



Oblates

Newsletter for Oblates of the Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, Indiana
July 2017

Mary, All Ways

Teaching by Sister Betty Drewes, OSB
Oblate Meeting, May 20, 2017

Sister Betty opened her presentation with a prayer service which included several Scripture readings, followed by the litany of Mary entitled “The Dawn and Christ, the Perfect Day”. This opened our reflective time of quiet for Visio Divina.

According to Sister Betty, the four steps of Visio Divina are imaging, internalizing, integrating, and illuminating. Imaging is looking at the art or picture and seeing how that image relates to us. Internalizing is the moment of seeing with our heart the deeper meaning. Integrating is a time of perceiving the image in the vision of God’s eye. Illuminating is allowing that image to be a light of Christ radiating in, through and around us.



Oblate Marcia Stroud; Oblate Director Sister Brenda Engleman; presenter, Sister Betty Drewes; and Oblate Shirley France pose for a picture after the presentation.

During this Visio Divina we viewed several images of Mary from different cultures. In addition, we saw the many images and statues that we have here in our own monastery. Sister Betty asked the group to reflect on this question, “What is your image of Mary and how do you relate to her in your own personal prayer life?”

Next, Sister Betty went on to share the “Four Sevens of Mary.” They are: The Sorrows of Mary, The Joys of Mary, the Seven Statements of Mary in the Scriptures and lastly the Seven Attributes of Mary’s Spirituality that are very similar to Saint Benedict’s.

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Mary Wake, guest, and Oblate Ellen Stanton traveled all the way from Butler, Ohio, to be present for this meeting.



Jonna Cruze, guest, Oblate Phyllis Claycamp and guest, Sister Shirley Ann Schultheis, are savoring some delicious desserts. Thanks to Jonna for bringing Phyllis to the meeting from Evansville.

Sister Betty, Mary All Ways

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These seven attributes were sorrow, joy, listening, humility, prayer, obedience, and poverty, which revealed Mary's gifts. Each quality was supported by Mary's life events and also the scripture texts. Then Sister Betty used quotes from Benedict's Rule to parallel these virtues. She also shared examples of these attributes in her own life.



Oblate Deb Fleck and Oblate Sharon Bittner are enjoying some lighter moments.

Sister Betty gave the participants some questions and quiet time to reflect on their relationship with Mary. Two Oblates, Shirley France and Marcia Stroud, gave testimonies from their lives. Shirley spoke about her spiritual experiences with Alice, who is a prisoner in Ohio. Marcia shared about her pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes, which has deepened her devotion to Mary. Marcia Stroud offered all attendees a CD entitled "Praying the Rosary Like Never Before" by Dr. Edward Sri.

Sister Betty ended her beautiful presentation by inviting everyone to join together praying the Scriptural Prayer of Mary, "The Magnificat."

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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Congratulations



In the name of the Oblates, I want to congratulate Sister Jane Ann Breen who made her Final Profession on July 8th. Let us offer our prayers for Sister Jane Ann as she continues to journey with us sisters. May God bless her in all ways. Gratefully, Sister Brenda



I want to acknowledge Sister Jane Will, Sister Betty Drewes, Sister Linda Bittner, and Sister Judy Dewig, who will celebrate their Golden Jubilee on August 5. I personally want to thank them for their dedication and commitment to religious life. They certainly are wonderful models to us. Blessings! Sister Brenda

Being an Oblate Helps to Find Joy

By Oblate Elaine Baumgart



Oblate Elaine Baumgart

My Oblate journey began when I was a junior in the Academy. At that time, the sisters were only beginning their Oblate program, so we were affiliated with St. Meinrad. Women Benedictines did not always have Oblates like the men Benedictines did. That was in 1958. I do remember that we had meetings once a month and that Sister Anna Gramelspacher always had a presentation on The Rule of St. Benedict after prayers. The Rule seemed so right to me since it pointed out to me the way to live the Christian

life in a simple, practical way. The sisters I “grew up” with in the Academy were fine models to me about how to live in our daily life. When I entered religious life after high school, I was taught even more about The Rule and how to make it work in real life. I was away at school studying nursing in a Benedictine college in Duluth, Minnesota, for four years. After that, I was off to Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, studying pharmacy for five years. During those nine years, I had no contact with the Oblate program. However, the spirit had already become a part of me and the life I lived.

In the work I do in health care, I have learned to value the precious gift that all life is. Ministering primarily in pharmacy, I have had many opportunities to enable patients to find some peace and comfort in the care they need. I try really hard to help them find correct medication and to be in compliance with various regulations.

One of the joys of being an Oblate is that I have learned the importance of taking time for prayer everyday, which helps me to show care and concern for others. I also find my Oblate joy in the time, energy and talents that I offer here “on the hill” for the sisters.

I plan to continue this journey right into eternity. I don't know what lies ahead but I do know that I have a strong Benedictine value system to lean on. God reveals our journey to us only “one step at a time” and I pray that I am awake and ready to respond.



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Remembering Oblate Don Stanton



Oblates Don and Ellen Stanton

One of our faithful Oblates, Don Stanton, died peacefully on May 6, 2017, at his home in Butler, Ohio. Ellen, his loving wife, was at his side. He served in the Navy on aircraft carriers, Saratoga and Ranger. He and Ellen met in Louisville where they both worked in the drafting business. After they were married, they moved to Ohio. They were married 41 years.

Don and Ellen were dedicated members of St. Luke Catholic Church in Danville, Ohio. Through various people, Ellen became acquainted with the Monastery Oblates here at Ferdinand. She made her oblation in 2008 and Don followed her example by becoming an Oblate in 2016. They definitely took their oblation seriously and traveled 7 1/2 hours (as weather permitted) from Butler to Ferdinand to attend Oblate meetings and events.

Don was a devoted husband and friend. Many called him a “gentle giant”. He loved all God's creatures, especially his two dedicated, furry companions, Dodger and Zoe, his cats.

Don was also technologically gifted...unlike me. When we were trying to perfect live-streaming for our Oblate meetings, he often called or emailed suggestions to Bob Vaal and me. But...he always was kind. I vividly remember one of the first live-streamed meetings seemed to go really well. Almost too well. I was so excited that we finally perfected the process. Later, I went to my office and found an email from Don. He said, “Sister Brenda, the picture was one of the best I have ever seen. However ...“There was NO sound.”... I was a bit upset myself. But Don just took it in stride. He was always tactful and helpful and encouraged me to hang in there. I will certainly miss Don. He was a special guy. May he rest in peace!

Sister Brenda

Reflections on the 150th Anniversary Summer Social

A Blessed Day in Ferdinand

by Oblate Carol Dunn



Oblate Kathy Knust and Oblate Carol Dunn

Early on the morning of June 3, I set off on the 2 hour trip from my home in Scottsburg to Ferdinand to help in the food court at the Sisters' Social—having no idea what to expect. I felt like a young girl on the opening day of school, excited both about the new experience ahead and also thrilled to finally have the perfect opportunity to sport new clothes. This time I wore my brand new azure blue Oblate polo shirt!

When I located the food booth, I was delighted to find that it was situated directly in front of the bandstand and under a huge tent, which would offer a cool place to work on such a warm late spring day. During the 4 hours that I managed the cash box, I had a ring-side seat to some rousing, toe-tapping-hand-clapping gospel music. In addition I enjoyed a perfect view of the comings and goings of sisters, townsfolk of all ages, friends and family members of sisters, volunteers and Oblates. This was a perfect vantage point to observe and participate in the joyful work, hospitality, and community that is the essence of the lived out values of St. Benedict.

I heard rumors about some delicious food being served in the Event Hall. So when my “shift” ended and after saying my good-byes to fellow Oblates, I scurried over there. I heaped up fried chicken, hot German potato salad and green beans into carry-out boxes. What a scrumptious way to share at least a small sample of my joy-filled day with my husband, whom I'd left behind in Scottsburg. On my drive home, I had plenty of time to give thanks for the many blessings that I continually experience as an Oblate, invited to share in the lives of the dear Sisters of St. Benedict.

Witnessing Benedictine Spirituality Firsthand

by Candidates Bill and Lisa Muller



Candidates Bill and Lisa Muller

Bill and I really enjoyed our time spent helping with the social, where the sisters had demonstrated their commitment to hospitality by inviting the public into their beautiful home in order to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the monastery. Volunteering to be a small part of this undertaking was a privilege. Every aspect of the social was well-organized and well-done. Every one of the sisters had contributed to the overall success. Whether it was running a booth, fixing the food, crocheting hats for newborns, quilting, picking up litter, or praying for those doing all these things, it was truly a community effort. It was also wonderful to be working with the Oblates, getting to know one another and building community.

Bill and I felt that we witnessed Benedictine spirituality firsthand. We saw prayer, work, and hospitality in action. Even though everyone was tired at the end of Saturday evening, the spirit of love and cooperation was still evident everywhere. The whole experience was inspiring!



Left: Oblate Sandy Turner, Candidate Heather Eichholz and Oblate Marcia Brown

Summer Social Memories

by Candidate Heather Eichholz



Candidate Heather Eichholz

This year's summer social at Ferdinand was very special for me because it took me back in time. I stood watching children run around with their parents who were trying to wipe off their sticky faces and hands. People of all ages were trying to find that perfect spot at a picnic table and watch the world go by. The smells of food, bug spray, and sunscreen filling the air, coupled with

laughter and music, all brought a smile to my face as memories flooded my mind.

I was taken back to my childhood parish in Northern Minnesota where Sister Adriette, a Benedictine sister, planned a parish picnic and social every summer. Sister Adriette was the only person who could get my mom to pull taffy with her. I remember how funny I thought my mom and the ladies looked as they were working with the taffy.

I also got an image of my two younger brothers and me with big blue smiles which came from the popsicles that we had eaten earlier. Our faces were covered with ice cream and we also were holding a taffy sucker to start on next. Our shirts were filled with ketchup and mustard from the hamburgers and hotdogs which we had in between all the other food. Needless to say, we were messy little children and our parents continued to tell us not to eat too much or we would get a stomach ache.

So, as I drove back to Owensboro after leaving the social on June 3rd, I had a smile on my face. I was singing as loud as I could with my off-key voice. I felt so alive, just like I was eight years old again. I really loved those parish picnics in Minnesota, but I also enjoyed the summer social here in Ferdinand as well.

Looking Good in New Blue Shirts



Ingrid Amara, Oblate Marcia Brown, Oblate Ellen Stanton, Oblate Dianne LeDuc, Oblate Patti Schroeder and Oblate Sandy Turner



Above: Oblate Carol Dunn and Director of Oblates, Sister Brenda Engleman
Left: Oblate Julie Beck and Oblate Kathy Knust



Visit Monastery Gift Shop

Ferdinand Benedictine Oblates receive

10% off
your entire order!

Be sure to let the clerk know you are one of our Oblates!



Prayer Corner

Pray for the Sick:

Oblate Ruth Goepfrich
 Oblate Elaine Nolan
 Oblate Lynn Steiden
 Oblate Julie Beck
 Oblate Jean Siebelts

In Memoriam:

Oblate Don Stanton
 Oblate Mary Lou Bassler's
 brother, Joe, died
 on July 1, 2017.

Our thoughts and prayers are
 with you in this time of sorrow.



Sister Briana (right) with her father, John, and
 stepmother, Weimin.

Dear Oblates,

I want to ask you to pray for John Craddock, who died on May 25 in Evansville, Indiana. He was the father of Sister Briana Craddock. Most of you probably don't know Sister Briana. However, she is one of our talented sisters and does lay-outs for the Oblate Newsletter. In addition, she has designed/ is continuing to design our beautiful community website. She is an artist and a great photographer, etc. etc.

As most of you know, losing a parent can be very painful. I still miss my mother and father and both of them died many years ago. Life just isn't the same without them. So let us remember Sister Briana and her family in our sincerest prayers.

With prayerful support,
 Sister Brenda



Oblate Birthdays

August

1—Paulette Campana, 2—Candidate Daphanie Hoppes, 9—Craig Howerton, 14—Valerie Scott, 18—Dolores Webber, 19—Mary Agnes Willegal, 20—Mary Etta Kiefer, 21—Judy Luebbehusen, 23—Carolyn Kohler, 27—Therese Walker, 28—Mary Littlefield, 29—Pauletta Adler Jeter

September

2—Lee Garrity, 6—Barbara Nonte, 8—Christy Dumont, 9—June Goforth and Brenda Padgett, 12—Vic Begle, 17—Sister Brenda Engleman and Ruth Goepfrich, 25—Shirley Azure, 26—Candidate Bill Muller, Jennifer Kieffer, and Mary Metz, 30—Gary Adler

October

1—Sharon Bittner and Mary Thale, 5—Martha Hester and Rose Wilkie, 7—Inquirer Gail Burke and Jerome Schmitt, 11—Derrick Dixon, 13—Arleta Weyer, 19—Rev. Gerald McCarthy, 22—Frank William Keller and Madeline Keplin, 28—Inquirer Cathy Meister

Livestreaming

We are really trying to stay in contact with those of you who are at a distance and/or unable to be here. Once more I am listing information and the steps to get into the oblatecam.

You cannot get into the oblate-cam until we connect it at our meeting. It is NOT like the churchcam.

1. You need to use Microsoft Windows-based computers to launch Internet Explorer web browser or Google Chrome. You cannot use Apple devices or I pads at this time.
2. Go to website <http://oblatecam.thedome.org>
3. Once it loads it will launch Microsoft Media Player.
4. Adjust the size and volume as you see fit.

Good luck to all of you.

Sister Brenda



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

<http://churchcam.thedome.org>

You can also download a liturgy schedule from the Oblate page:

thedome.org/get-involved/oblates

Father Michael Casey Speaks on Monasticism at Ferdinand Monastery

by Sister Brenda Engleman

Father Casey, a Cistercian monk from Australia, is a renowned writer of a large number of spiritual books. On July 2 and 3, Father Casey gave several presentations on monasticism at the Benedictine monastery in Ferdinand, Indiana. Personally, I found his writing style and talks to be quite understandable and interesting. I would encourage some of you Oblates to go on-line and investigate his website. Also, both of our monastic and Oblate libraries have some copies of Father Casey's books.

Believe it or not, by the end of Monday afternoon, I had 24 pages of notes. (I am an avid note taker.) At one time, I was hoping to give you a summary of his talks. Of course, that was an unrealistic expectation. However, I will share a couple comments that Father Casey made.

He emphasized the need for religious (and lay people) to become familiar with their traditions. As Oblates, you have many opportunities to study The Holy Rule with your candidate companions. You also have heard excellent presenters at meetings explain how St. Benedict's ideas are still meaningful today in the 21st century. Father Casey shared this quote, "The fact that we religious communities and individuals are alive means that we are continually interacting with our present, influenced by our past and looking forward to the future."

One last comment about Oblates...Father Casey shared that with the decline in religious vocations, the number of active

Oblates is growing in many monasteries all over the world. He said that in Big Sur Monastery in Australia, there are 14 monks and 700 Oblates. I thought that you would enjoy this bit of information.



Father Michael Casey, second from left, graciously agreed to have his picture taken with Oblate Arleta Weyer, Candidate Lisa Muller and Candidate Bill Muller at the July 2 and 3 event.

Monastery Moments and Oblate Offerings

Saturday, August 12, 2017

Centering Prayer Workshop will be held in the monastery. Presenters: Sister Kathy Bilskie and Sister Celeste Boda.

Sunday, August 20, 2017

Oblates/Sisters Picnic and Ice Cream Social – Since this is the closing date of the 150th anniversary year, the Oblates and sisters will celebrate together in the sisters' dining room. Picnic will begin about 11:30 a.m. (ET). Ice cream social will follow in St. Gertrude's Hall at 1:00 p.m. See flier for more information.

September 8 – September 15, 2017

Directed Retreat will be held in Kordes Hall. The retreat begins Friday, September 8, at 7:00 p.m. (EDT) and ends Friday, September 15, at 10:00 a.m. This retreat provides participants the opportunity to focus on their relationship with God and to meet six times with a spiritual director.

Saturday, September 16, 2017

Reception of Oblate Candidates will be held in St. Gertrude Hall at 1:00 p.m. (ET) followed by presentation on **Chapter 1, "The Rule of St. Benedict" from St. Benedict's Toolbox** by Jane Tomaine. Presenters: Oblate Lynn Belli and Oblate Kathy Knust

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

Annulment in the Catholic Church: Dispel the Myths, Journey toward Healing will be held at Kordes Hall from 7-9 p.m. (ET) Presenter: Sister Celeste Boda.

October 6-7, 2017

A Monastic Craft Beer Experience will be held at St. Benedict's Brew Works. Presenters: Vince Luecke and Andy Hedinger.

Sunday, October 15, 2017

Oblation will be held during Morning Prayer in the Monastery Church at 9:45 a.m. (ET), followed by Mass at 10:30 a.m. Dinner will be held in the Monastic Dining Room after Mass. Oblate meeting will be held in St. Gertrude Hall from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. **Chapter 2, "Prayer" from St. Benedict's Tool Box** by Jane Tomaine. Presenters TBA.

Oblates

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*“ Listen readily to holy reading and devote yourself often
to prayer.*

—Rule of St. Benedict 4:55-56

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 who might be fine Oblates. The best way to learn about the Oblates is from another Oblate. Also, I invite you to go to our website and check out the Oblate page at www.thedome.org/get-involved/oblates. We welcome those who want to learn more about the Oblates to contact Sister Brenda Engleman. Contact information can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

