



# OBLATE NEWSLETTER

FALL 2006



**Sister Susan Lardy**

Dear Oblates,

Words can't express how grateful I am to return to my work, my home, and my friends, following the car accident last November. I would like to thank all of you for your thoughts, prayers and many kind gestures during my recovery. Special thanks also, to

Sister Stephanie Dolyniuk, who so generously gave of her time to make sure our Oblate program kept on schedule.

As we get ready for Fall, I want to alert you to a couple of books, one is *St. Benedict's Toolbox "The Nuts and Bolts of Everyday Benedictine Living"* by Jane Tomaine. Ms. Tomaine is an Episcopal priest and she developed this book as part of a parish-wide renewal program in New Jersey where she is rector. It is a very practical application of St. Benedict's Rule. The second book is entitled, *How to Be a Monastic and Not Leave Your Day Job: An Invitation to Oblate Life* by Brother Benet Tvedten. Brother Benet is a monk of Blue Cloud Abbey in Marvin, SD. He may be familiar to some of you through his books on Benedictine life as it applies to oblates. I will be referencing these books throughout the year at our oblate meetings.

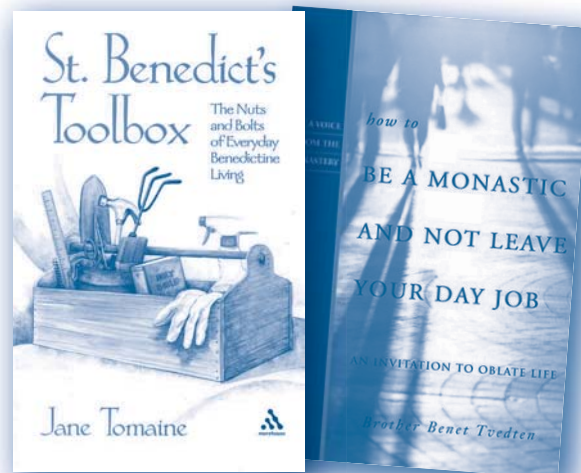
We have moved our oblate retreat to October 7-8 this year to make it more accessible to our Jamestown and Fargo oblates, in the hopes of avoiding inclement weather. Our own oblate, Phyllis Thompson, will offer conferences on the theme "Benedictine Spirituality of Work: Expression of Our Innermost Selves." Details about this retreat are on the back of this newsletter. I strongly encourage you to attend! We are grateful Phyllis is willing to share her insights with us.

Congratulations to Jamestown oblate, Barbara Benson, who made her oblation May 13 in Jamestown. Barbara has been an oblate candidate for approximately three years. Sister Stephanie and I were happy to make the trip to celebrate with Barbara and other oblates who gathered there.

Annunciation Monastery had the privilege of hosting the 22nd Chapter Meeting of the Federation of St. Benedict in July. It may interest you to refer to some of our postings on our web site (under "Happenings"). Federation members shared ideas about the common life and attended talks on Benedictine history and how the Rule is lived today and its relevance into the future.

After the World Congress of Oblates in Rome, it was decided that an international oblate newsletter be published. We submitted our mailing list in mid July. You can expect to see one in your mailbox.

I encourage you to visit our web site regularly: [www.annunciationmonastery.org](http://www.annunciationmonastery.org). In addition, you may want to visit the web site of the North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors: [www.naabod.org/](http://www.naabod.org/). Just a note, next year the NAABOD will meet at St. Martin's Abbey in Lacey, WA, July 28 to August 2, 2007. More info to follow in January 2007.





## Oblate Phyllis Thompson to Offer Oblate Retreat Benedictine Spirituality of Work: Expression of our Innermost Selves

Don't miss this opportunity to take part in a special retreat (October 7-8) presented by Oblate Phyllis Thompson.

The retreat will begin Saturday evening, October 7 at 7:30 p.m. The retreat will continue Sunday morning, October 8 at 10 a.m. Oblates will enjoy a morning session, followed by Eucharist, lunch and quiet time, with the retreat resuming at 1 p.m.

The retreat's theme is, "Benedictine Spirituality of Work: Expression of our Innermost Selves."

*"Whether employed or retired, whether one's work is paid or volunteer, a person benefits from reflecting on all work as sacred...on work as vocation, as relationship, as stewardship, and as praise...on work as an expression of a person's innermost self. The conferences during this retreat will look at these defining aspects of Work, with special attention given to the New Testament and the Rule of Benedict.*

*Various handouts will provide secondary material, but participants will benefit from bringing a Bible and their copy of the Rule."*

~ Phyllis Thompson



**Phyllis Thompson**

Born, raised, and educated in the States, Phyllis and husband Claud, moved to Canada in 1970. Phyllis has been an oblate since 1993; she has been a member of the American Benedictine Academy since 1997.

Phyllis gave one of the principal talks at the oblate directors' gathering in July 1999 at Conception Abbey, MO. Her talk, "Living Stability in the Wake of Life's Changes," later was published in the *American Benedictine Review*. She has written book reviews for the ABR and for the newsletter of the ABA, and has essays published in *Benedictines*. Phyllis also was invited to write a chapter on late oblate, Eric Dean, for The Liturgical Press' 2002 book, *Benedict in the World: Portraits of Monastic Oblates*.

In addition to writing, Phyllis has given many workshops and retreats since retiring: mostly to oblates. She admits that whatever the participants may glean from her, these are always enriching experiences for her because of what she learns from the participants and — when at a Benedictine monastery or abbey — from sharing in communal prayer and liturgy with both oblates and professed monastics and from experiencing what is the inevitable warmth of Benedictine hospitality.

### **Oblate Meeting Schedule 2006-2007**

September 10, 2006  
October 7-8, 2006 (Retreat)  
November 5, 2006  
December 3, 2006  
January 7, 2007  
February 4, 2007  
March 4, 2007  
April 1, 2007  
May 6, 2007

**\*As always, our Oblate meeting schedule, information, and newsletters can be found on our web site under "Become an Oblate"**

[www.annunciationmonastery.org](http://www.annunciationmonastery.org)