



# OBLATE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2008

BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF ANNUNCIATION MONASTERY



*Sister Susan Lardy*

Aug. 6 is the feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. While it is not a holy day of obligation, it is certainly a feast on which to meditate, to contemplate the meaning of it in our daily lives.

I like to meditate

on the reality of what that event must have meant to the three disciples who observed Jesus' being transfigured before them. Peter, the spokesperson, was fumbling for words, not knowing what to say, but clearly he thought he should break the silence and the quiet. I certainly identify with him; it is uncomfortable at times to just observe and live with the event, so I try to think of what I "should" say to ease obvious discomfort. As this feast happens each year I am more inclined to wonder at it, to ponder more fully what it might mean to me to be transfigured, to become more Christ-like in my daily actions and words. Ultimately that is what it comes to mean for me... to be so transformed/transfigured that when others are with me they experience something of the Risen Christ.

Aug. 6 is also the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima in 1945; the bombing of Nagasaki took place on Aug. 9, 1945. Japan surrendered to the Allies on Aug. 15, 1945, the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. What reparation do I need to do to make up for the horror of these events? What reparation am I to do to make

up for the sins of our nation today, with our perpetration of war in other countries of the world? Reparation of this sort is part of the Transfiguration, I believe.

Aug. 15 is the feast of the Assumption of Mary. This feast is a holy day of obligation. My meditation for this day considers Mary's transfiguration. This summer I read the book, "Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt" by Anne Rice. Now I am reading her second book in the series, "Christ the Lord: The Road to Cana." Both books give a different perspective of the Holy Family which I find quite real, honest and possible. Anne Rice depicts Mary as a deeply quiet, deeply observant, most sensitive and sensible of women. I would encourage others to read the books to gain new insights into the Holy Family.

## *Monastery News:*

Sister Audrey Martin, former Oblate Director, celebrated her 60th anniversary of profession of vows on July 11, along with Sister Claire Schmitt, Sister Miriam Schmitt, Sister Terence Glum, Sister Jeanette Hinds and Sister Neola Winter. Sister Audrey and Sister Neola reside at the Nursing Center, Garrison Memorial Hospital.

## *Prayer Requests:*

Michele Heck's brother, Frank Heck, died July 25.



## Jamestown Oblates

Elaine Falck writes about activities involving our Jamestown Oblate Chapter: "The Oblates at Jamestown have a new member and we are all excited! Praising God. Welcome Mary Lou Young!"

Jamestown had its big 125th celebration over the Fourth of July weekend. The Oblates created a float for the Saturday morning parade, using a pontoon pulled by a pickup. The theme of the float was, "Fishers of Men." The sides of the pontoon were decorated with scripture verses lettered in big bold print. A quilt, for which the Oblates contributed a block, was hung on the back of the float. "It

looked great," writes Elaine. Two riders in the pontoon were praying and graciously waving. Christian music played from the pontoon and those along the route could hear it. The two who rode in the float threw candy to the children with God's blessing.

Jackie Readel retired from her job at the Buchanan School. She was featured in the Bismarck Tribune. Jackie requests prayers for her 18-year-old grandson, Miles, who had some bad burns from a dud firecracker. He may need skin grafting on his right arm and hand.

## Fargo Oblates

Judy Doll's mother is now a resident at St. Vincent's Care Center in Bismarck. Judy visits her regularly and will try to coordinate her visits with oblate meetings in Bismarck.

## Bismarck Oblates

David Byberg is attending the convention of The American Benedictine Academy, at Sacred Heart Monastery/Mount Marty College, Yankton, S.D. Aug. 7-10. The theme is "Monastic Spirituality: Expanding Merton's Vision." We look forward to a report of the convention.

Phyllis Thompson attended "Living the Way of Benedict: A Monastic Institute for Oblates" a first ever, at Mount St. Scholastica in Atchison, Kansas in July.

Phyllis will facilitate a retreat for the Oblates in Crookston, Minn., Sept. 6 -7. She will also speak to the Oblates at Blue Cloud Abbey in S.D. on "Judicious Speech." Phyllis is reviewing a book, "The Seven Sacred Pauses" by Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB, from St. Scholastica Monastery, Ft. Smith, Ark.

Arlene Hord continues to enjoy her missionary work and asks for prayers for her work and the people she works with in Guatemala.

### Oblate Meeting Schedule for 2008-2009:

*We meet the first Sunday of the month at 1 pm. Oblates are always invited to participate in the Eucharist at 11 a.m., followed by lunch in the monastery dining room.*

September 7

October 5

November 2

December 7 (this is our Advent retreat day)

January 4

February 2

March 2

April 6 (this is our Lenten retreat day)

May 4