

Introduction to the Rule of St. Benedict

Oblate Meeting, September 16, 2017

The Life of Benedict

Teaching by Oblate Lynn Belli

As I reflected on this presentation, I kept coming back to what we already know about the life of St. Benedict. For me, also coming to the awareness of what life was really like for St. Benedict during his lifetime.



Oblate Lynn Belli

St. Benedict was born in 480 in Norcia, Italy. At the time of his birth, Italy was in the midst of disorder and chaos.

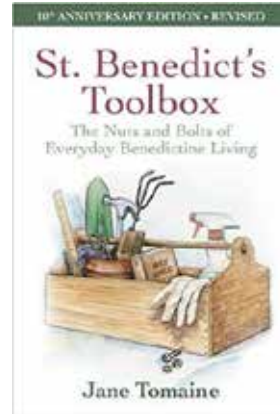
Little seems to be known of what his childhood was like with his twin sister, St. Scholastica. Knowing what our world is like today, the turmoil and violence we see, we can almost imagine what his family had to deal with.

Due to the unrest he faced, Benedict decided to lead a Christ-centered life. He followed in the footsteps of St. Antony who lived in solitude and went deep into the Egyptian desert. St. Antony later became known as the father of Christian monasticism.

Many of our forefathers and foremothers shared their words of wisdom with others to help pave the way for those who desired the life of prayer and solitude. As these men and women gathered to live this desired life they began to form communities.

St. Benedict studied in Rome. His greatest desire was to live a Christ-centered life; he then moved to Subiaco, Italy, where he became a hermit. Later, he went to Monte Cassino and built a monastery there. Many monasteries were built throughout Italy and the world following the Rule of St. Benedict.

St. Benedict died in Monte Cassino in the year 547.



The presentations for this year's Oblate meetings center on Dr. Jane Tomaine's book, *St. Benedict's Toolbox, 10th Anniversary Edition*.

The Rule of St. Benedict

Teaching by Oblate Sharon Bittner

"St. Benedict's Toolbox" is an intriguing title. This book by Dr. Jane Tomaine is wonderfully packed with explanations, ideas and encouragement to deepen our faith walk. I was drawn to share the "first course" of that with other Oblates: finding God in the "everyday," increasing our awareness and participation in this continual encounter.

To read the entire presentation, go to <https://www.thedome.org/get-involved/oblates/presentations-given-oblates/>.



Oblate Dianne LeDuc visits with Oblate Sharon Bittner. Sharon was one of the two presenters who talked about The Rule of St. Benedict at the September 16 meeting.

Lectio Divina

Part I

Teaching by Sister Brenda Engleman
October 15, 2017

Good afternoon to all of you! This afternoon Oblate Kathy Knust and I are going to share some words with you. Some of you may hear some new ideas and others of you will probably hear familiar information.

Dr. Jane Tomaine, who wrote *St. Benedict's Toolbox*, has been to our Ferdinand community here a few different times and led workshops. I called Jane to let her know that we Ferdinand Oblates wanted to use her book during this next year for our monthly meetings and presentations. She was quite thrilled and supportive. I assured her that we would represent her well.

Our topic is Lectio Divina (Lek-see-oh deh-vee-na). It means holy, sacred, or divine reading. It is a way of reading the Bible (or other sources) and it helps us develop a relationship with God. (I am focusing primarily on using Scripture in this presentation.) We listen to the texts of the Bible as if we were in conversation with God. We listen "with the ear of our hearts."

I do want to give a brief history about Lectio Divina. I did examine a few other books in preparing for this presentation, but really most of what I share is in *St. Benedict's Toolbox*. Jane Tomaine has such an understandable, easy way of writing.

Lectio is an ancient method that was practiced by women and men who went to the desert in order to live a life of prayer. The desert people were early Christian hermits and monks who lived in the third century in small communities. People needed to be alone, away from distractions so they could pray. We still do this today. Of course, we don't have deserts, but we do have beautiful woods, lakes, and rolling hills here in southern Indiana.

Throughout these early centuries most Christians could not even read...and those who could read rarely owned a book, except for the wealthy, the churches, and monasteries. So when the poor people heard readings in church, they would just latch on to one word or a phrase and take it with them throughout the day, repeating it and repeating it. This was their way of getting in touch with God.

The monastic practice of Lectio was first established in the sixth century by St. Benedict and he stressed Lectio in the Holy Rule. In chapter four, we hear Benedict say, "We need to listen readily to holy reading & devote ourselves often to prayer." In chapter 48, he emphasizes that it is important to set specific times throughout the day for holy reading, with extra time on Sundays. Benedict knew that this sacred reading was a necessary practice for living a faithful life.

It was in the twelfth century that a monk put together the four-step process of Lectio. We will hear more about these steps in just a little while. Throughout the 19th century,

monastics were mostly the ones who did Lectio. In 1965, the Second Vatican Council strongly recommended Lectio Divina to the general public. One of our recent popes, Pope Benedict XVI, who just retired in 2013, also encouraged the general public and all Christians to use this prayer form.

So Lectio is increasing in popularity throughout the world and includes many other religions. There are many ways to do Lectio...individually, in groups and so on. They are all acceptable. Kathy and I decided to just focus on the traditional four-step Lectio today. In the third world countries of today, the poorest of the poor use group Lectio mostly because books are rare.

Basically, I am going to briefly explain the four steps of Lectio. I will mention both the Latin and the modern terms.

First step: Lectio-READ. We can read a passage from Scripture or one of the Gospels that we like. Just remember we are not analyzing or interpreting biblical passages. This is a different way of reading...not like reading a newspaper or a novel. We need to savor each word slowly. I like what Jane Tomaine said on page 44 of her book. She suggests a comparison to eating food...which we can all identify with. We can think about something we love to eat. For me, it would be Chinese food or fried chicken. We take the first bites, chewing slowly and enjoying the flavors. We don't rush a great meal, nor do we rush God's words as he speaks to us personally.

Since I have been planning this presentation, I have been trying to listen more attentively in prayer. Recently I was at

Morning Prayer and was a bit stressed out. All of a sudden, I heard us reciting an antiphon from Psalm 16, "Place your hope in God alone." I read over that message several times and prayed very intently. Honestly...a sense of peace came over me. I am sure that many of you have had similar experiences.

Second step: Meditatio-Reflect on a word or phrase. I continued to focus on the phrase, "Place your hope in God alone." Like the ancient monks, we can take the word or phrase and memorize it -thinking how it connects with our life experiences, challenges, problems, and emotions. This short prayer reminds me that God is indeed with me and helping me.

Third step: Oratio-Respond in prayer. We talk more to God...about how we see this word or phrase connecting with our lives. We can share our pain and our deepest joys. With me, I often think, "O you of little faith, why do you fear? God is with me. Place my hope in God alone." That is my response to prayer.

Fourth step: Contemplatio-Rest in Silence. We stop doing and simply try to just be. We rest in God's embrace. We keep silence. We trust that God is really with us. This special time can last a few minutes or a long time. At the end of our Lectio,



Oblate Kathy Knust (left) and Sister Brenda Engleman gave a presentation on Lectio Divina to the Oblate community on October 15.

we might want to end with a personal prayer of gratitude. For example: “Thank you, God, for all the gifts that you have shared with me. Amen.”

Over the years, I have composed a few songs and all of them have come from times of prayer...when I was doing Lectio Divina. Most are based on the Psalms. One song I will mention came to me during a directed retreat... a few years ago. It is based on Psalms 113, 115 and 116. Actually, I had gone through some really challenging times in my life. Fortunately, God and many of my friends stood with me and supported me. I had a real spiritual experience. The song that I wrote as a response and thanksgiving to God is called “How Can I Repay You?” I will end by singing the refrain to my song. This will be my closing prayer.

“How can I repay you, O, God, for the good you have done for me? I will raise the cup of salvation and call upon your name, and call upon your name.” Amen.



The Oblates surprised Sister Brenda Engleman, Oblate director, with a beautiful birthday cake during the September 16th Oblate meeting. Sister Brenda's birthday is on September 17th. All Oblates and guests shared the tasty cake with her.

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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Lectio Divina

Part II

Teaching by Oblate Kathy Knust
October 15, 2017

I had the privilege of meeting Jane Tomaine, the author of *St. Benedict's Toolbox*, in person in Subiaco, Arkansas, a few years ago. I attended the NAABOD (North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors) conference along with Sr. Brenda, Teresa Bauer, and Sister Karen Joseph. That is where the idea for using her book with the Oblates originated. Teresa and I represented the Oblate Advisory Board and Jane Tomaine was a presenter at the conference. It was shortly after the new edition of *St. Benedict's Toolbox* came out. We had the opportunity to ask her to autograph our books. I remember that she didn't have a pen and I handed her a pen from my purse. The pen happened to be from the French Lick Winery. She recognized the pen and said she had been there and that she loved southern Indiana—especially Ferdinand. I let her keep my pen. She autographed my book saying “Blessings on your journey with Benedict” Jer 29:11, which she said was her favorite Bible verse. Most of us recognize this verse. “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

My journey with Benedict started very early in my life. As a child, the Sisters of St. Benedict were my neighbors and were my teachers throughout elementary school. I attended St. Benedict College for two years until it closed. The Sisters of St. Benedict were my classmates and my teachers there. This is where I read the Rule of Benedict for the first time. The Benedictine influence continues in my journey to this day through my association with this Oblate community. I am thankful for all of you.

Whether we are newly professed Oblates, or well-seasoned Oblates, or professed sisters, we are all on a “journey with Benedict.” St. Benedict rooted his Rule in the Word of God. Prayer with Holy Scripture is an important spiritual practice for us if we want to follow the Benedictine way of life. How do we fit the Word of God into our prayer practices?

Sister Brenda so eloquently explained Lectio Divina and, as she said, we will experience a group Lectio Divina, but before we do that I would like to share some suggestions and observations from chapter two that may be helpful for our Holy Reading:

Jane Tomaine lists some challenges we may face when using Lectio Divina:

1. One challenge is that we come up with reasons to avoid holy reading. Do any of these sound familiar?
 - a. “I have too much to do.”
 - b. “Nothing seems to happen in my prayer.”
 - c. “I'm tired and won't be able to concentrate.”
2. Another challenge might be the thoughts that come into our heads during prayer.
3. A third challenge is our lack of confidence in our prayer or our ability to pray

Other suggestions from the book include:

Continued

- A. Keeping a prayer journal
- B. Keeping an ongoing list of meaningful passages.
- C. Reading or whispering out loud
- D. Listening to God with the ear of your heart and trusting that God hears us and has something to say to us.

The Toolbox at the end of the chapter provides a format and resources to use for Holy Reading.

Tool 1 shows us Jane Tomaine's Format for Holy Reading (Lectio Divina). Sister Brenda did explain the format during her introductory remarks.

Tool 2 gives us some suggestions for establishing a practice of Lectio Divina.

- A. Making a commitment every day.
- B. Deciding which days are better

For myself I find that my weekly Eucharistic adoration hour is the best place for my Holy Reading. Each of us needs a quiet spot or whatever works for us.

Tools 3, 4, and 5 give us Resources for Holy Reading.

- A. Scripture is the best place to start when learning Lectio Divina
- B. We can expand what we read by using non scriptural texts, such as books from a church library or a good bookstore.
- C. Devotionals are good sources as well
- D. Even daily life can be a resource— novels, letters, signs, conversation, magazine articles, the Internet - use what inspires us or speaks to us.

Sister Brenda ended the presentation by leading a group Lectio Divina.



Oblate Paulette Campana (left) and Oblate Elaine Baumgart engage in a discussion during a recent Oblate meeting.

Update on Advisory Board



Oblate Advisory Board (L to R): Oblate Vic Begle, Oblate Kathy Knust, Oblate Elaine Baumgart, Oblate Julie Beck, Sister Brenda Engleman, Oblate Sharon Bittner, Oblate Mel Schroeder, facilitator. Not pictured: Oblate Theresa Bauer.

First of all, I am writing this article in an effort to let you know what the Oblate Advisory Board really does. If you have read our newsletters over the past few years, you have seen the many projects that the Board, the Oblates and I have been involved in. I started to make a list, but I ran out of room. I will say that I could not do my job without the Board. They are extremely talented, creative and willing to share their opinions. And...we support one another. We do welcome suggestions from all of you Oblates. After all, this is your program as well.

I do want to introduce you to the present members on the Advisory Board. They are:

Theresa Bauer, Kathy Knust, Sharon Bittner, Elaine Baumgart, Vic Begle and Julie Beck. We welcome Vic and Julie, who were elected on May 20, 2017. The Board and I wish to thank Mary Eileen Fritz and Lynn Belli who just went off the board after having served two terms. A term is three years. Mel Schroeder serves as the facilitator and Sister Brenda serves as an ex-officio member because she is the Oblate director. Another person I need to recognize is Bob Vaal, our technology person. He has been a Godsend to us, especially with live-streaming and recording presentations.

The Advisory Board meets generally four times a year. If an important situation were to arise, we could possibly hold an additional meeting. Generally, the board meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:45 to 8:15 p.m. A week or so prior to the Board meeting, Mel Schroeder and I meet to plan the agenda.

Thank you, Oblates, for all the ways you serve our community. God bless each of you.

Sincerely,
Sister Brenda Engleman
Oblate Director

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Ferdinand Benedictine Oblates receive

10% off
your entire order!

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



Rite of Reception of Candidates



Sister Barbara Lynn Schmitz officiates at the Rite of Reception of five candidates. L to R: Pat Stemle, Deb Stemle, Elaine Robertson, Gail Burke, and Ingrid Amara. Not pictured: Cathy Meister.



Oblate Kathy Knust gives new candidates Pat (left) and Deb Stemle the study guide that they will use during their year of candidacy.

On Saturday, September 16, at 1:00 p.m. (ET), we celebrated the Rite of Reception for Candidates during Midday Prayer in St. Gertrude's Hall. Our prioress, Sister Barbara Lynn Schmitz, led this ceremony. We are pleased to announce that six Inquirers were received as Candidates: Ingrid Amara, Gail Burke, Cathy Meister, Elaine Robertson, Deb Stemle and Pat Stemle. During the ceremony, these candidates received a Benedictine medal and chain, the Holy Rule of St. Benedict, the book, *Wisdom Distilled from the Daily*, by Sister Joan Chittister, and a study guide.

As in the past, the Candidates will each have a sister companion who will journey with them during their year of study and formation. Ingrid is from Hillsboro, North Carolina, and her companion is Sister Maura Beckman. Gail is from St. Charles, Missouri, and her companion is Sister Betty Drewes; Elaine is from Owensboro, Kentucky, and her companion is Sister Kathy Huber; and Deb and Pat are from Ireland, Indiana, and their companion is Sister Karen Joseph. Please remember these candidates and companions in your prayers. Thank you so much for your support of them. Sincerely, Sister Brenda



Sister Betty Drewes is talking with her new Candidate, Gail Burke. Gail's husband Tom is listening in.



Candidates Gail Burke and Ingrid Amara are listening intently to Sister Barbara Lynn's prayer.



Sister Corda Trouy and Candidate Faye Bilskie are getting acquainted with one another.



New Candidate, Ingrid Amara, is posing with her companion, Sister Maura Beckman.

Candidates become new Oblates



New Oblates Robin Dugan, Faye Bilskie, Lisa Muller and Bill Muller proudly pose for a picture in St. Gertrude's Hall.



Lisa Muller gratefully signs her Oblation document.

On Sunday, October 15, 2017, three women and one man became Oblates of the Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, Indiana. Sister Barbara Lynn Schmitz, prioress, officiated at this ceremony.

The new Oblates were Lisa and Bill Muller from Evansville, Indiana; Faye Bilskie from Vincennes, Indiana; and Robin Dugan from Newburgh, Indiana. They made their Oblation in the monastery church during a simple ceremony incorporated into Morning Prayer

Alice of the Ohio Reformatory for Women made her Oblation on May 2, 2017. Sister Kathy Huber was her companion. Heather Eichholz made her Oblation on August 13, 2017. Sister Celeste Boda was her companion.

As Candidates, these new Oblates spent a year studying the Holy Rule and the Benedictine way of life under the guidance

of their companions. Lisa and Bill's companion was Sister Jane Will; Faye's companion was Sister Kathy Huber; and Robin's companion was Sister Jolinda Naas.

During their Oblation ceremony, each Oblate promised to dedicate herself or himself to the service of God and humankind according to the Rule of St. Benedict, as far as his/her state in life permits. Each 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.

After the ceremony, Sister Barbara Lynn invited all other Oblates who were present, to come to the front center aisle. Together they renewed their promises before the sisters and guests.



Sister Jane Will is placing an Oblate pin on Bill Muller's lapel as Sister Barbara Lynn Schmitz, prioress, holds Bill's Certificate of Oblation.



Oblates renewed their Oblation at the end of the Oblation ceremony.



Faye Bilskie signs her Oblation document.



Robin Dugan receives her certificate of Oblation.



Oblate candidates and their mentors listen as Sister Barbara Lynn Schmitz, prioress, begins the Rite of Oblation.

Six Sisters Celebrate Jubilees



Sister Sylvia Gehlhausen
75 years



Sister Jan Youart
60 years



Sister Mary Agnes Sermersheim
60 years



Sister Mary Ann Schepers
60 years



Sister Christine Kempf
60 years



Sister Corda Trouy
60 years

On October 29, seven sisters celebrated their Diamond Jubilees in church in the presence of our entire monastic community. Sister Sylvia Gehlhausen celebrated 75 years.

Sister Jan Youart, Sister Mary Agnes Sermersheim, Sister Mary Ann Schepers, Sister Christine Kempf and Sister Corda Trouy all celebrated 60 years.

In the name of the Oblate community, I want to congratulate all of these sisters who have been such wonderful models to me during my years in religious life. May God continue to bless them in all ways now and in the future.

With gratitude and support,
Sister Brenda Engleman

Fourth International Oblate Congress 2017



Oblate Stephanie Smith, Oblate Shirley France and Sister Kathryn Huber

The 4th World Congress of Benedictine Oblates will take place from November 4 - 10 at the Salesianum just outside Rome. The international planning team represents 50 countries with monasteries that have Oblates. After days of discussion throughout this last year, the team developed the following theme:

**A WAY FORWARD - THE BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY IN MOVEMENT
The brothers and sisters should serve one another. (The Holy Rule Ch.35)**

This congress will certainly provide a wonderful opportunity for Oblates to join together for mutual support and further formation. Now more than ever Oblates need to connect on international issues. Those attending will deal with questions like: What does it mean to be an Oblate in the 21st century? What is our responsibility for our broken world? How can we serve as peacemakers showing hospitality in the face of war, terrorism, and refugee crises?

Sister Joan Chittister, OSB, will be the keynote speaker. She is a passionate advocate for peace, human rights, women's issues, and church renewal. Sister Joan travels all over the world to share her message. In her spare time, she has written over 50 books. We continue to use many of her books in our Oblate formation program here at Ferdinand.

I am pleased to share that Sister Kathy Huber, OSB, Oblate Shirley France and Oblate Stephanie Smith will be traveling to Rome in November for this Congress. Sister Kathy is one of our former prioresses. She leads retreats, does workshops and spiritual direction all over the United States. In addition, she has served as mentor for several of our Oblate candidates over the years.

Shirley is a rather new Oblate. She has been active in developing and instituting many spiritual programs in her parish and elsewhere. She facilitates Monastery of the Heart groups in a women's prison near her Ohio home. Shirley has written her first book, *Soul Provider*, which will be published by Amazon and is available through Kindle.

Stephanie became an Oblate just a year ago. She is a natural-born leader and volunteers her skills wherever she goes. Prior to becoming an Oblate, she worked as a deputy prosecuting attorney near Indianapolis. Presently, she is director of major gifts in our Mission Advancement department here at Ferdinand.

All three of these women will be leaders in various breakout sessions at the Rome Congress. Certainly, they will also share encouraging news about our Ferdinand community. And... I can assure you that Sister Kathy, Shirley and Stephanie will return to us with a host of stimulating stories and experiences.

Sister Brenda Engleman

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

Pray for the Sick:

Oblate Phyllis Claycamp
Oblate Ruth Goepfrich
Oblate Elaine Nolan

In Memoriam:

Oblate Marcia Brown's brother,
Michael Smith, died
on September 17, 2017.

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

**Oblate Birthdays****November**

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

December

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

January

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

Monastery Moments and Oblate Offerings

November 3 and 4, 2017

Brewing with the Spirit: A Monastic Craft Beer Experience will be held at St. Benedict's Brew Works. Presenters: Vince Luecke and Andy Hedinger. The program runs from Friday at 6:30 p.m. through Saturday at 7:00 p.m. and includes one night's lodging, meals, and amenities.

November 28 and 29, 2017

The Hidden Identity of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark will be held in the monastery from 7:00–8:30 p.m. each evening. Presenter: Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB.

December 1-3, 2017

Praying with Icons will be held at the monastery. The program runs from Friday at 7:00 p.m. until Sunday at 9:45 a.m. Presenter: Sister Jeana Visel.

Saturday, December 2, 2017

Oblates are invited to attend the Women of the Rule **Monastery of the Heart Retreat**. Presenters: Sister Kathryn Huber and Oblate Shirley France.

10:00 a.m.—Prayer and Mass
11:30—Brunch with the sisters
12:30-2:00 p.m.—1st Session
2:00-2:30—Break or/and quiet time
2:30-3:30—2nd Session
3:30-4:00—Wrap-up and closure

All times Eastern Standard.

Sunday, January 20, 2018

Oblate meeting will be held in St. Gertrude Hall from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. **Chapter 3, "Stability" from St. Benedict's Tool Box** by

Jane Tomaine. Presenters: Sister Celeste Boda and Oblate Carol Dunn.

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Oblate meeting will be held in St. Gertrude Hall from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. **Chapter 4, "Obedience" from St. Benedict's Tool Box** by Jane Tomaine. Presenters: Sister Karen Joseph and Oblate Elaine Baumgart.

March 2-4, 2018

Honoring the Woman Within will be held at Benedictine Hospitality Center at Kordes Hall from Friday at 3:00 p.m. until Sunday at 1:00 p.m. Presenters: Sister Kate Willegal and Sister Gail Hamilton.

Saturday, March 17, 2018

Understanding How the Church Uses Scripture for the Liturgies of Holy Week will be held in the monastery from 9:45 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Presenter: Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB.

March 29-April 1, 2018

Triduum Retreat will be held in the monastery from 3:00 p.m. on Holy Thursday until 10:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday.

Sunday, April 15, 2018

Oblate meeting will be held in St. Gertrude Hall from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. **Chapter 5, "Conversion of Life" from St. Benedict's Tool Box** by Jane Tomaine. Presenters: Sister Betty Drewes and Oblate Jeanne Zack.

Sunday, May 20, 2018

Oblate meeting will be held in St. Gertrude Hall from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. **Chapter 6, "Praying the Divine Office" from St. Benedict's Tool Box** by Jane Tomaine. Presenters: TBA.

Oblates

Monastery Immaculate Conception
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

We must listen readily to holy reading.

—Rule of St. Benedict 4:56

Share the Joy of Being an Oblate of St. Benedict

I encourage all Oblates and Oblate Candidates to share with others the joy of being an Oblate. 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. Remember that this is a program of attraction. Also, I encourage you to go to our website and check out the Oblate page: www.thedome.org/get-involved/oblates. For more specific details, check on page 3.



Oblate Patti Schroeder is sharing the joy of being an Oblate with new Candidate, Elaine Robertson.

