



OBLATE NEWSLETTER

FALL 2007

BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF ANNUNCIATION MONASTERY



Sister Susan Lardy

Advent Season 2007

Dear Oblates:

December 2 begins the new church year and the first Sunday of Advent.

Our Oblates meet on December 2 and we will have our Advent retreat on that day. Sister Edith Selzler of Annunciation Monastery will offer two presentations on an Advent theme. The first presentation is at 10 a.m. The second is at 1 p.m. I look forward to seeing you at our meeting.

Advent is truly a special season marked by a spirit of expectation, anticipation, preparation

and longing. The people of the Bible yearned for deliverance. Those who experienced the tyranny of injustice, oppression, violence and depression waited for salvation which would bring them freedom and justice. It is the HOPE of this season that we, too, will be delivered from the evil that seems to dominate our world.

We pray during this season that the Anointed One, the Messiah, will bring us true and lasting peace, that our world will once again know the value of justice and goodness, and above all, the dignity of each person. We await the coming of Jesus, for his rebirth in our time; we await his renewal of our hearts. May he bring to our households the wonders of his presence as we welcome him to our homes, hearts and minds. May Emmanuel, God-with-us reign forever in each of your hearts.

Oblates of Annunciation Monastery, Bismarck, at their October meeting

Standing: Joan Saabye, S. Stephanie Dolyniuk, Marie Hoff, Rita Lovin, Lorie Seeger, Denis & Lynda Larkin, Barb Steiner, Jeff Wachter, Ginny Schwartz, Karen Kautzmann, Sister Susan Lardy, Colleen Ressler, Phyllis Thompson, Joe Ressler, Dwight Kautzmann

Seated: Lucy Hager, Ernie Lovin, Winnie & Woodie Wolf, Dolores Klug, Irene Hoffman





Oblate Update



Oblate Arlene Hord is in Guatemala working with the “From Houses to Homes” project. She can be reached via email: askhord@juno.com



Oblate Kathy Snider is back in Guatemala after informational sessions and fund-raising efforts in the U.S. She has done missionary work since the late 1980s and continues to minister to the poor in Guatemala.

Oblate Marie Hoff recently gave a presentation on global warming to our Sisters. Thank you, Marie, for helping us understand the effects



of global warming and ways we can be better stewards of the Earth.

Recommended Advent Reading

“STARLIGHT,” by John Shea

The subtitle of Shea’s superb reflection is “Beholding the Christmas Miracle All Year Long.” In this imaginative series of stories about contemporary people, he presents the reader with joyful opportunities to see how the miracle of Christmas can permeate our lives if we are but awake and responsive. The book opens with his own memory of a teenage camping experience in which all the kids were paralyzed with terror on a very black night — until the clouds lifted and they could see the beauty of the starlight illuminating their island campsite. His stories are so vivid they help conjure one’s own memories of experiences that can illuminate the meaning of Christmas all year long.

Shea is a skilled and engaging writer. His stories of contemporary experiences are followed by thoughtful reflections on various “Christmas” themes: light and darkness; the struggle to restore and maintain the mystical significance of Christmas amid crass commercialization and distraction, the profound connection between birth in Bethlehem and death on Golgotha. Shea uses personal experience, poetry, traditional legends, stories and spiritual reflective commentary to lead the reader to a renewed appreciation of the riches of Christmas. I have used this book for Advent reflection many times and receive new insights each time. (review by Marie D. Hoff)

Jamestown Oblates

Reported by Elaine Falck:

Gisela Kokron is involved with prison ministry at the Correctional Center in Jamestown. In October, she assisted with a retreat at the Correctional Center while other Oblates spent time in prayer in the Center’s Chapel for the retreatants and the retreat presenters. There were 27 residents who participated and several who offered presentations to them. A group of Oblates meets to pray for Gisela and other members of the Prison Ministry Team twice a week when they work with residents at the Correctional Center. The Oblates plan to send Christmas cards with Gisela for the residents at the Correctional Center.

Fargo Oblates

Reported by Judy Doll

The two Fargo Oblates gather with 10-11 other Oblates in the Fargo-Moorhead area. The Oblates are a mixed group from St. John’s in Collegeville, Minn., Blue Cloud Abbey in Marvin, S.D., and Assumption Abbey in Richardton, N.D. They meet the second Saturday of the month for prayer and discussion of a selected reading. Our Oblates, Judy and Barb, find this very enriching.