jean Luebbehusen

Ruth Lee Rietman, sister of Sister Mercedes Emmert (deceased)

Bill Schultheis, brother of Sister Shirley Ann Schultheis

Beulah Carrico, mother of Oblate Julie Beck

Timothy Carrico, brother of Oblate Julie Beck

Hilbert Tempel, brother of Sister Martha Marie Tempel (deceased)

Fred Dewig, father of Sister Judy Dewig

Lenten Bona Opera

2013

“During these days, let us add something to the usual measure of our service: such as private prayers, and abstinence from food and drink, so that everyone of their own will may offer to God with the joy of the Holy Spirit, something beyond the appointed measure. Everyone should, however, make known to the prioress what she/he intends to do, since it ought to be done with her prayer and approval.” (RB 49:6-8)

My Lenten practice (s) will be:

“During this time of Lent each one is to receive a book from the library, and is to read the whole of it straight through. These books are to be distributed at the beginning of Lent.” (RB 48:15-16)

My Lenten book (Scripture or book for growth in faith life) will be

I ask for your permission and blessing.

Oblate signature: _____

Prioress signature: _____

Please return by February 8, 2013.

Bona Opera Form

Can you believe that Lent begins already on February 13? Usually the Oblate Office sends out information about Lent and the Bona Opera Form well in advance, but it just didn't seem right to send this information in the October issue of the newsletter. So while the turn-around time is short, hopefully you will still participate in this ancient Benedictine ritual.

In Benedictine monasteries it is the custom for each monastic to list on a Bona Opera form (Latin for good works) the good works of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that the monastic resolves to do during Lent. This Bona Opera is then submitted to the prioress or abbot, who blesses it with a signature of approval (as recommended by St. Benedict in Chapter 49 of the Rule).

Oblates and Oblate candidates are invited to participate in this practice by completing your own Bona Opera. A prayerful and reflective reading of chapter 49 of the Rule of St. Benedict would be a good preparation for writing your Bona Opera. Remember that you cannot do everything; choose one thing that you feel you most need to focus on to

deepen your relationship with God and with all your brothers and sisters in Christ.

If you also read chapter 48 of the Rule you will note that monastics are to receive a book from the library that can be read during Lent. If you wish, you may also choose a spiritual book or a particular book of the Holy Bible that you intend to read during Lent and list this book on the Bona Opera also.

The Bona Opera Form is printed above. Complete the form, sign it, and mail to: Oblate Office, 802 E. 10th St., Ferdinand, IN 47532-9239. If the form reaches the Oblate Office by February 8, it will be placed at the altar for Mass on Ash Wednesday. Sister Kristine Anne Harpenau will read and bless your Bona Opera, and then it will be returned to you. With your Bona Opera in hand, you will have a personal reminder of your Lenten offering to God.



Oblates

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Monastery Moments and Oblate Offerings

February 4

Bona Opera Forms listing special Lenten observances are due in the Oblate office.

February 13

Ash Wednesday The Season of Lent begins.

February 15–17

High School Come and See High school age girls are invited to spend the weekend with the sisters and explore the topic "Discover the Treasure of the Hill."

February 17

Oblate Meeting Sisters Michelle Mohr and Briana Craddock will share a "History of Liturgy of the Hours at Ferdinand." The presentation begins at 1 p.m. (EST). Morning prayer is at 10 a.m. with Mass at 10:30. Dinner immediately follows Mass.

Reservations required for dinner and the afternoon meeting. Contact Sister Barbara Ann Offerman or Sister Kathy Bilskie to make reservations.



Sister Michelle



Sister Briana

March 15–17

Come and See Young women between 18-40 years of age join the sisters in prayer, work, and leisure. Presentations and discussions will center on the topic "Fidelity to the Monastic Way of Life."

March 17

Oblate Retreat The monastery group Stillpoint will lead the retreat with the theme "The Year of Faith." *Details on page 2.*

April 21

Oblate Meeting Sister Anita Louise Lowe will gather all that has been presented during this Oblate year and discuss "Liturgy of the Hours in Daily Life." The presentation begins at 1 p.m. (EDT). Morning prayer is at 10 a.m. with Mass at 10:30. Dinner immediately follows Mass.

Reservations required for dinner and the afternoon meeting. Contact Sister Barbara Ann Offerman or Sister Kathy Bilskie.



Sister Anita
Louise

May 19

Oblate Meeting Plan to attend the last meeting of the Oblate year before the June and July break.