



Stability

Oblate Meeting, January 20, 2018

Part I: Creating Bonds of Affection and Accountability or “It’s All About Relationships”

Teaching by Sister Celeste Boda



Sister Celeste Boda

Monastic stability was not something totally innovative with the Rule of St. Benedict. It was implicit in the practice of “staying in the cell” with the desert monastics. In the Rule of the Master, a precursor of the Rule of St. Benedict, the term was known as *firmitas*, making firm one’s direction to God. It was a commitment to a particular monastery and practiced through obedience and fidelity to the Rule of that particular monastery.

In the Rule of St. Benedict, *firmitas* became known as *stabilitas*. There are four places in the Rule of St. Benedict where this particular term appears. In the Prologue, the monastic is required to “observe Christ’s teaching in the monastery until death.” Thus, *stabilitas* referred to the monastery itself and the life that goes on there. In Chapter 4, the monastic learns to practice the instruments of good works through stability “in the community.” We learn here that stability goes to the heart of the community, to the relationships of the monastics to one another. From this point on, in the remaining places where stability is mentioned – chapters 58, 60, and 61 – it is always in the context of the community and the relationships found there.

There are two components to stability. First, there is the exterior component, where we put down our roots here, in this place. Then there is the interior component, which is the perseverance in mind and heart to this way of life. Both components are necessary; the exterior sinking of one’s roots in the place, serves to realize the fruit of the interior component. The monastic seeks to stabilize the body in one community for a lifetime in order to stabilize mind and heart in the God they seek. In this way, stability becomes the outward sign of the interior “yes” to God’s will. Esther De Waal summarized this well: “Stability is a commitment to situations and persons, achieved through perseverance and patience, but never alone.” It is a commitment to the community as one finds it, not necessarily ideal; once the monastic accepts the community with its strengths and weaknesses, then the community weathers the storms together and rejoices together when the sun breaks through the clouds. In this way, stability is akin to the permanence expected in marriage. One does not simply walk away when the going gets rough.

How does stability fit with another commitment, that of conversatio? How does the monastic commit to stability while at the same time commit to the journey? Charles Cummings offers a solution: “I am on the road to the Holy in which I am already rooted. I abide in that towards which I constantly journey...I arrive at the promised land of the Kingdom of God the moment I realize I have always been there.” Cummings suggests that our full human potential is facilitated by a degree of stability in a peaceful place, where one can be at ease, can sort things out, and can develop one’s unity with God. The practice of monastic stability shows us how we can learn the art of accepting, appreciating and valuing the place where we find ourselves and especially the other persons who share that space. Here, and with this group of people, we find our place and our peace in God.

Stability is fully grounded in the community, in this group of people in this place and in this time. The American Conference of Benedictine Prioresses wrote, “Stability in celibate community permits the establishment of life-long human bonds...necessary for healing growth of each sister.” In short, stability is characterized by “bonds of affection and accountability” as stated by one prioress. Stability is the foundation for St. Benedict’s conclusion to his Rule: “Let them prefer nothing whatever to Christ, and may He bring us all together to everlasting life.”

Part II: Practicing Stability in Our Daily Lives

Teaching by Oblate Carol Dunn



Oblate Carol Dunn

Why is Benedictine stability so challenging? The author explains that Benedictine stability is countercultural. Our culture teaches us to keep our options open and to pursue happiness and success as primary motivators. When we have access to all that our culture proclaims, it is difficult to stay the course. Cultural messages work to identify who we are and what our purpose is. Also, because we live in a stress-filled world and are created as thinking beings, we are subject to anxieties, fears, addictions and aversions that tend to fill our minds, creating inner instability.

AUTHOR: TO EXERCISE STAYING POWER IN OUR DAILY LIVES, WE NEED TO REST FIRMLY IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD: we are a child of God, loved

Continued



Sister Celeste Boda, Oblate Barb Nonte, Oblate Theresa Bauer and in front is Sister Kathy Huber. Sister Celeste was one of the presenters on Stability and she joins the others for a quick picture.

infinitely by God.

Since stability is so challenging, we can benefit from tools to help us build stability in our lives; to help us learn to ignore cultural forces that want to establish our identity as something other than a child of God, who is loved by God.

Some useful tools: • Mindfulness meditation (recommended: Mindfulness and Christian Spirituality by Tim Stead)

- Centering Prayer (recommended: *Open Mind, Open Heart* by Fr. Thomas Keating)
- Thinking of our primary relationships (family, church, friends) as Schools for Love: learning opportunities to practice how to love others through thick and thin
- Finding key scriptures to remind us of our identity as a child of God in hard times:

Ps. 1: 1-3: "...They are like trees planted by streams of water..."

Oblate Judy Luebbehusen and her sister, Oblate Linda Begle, are doing what they do best...organizing tasty treats for the hungry Oblates.



Matt. 7: 24-25: "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on a rock..."

John 15:5: "I am the vine, you are the branches..."

Ps. 46: 1-3: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble..."

- Finding examples of extraordinary staying power in the lives of good ones of old:
Mother Teresa
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Dietrich Bonhoeffer
John Woolman
- Remember your baptism: which confirmed your identity as a child of God, whose purpose is to love God and love neighbor.

While stability is a Benedictine value to be strived for, the author reminds us that stability does not require us to stay in relationships that are dangerous to our physical or spiritual lives.

Closing thought from the author as we strive to grow in stability: "Be brave of heart and rely on the Lord."



Left: Oblate Arleta Weyer and Inquirer Jim Weyer are excellent followers of St. Benedict's 11th step of humility. They speak gently...without raising their voices.

Right: Sister Corda Trouy and Sister Mary Victor Kercher are having an enjoyable visit. Sister Mary Victor shared her experience of mentoring John Wallace, a prisoner, and helping him to become an Oblate.



Reflections on the Fourth International Oblate Congress 2017

Reflection by Oblate Stephanie Smith



Sister Joan Chittister and Oblate Stephanie Smith are having a hearty laugh. Apparently, Stephanie spilled some wine on Sister Joan's lap. To say the least, Stephanie was quite embarrassed.

Attending the International Benedictine Oblate Congress was an amazing experience on several levels and much more fulfilling than I had even anticipated. The participants were so different in geography, language and culture but united in their Benedictine values that it was a simple process to communicate with each in spite of those barriers. The organizers had done a masterful job of anticipating the difficulties of putting so many people together and getting them from Point A to Point B on time during a packed schedule. They also gave a lot of thought to planning how to enhance understanding by printing materials in multiple languages and providing translation services. And, all of this was done after being given less than two months notice that the original venue was no longer available. It was a real testament to what can be accomplished with a bit of dedication, commitment and a lot of prayer!

Much attention was given to opportunities for prayer, from group Lectio Divina each morning to Compline at the end of the day. Although English was the official Congress language, participants had pamphlets with the Divine Office in their own language and readings alternated amongst the most common languages of English, Italian, German, French, Portuguese and Spanish. There was a lot of singing in Latin and the Korean delegation choir sang at each Mass. Mass was primarily in English but the Our Father was recited by each person in his/her native tongue. It was an awesome sound to hear so many different voices and different sounding languages expressing the same faith.

Meals were in a large common area and served family style at small tables of six or eight. While Sister Kathy, Shirley and I always ate together, we often had a group of new friends join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Everyone was welcoming and happy to be there and the atmosphere was extremely relaxed; so different from work-related conferences I'm used to attend-

ing where everyone is stressed and checking their phones and texts every 5 minutes!

We had opportunities almost every evening after Vespers and before dinner to congregate in the main lobby area where we could view the posters and see items from other delegations. Shirley was able to sell a large number of rosary bracelets made by the Sacred Sisters Monastery of the Heart group. We saw beautiful cloth and other items from the African delegation displayed for sale.

The American delegations held two special meetings on their own to plan ways to facilitate communication among American Oblate communities. The New England and Midwest groups began talking about setting up social media sites or attending Oblate Conferences here in the U.S. in between the time of the International Congresses.

The emphasis on the role of Oblates by the Benedictine leaders, the Abbot Primate, former Abbot Primate and Sister Joan Chittister was inspiring. All of them talked about the future of Benedictinism being closely tied to the commitment and growth of the Oblate community as our professed communities decrease in size. Maintaining and promoting the philosophies of Sts. Benedict and Scholastica rest as much in our hands as in those of our professed partners. I would encourage everyone to add the International Benedictine Oblate Congress Facebook page to their own pages and see and hear just a sample of what we were able to enjoy during our time in Rome. God bless!



Oblate Shirley France, Sister Kathy Huber and Oblate Stephanie Smith certainly reflect the amazing time they shared with one another in Rome.

Continued

Reflections, continued

Reflection by Oblate Shirley France

Who wouldn't want to have this once in a lifetime experience shared with Sr. Kathy Huber and Oblate Stephanie Smith? Oblates from Monastery Immaculate Conception were also with us in spirit. It still seems surreal but the memories are forever in my heart. I'll share the ones that stood out most and what I took away. They include the camaraderie with the Oblates from all over the world, interactions with Sr. Joan Chittister, excursions and key learnings.

Being among the Benedictine Oblates from around the world made me realize how St. Benedict's Rule has impacted lives to a degree I never could have imagined. Worshiping together in song, prayer, Lectio Divina and in silence was a both spiritual renewal and an awakening. When all of us said the Lord's Prayer aloud in our own language I'm certain that we were experiencing a taste of heaven. Program sessions enlightened us to what Oblates are doing, learning and how they're living their promises. Some Oblates who had planned to attend were not issued visas which was disappointing for us all.

Mealtime provided us another opportunity for Oblates to spend time learning about one another. It also afforded Oblate Stephanie and me time, on more than one occasion, to mingle with the initiator of the International Benedictine Oblate Congress, Notker Wolf, former Abbott Primate, which is the highest representative of the Benedictines. Stories of his work, especially in North Korea, made his Benedictine spirituality come alive in our hearts, especially when he played the national anthem of North Korea for us all after he was honored for his years of service.

Oblate breakouts to work on our vision, by creating posters, were where we heard stories of what it is like for Oblates in other countries. Countries represented in my breakout included U.K., Germany, Philippines, Korea and Vietnam. I learned that it takes six years to become an Oblate in Korea and they wear black robes with hoods. Our Vietnam Oblates shared that they meet in secret due to government oppression. Even their email is subject to scrutiny.

Another highlight was definitely hearing Sister Joan Chittister give her talk about the role of Oblates as partners to monastics. Oblate Joann Cahill, from Erie Monastery, opened a session about Monasteries of the Heart, a movement created by Sister Joan. Both Sister Kathy and I were privileged to share about the impact of this ministry at the Ohio Reformatory

for Women and how it led to this prison's first Oblation of an incarcerated woman, Alice. The real fun with Sister Joan was when a small group of us had dinner one evening at a restaurant near the Colosseum. It's important for Oblates to let their hair down too!



Oblate Shirley France and Oblate Stephanie Smith pose in front of the Ferdinand Oblate poster for the Rome Congress.

Father Edward certainly did an amazing job of overseeing this entire Congress and his selection plus planning of our excursions were no exception! Herding over 240 of us to see Pope Francis was incredible. Acknowledging our presence to the large crowd gathered at St. Peter's Square was certainly a "wow," as was our time spent at Saint Anselmo where we learned about the vast representation of students from over 30 countries, then shared extraordinary cuisine.

My biggest take-aways were these. Benedictine Oblates have an important role to play as companions to our monastery sisters and brothers.

For this reason, we must unite, stay connected and continue learning how to live the gospels of Jesus Christ in tandem with The Rule. Our mission is to live what we learn, impact those around us and serve to make a difference in this world.

In conclusion, how grateful I am for having had this experience. I do realize there is the responsibility connected to this opportunity. By God's grace, and with our monastery sisters as my partners, I will pray about the unfolding of my part that will most honor God through my Benedictine tradition. Thank you to Sister Brenda, Sister Kathy, Oblate Stephanie, our prioress, and all the Oblates from Ferdinand that we were privileged to represent at this Congress.

Continued

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Reflections, continued

Reflection by Sister Kathryn Huber



Sister Joan Chittister, Former Abbot Primate Notker Wolf, and Sister Kathy Huber pause for a picture. Sister Joan was the keynote speaker at the Oblate Congress and was able to spend quality time with the Ferdinand participants. She is also a prolific writer of 50+ spiritual books. Lastly, Sister Joan is one of Sister Brenda's favorite persons of all time.

The Fourth International Congress for Benedictine Oblates was held in Rome (Italy) November 4 – 11, 2017. Over 260 Oblates and Oblate directors from all over the world gathered to discuss, to share, to celebrate, to pray, and to work together exploring the Congress theme, “A Way Forward – The Benedictine Community in Movement.” The 260 participants came from six continents. The Oblates came from all walks of life – men and women, married and single, professed monastics, Catholic and not, multi-racial, multi-cultural, professionals and non-professionals. Oblates Shirley France and Stephanie Smith along with Sister Kathryn Huber, OSB, represented the Ferdinand Oblate Community.

In his opening address, Abbot Primate Gregory Polan, OSB, envisioned Oblates as the best friends of a monastic community and said it is time to “give wings” to the Oblates. He spoke of the Oblates as the “bridge” between the monastery and society and between society and the monastery. He used the image of a sacred triangle with God at the top, the monastic community in one corner and the Oblates in the other.

In her keynote address, Benedictine Sister Joan Chittister spoke of the unfolding role of Oblates. “You are not meant to simply be consumers of the Benedictine tradition. You are meant to be carriers of the tradition along with the professed monastic women and men.” Together professed monastics and Oblates live the monastic tradition of Ora et Labora, prayer and

service, or contemplation and service.

Included in the work of the Congress was a five-point vision statement for the future. These were ideas which emerged from small group discussions that took place over the five-day conference. These five points are now being finalized into a vision statement.

At the closing of the Congress, Fr. Edward Linton, Monk of St. Meinrad and leader of the Congress, urged all participants to discover for themselves their place in the centuries-old Benedictine tradition. Also Fr. Edward extended exceptional hospitality to the Ferdinand delegation.

Among the highlights outside the Congress were participation in the Wednesday audience with Pope Francis followed by Evening Prayer and a sumptuous buffet with the Benedictine community at Sant’Anselmo in Rome. A very special highlight for the Ferdinand Oblates was dinner with Sister Joan Chittister, her friend, and the two representatives from the Erie Oblates. You need to ask Oblate Stephanie Smith about spilling her glass of wine on Sister Joan Chittister!



The Ferdinand Oblate representatives were thrilled to capture a relatively close-up picture of Pope Francis.

Belcourt Oblates Update

From Oblate Director Phyllis Jollie



Oblate Phyllis Jollie

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you, Sister Brenda.

We Oblates had Christmas pot luck on December 17, 2017, and we renewed our commitment to the Oblates. We had a good turnout; but, some of our Oblates are getting older. Oblate Lillian Keplin has had serious health problems. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to recruit any new members, but we are still continuing on. We are quite pleased that our group was able to donate \$350 to our

parish Catholic school.

Derrick and Kathy Dixon purchased the book that you recommended to us, St. Benedict's Toolbox, 10th Anniversary Edition by Jane Tomaine. They and I were quite impressed with the book. We will use that text for our next discussions at meetings. We have a few chapters to read in our present book.

We Oblates and families would be available and would look forward to having you visit us next August or September as you suggested. Since you were here before, we do have a new pastor. When you come, you will get to meet him.

The weather up here in Belcourt has been bitter cold, and we are looking forward to warmer weather. Please keep us all in your prayers and we will do the same.

God bless you all.

Oblate Phyllis Jollie



Sister Jane Will, Oblate Theresa Bauer, and Oblate Jeanne Zack all gave the photographer their best smiles.

Directory News

From Oblate Jeanne Zack

In 2016, the first Oblate Directory was published. This work was the vision of our Oblate, Joan Rubeck, who passed away last year. Joan and several others worked tirelessly to see this project come to fruition. Last year, Sister Brenda invited me to oversee the directory for the future. As I reviewed the current work, I tried to think how we could be cost-effective going forward with the directory. After discussion with the Oblate Advisory Board and Sister Brenda, we decided on the following:

- The Oblate Directory will be updated on the even years going forward...2018, 2020...
- The current directories will be changed to a small binder format.
- You will also be able to keep your meeting hand-outs and newsletters in this binder so all of your Oblate information is in one place.
- The binders are available for purchase for \$7.00 from Oblate Elaine Baumgart, who will be present at our Oblate meetings.
 - Bring your old directory to an Oblate meeting and we will have a hole punch and paper cutter available so you can add your directory to your binder right away.
- A few directories are still available and you can purchase them with your binder for \$10.00. The extra \$3.00 covers the printing costs.
- For address, phone number, and picture changes, please send to Sister Brenda at bengleman@thedome.org by June 30, 2018.
- Also, if you do not want your name, picture, or address in the directory please let Sister Brenda know by June 30, 2018. In the future, pages for the binders will be mailed or they can be picked up at the Oblate meetings.

Sincerely, Oblate Jeanne Zack, directory chairperson

P.S. from Sister Brenda:

Also, if you did not send a picture for our 2016 Oblate Directory, I invite you to send one this year. We will be available to take your picture during one of our upcoming meetings. In addition, I am planning to get some Oblates to assist me in making personal calls to those of you who were left out of the 2016 directory for various reasons. Finally, we only include Oblate pictures. Candidates will be added later. Special thanks to Oblate Jeanne Zack for agreeing to chair this project.

Sincerely, Sister Brenda

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

Send comments to the Oblate Office

Monastery Immaculate Conception
802 E. 10th Street • Ferdinand, IN 47532
oblates@thedome.org
Sister Brenda: 812-367-1411, ext. 2827

Update on the Sick

An Update on Oblate Sandy Turner

Oblate Sandy Turner had a knee replacement over 6 weeks ago and did quite well. However, now she is suffering from pain in her thigh and above her knee joint. She is blessed with a loving family who takes wonderful care of her. She appreciates all prayers.

Trying to Focus on Today

From Oblate Ruth Goepfrich

I had my last chemo at the end of December followed by a CT scan in early January. I recently had surgery on Tuesday, January 23. The plan now is to continue with Herceptin for a year which has a high success rate with cancer. I will continue to have 3-month checkups. Hopefully, I'll get stronger and more energetic as the chemo gets farther behind me. The nagging cloud of another recurrence is out there. I handle it pretty well most of the time, as long as I focus on today and put it all in God's hands. I'm so thankful for the many kind words, messages and prayers. The notes from the Oblates that you gathered and sent were wonderful gifts.

Gratefully,

Oblate Ruth Goepfrich

A Message about Sister Barbara Ann Offerman

Certainly, many of you remember Sister Barbara Ann from when she was Oblate Director for over 10 years here at the monastery. I do want to update you about her recent health challenges. A couple months ago, Sister was diagnosed with lymphoma. She underwent treatments and seemed to tolerate the medication reasonably well. Then, a few weeks ago, she also had back surgery. Sometime after she gets stronger from her back surgery, she will resume treatments for the lymphoma. Sister Barbara Ann has a wonderful attitude and her delightful sense of humor. Above all, she is counting on your continuous prayers.

With prayers and support,

Sister Brenda

Grateful But Still in Process

By Oblate Lynn Steiden

Dear Sister Brenda,

Thank you for your kind and supportive words. Yes, I would love to have you put me on the Oblate prayer list. I have had two shoulder replacements and have a pending knee operation. I only go out to have physical therapy, to visit the doctor and to buy groceries. I believe all of the above qualify me for the prayer list.

Joann's (Rubeck) passing this past year was and is the hardest of all. I'm happy because I know where she is. But I miss her so much in day to day things, like helping me find items that I lose. I think things like, "I have to tell Joann about what I just saw or something silly the dogs did." Yet, it takes me a few seconds to remind myself that she's gone to her eternal reward. Every night, I talk to her at sunset. I live on top of a hill, facing south, so the sun and moon travel over me every day.

I miss the Dome and everyone in it! I think about getting put back together and coming up for a long stay. I feel like a monk, especially in this weather, when no one goes out. Yet, I kind of like it. The dogs are like my novices and they are very OSB-like when it comes to taking care of me. I'm in my chair now and there are two nearby, one at my feet and one on the top of the chair. During this time of recovery, I am becoming a more content, prayerful person and thankful for what I have, rather than moaning about what I can't have or can't do.

I guess you can be an old dog and learn new tricks. I'm so grateful for the support, prayers, phone calls and love that I have received from my sisters at The Dome, especially Sister Kathy and you. During this time of recovery, things are changing in my heart and soul. I truly believe that I am becoming a better person with the help of God and my many friends at Ferdinand.

Love and prayers,

Lynn Steiden

Pray for the Sick:

Oblate Ruth Goepfrich

Oblate Jennifer Kieffer

Oblate Elaine Nolan

Sister Barbara Ann Offerman

Oblate Lynn Steiden

Oblate Lillian Keplin from Belcourt, North Dakota

In Memoriam:

Oblate Deb Fleck's granddaughter, Mia Rose Collier, died on November 17, 2017.

Oblate June Berg's father, Edward Oser, died on January 7, 2018.

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

"Life is beautiful; it is a gift even when it is lived in difficult circumstances. It is ALWAYS a gift. - Pope Benedict XVI



Oblate Jennifer Kieffer

Reflection by Oblate Jennifer Kieffer

Briefly, I have loved God since a very young age. I have always felt close to God even when I stuck our Lord on a shelf and tried to steer the ship myself.

Like millions of others, I have lived with chronic illness from early childhood. I was very fortunate to be able to live and work as a semi-productive citizen and a mother for many years. Sadly, during the productive time of my life, the time I spent with our Lord was secondary. It grieves me to say this, but it is very much the truth. Add some poor life decisions made during times of adversity, and the results are very much what God predicts will always happen.

When the many complications from a lifetime of chronic illness caught up with me, I had a great deal of time for reflection. The combination of medical concerns, serious family issues, and a couple of years of solitude prompted a cry-out-to-God moment that changed every-

thing for me. For at least 30 minutes, I was embraced by warmth, a comforting peace I had never experienced before or since. It changed me and how I now live my life. I cried out for help and very undeservedly received the peace that surpasses all understanding. Thanks be to God!

Though there are still periods of difficulty, I now know how to live during these times. I would prefer not being ill, of course. Of course, I know WITHOUT A DOUBT that I am better for having gone through these times.

If I could offer any helpful words at all, they would be no different than what has been said throughout the centuries by many of those who came before us. God is with us through the great and the terrible. God's grace IS sufficient! Pray for wisdom, peace, joy, and understanding. With the time we have left, study Holy Scripture and the wise words of the early Church fathers and saints. Pray the Divine Office. Represent God in everything we do. Use St. Benedict's Toolbox as a way of life.

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 Ipad's 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

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SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14
(carryout meals at the brewery only)

Friday, Feb. 16
(event hall, all-you-can-eat)

Friday, March 2
(event hall, all-you-can-eat)

Friday, March 16
(event hall, all-you-can-eat)

Friday, March 30
(carryout meals at the brewery only)

Times 3:30-7:00 pm CST
(4:30-8:00 EST)

Cost \$9.00 Adults
\$6.00 ages 10 and younger

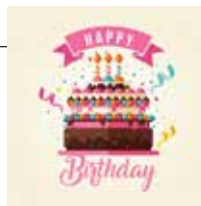
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Oblate Birthdays

February

1—Richard Huggins, 7—Lynn Steiden, 11—June Berg, 15—Mary Ann Stoll, 16—Carol Dunn, 18—Caroline Deutsch and Rita Kohl, 21—Linda Selaya, 24—Carolyn Adler, 26—Patti Schroeder, 29—Mary Martha Salas



March

2—JoAnn Desjarlais, 4—Robin Dugan and Deb Stemle, 12—Scarlett Winters, 15—Shirley Demuth, 17—Patty Allery and Kathy Dixon, 21—Paula Dumont, 22—Verna Jeanotte and Ruth Keethers, 25—Denise Leinenbach, 29—Gary D. Pope

April

4—Sharon Cavanaugh, 7—Judy Bueckert, 14—Elaine Robertson, 28—Shirley Stern, 29—Marcia Brown and Carole Swim, 30—Ron Allery and Leeny Hardesty

An Update on Oblate Phyllis Claycamp

Dear Oblates,

I want to let you know that Phyllis Claycamp has moved to Washington, Indiana, and is living with her daughter, Lyn Speedy. Phyllis seems to be adjusting quite well to her move. Her daughter, Valerie, brought her here to the monastery to celebrate Christmas with us. Of course, she had a great time visiting with many of her friends. I am sure that Phyllis would enjoy hearing from you.

New address:

Phyllis Claycamp C/O Lyn Speedy
49 Trail Breeze Court
Washington, IN 47501

Phone Number: 812-257-0387

Email: phyllisclaycamp@yahoo.com

Sister Brenda Engleman

Monastery Moments and Oblate Offerings

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. Sisters, Oblates and other guests are invited to attend this day of reflection. Oblates will be sent a reservation request in Mid-February. This day includes a noon luncheon.

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.

April 20-22, 2018

Creative Women's Retreat will be held at Benedictine Hospitality Center at Kordes Hall from Friday at 7:00 p.m. to Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Presenters: Sister Betty Drewes and Sister Gail Hamilton.

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.** Presenter: Oblate Stephanie Smith

June 10-16, 2018

Private/Personal Retreat will be held at Benedictine Hospitality Center at Kordes Hall from Sunday at 7:30 p.m. until Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

July 13-20, 2018

Private/Personal Retreat will be held at Benedictine Hospitality Center at Kordes Hall from Friday at 7:30 p.m. until Friday at 10:00 a.m.

September 7-14, 2018

Private/Personal Retreat will be held at Benedictine Hospitality Center at Kordes Hall from Friday at 7:30 p.m. until Friday at 10:00 a.m.

Oblates

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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*Your way of acting should be different from the
world's way.*

—Rule of St. Benedict 4:20

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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 6.



Sister Jane Will, middle, is getting acquainted with two new Candidates, Pat Stemle and Deb Stemle.