



# OBLATE NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2009

BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF ANNUNCIATION MONASTERY



*Sister Susan Lardy, OSB*

## Dear Oblates,

I miss seeing you the first Sunday of the month! It gives me cause to “grieve” a bit to know that I won’t be working with you. However, I know you are in good hands with Sister

Patricia and Sister Stephanie. The last seven years have been most enriching for me...to work with you, walk with you, the spiritual path of Benedict. How wise is his guidance; I hope you turn to the Rule of Benedict regularly for inspiration and direction. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the ways you extend the mission and values of Annunciation Monastery in your daily activities, at home, at work or at play.

I ask your prayers that the women in temporary profession with whom I work will be responsive to God’s call and God’s presence as they are formed in the way of the Gospel and St. Benedict.

I pray that your Advent has been a time of preparing to welcome again the Birth of Jesus in your hearts and homes. May His Coming grace you with courage to be His witness, with joy to brighten the lives of others and with Peace that Peace may reign in the world.

Thank you for all you are and do to be Christ for others.

Sincerely,  
Sister Susan Lardy, OSB



*Sister Patricia Schap*

Sister Patricia served eight years as subprioress of Annunciation Monastery. In addition to her new role as oblate director, she assists with the coordination and development of

the Hospitality Center, where she offers retreats, spiritual direction and instruction on centering prayer.

## Fargo Oblates

Fargo oblates, Barb Benson and Judy Doll, meet the second Saturday of the month with oblates from Assumption Abbey, Blue Cloud Abbey and St. John’s Abbey. Meetings begin with prayer prepared by a member. After a “catch up” on families and prayer requests, discussions usually focus on an agreed chapter from a book – currently “St. Benedict for the Laity,” by Eric Dean.

## A New Year's Message



**Sister Stephanie Dolyniuk**

New Year's Day... In ancient times and cultures, the New Year was a great feast of rebirth. The old year had died and a new one was born. It was a time of rebirth of all things. Today, more than ever, our world is in dire need of healing due to the vast economic collapse, war, social and moral ills.

The New Year is more than a change of calendars. Let us seize the opportunity to participate in God's plan that will require arranging our social, economic, and spiritual

life around our God-given role. Let us take these dimensions to heart and identify the changes we can make in each one.

Let us pray that this New Year be a fresh beginning. May we be joy-filled witnesses to Jesus. In these days that often takes courage. It also requires that we be rays of light in a sometimes-dark world. As a people of God, what better resolutions could we make than to deepen our relationships of communion with all nations that are truly holy. May this New Year be a time of REBIRTH – for peace – justice – harmony for all God's people. Let us follow and live in the spirit of St. Benedict whose voice calls us to live in PEACE with all CREATION.

~ Sister Stephanie Dolyniuk, OSB  
Assistant Oblate Director

## Welcome New Oblates & Oblate Candidates



**(L. to R.): Zanne Ness, Kathy Snider, Colleen Ressler, Claudia Dietrich**

**Colleen Ressler** sees becoming a Benedictine oblate as continuation of her spiritual journey. Drawing strength from the hospitality and prayerful support of Annunciation Benedictines, she decided to immerse herself in Benedictine values and became affiliated with Annunciation Monastery, making her oblation on November 2. Colleen and husband, Joe, live in Mandan, where Colleen is a Eucharistic Minister and serves on the Parish Council at Christ the King parish. She works at St. Vincent's Care Center in pastoral care and social services and is a member of the Bismarck Ministerial Association and vice-

president for the N.D. Chaplains Association.

**Kathy Snider**, native of Mandan, ND, is a lay-missioner in NW Guatemala in the village of Santiago Ixcán, Quiché. She is the Director of Ixcán Ministries, a nonprofit organization with a ministry of presence and outreach to the poor of that area. She became an Oblate of Annunciation Monastery on Nov. 2.

**Claudia Dietrich** is a certified spiritual director as well as a nurse of 34+ years, currently involved in developing the Northland PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly). Claudia and husband, Jerome, have four grown children, four grandsons, and another grandchild to arrive in April. Claudia became an Oblate candidate on Nov. 2.

**Zanne Ness** is a deacon at St. George's Episcopal Church and is a certified spiritual director. She serves as Spiritual Provider at the Bismarck Cancer Center. Zanne retired last year as a clinical psychologist and teaches graduate classes in counseling at the University of Mary. She is married to Terrance, has three grown children, and four grandchildren.