



OBLATE NEWSLETTER

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BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF ANNUNCIATION MONASTERY



Sister Patricia Schap

ADVENT – that period of great anticipatory joy – will soon be here. The four weeks of Advent are often thought of as symbolizing the four different ways that Christ comes in the world: (1) at his birth as a helpless infant in Bethlehem, (2) at his arrival in the hearts of believers, (3) at his death and, (4) at his arrival on Judgment Day.

Please come prepare your hearts for the coming of Christ at our Advent retreat for oblates on Sunday, December 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sister Stephanie will gently lead us through this day of prayerful reflection and sharing.

In our regular oblate meetings, we will continue our study of “Embracing Creation with Reverence and Hospitality: Listening to Scripture and the Holy Rule.” We are using St. Luke’s Gospel and the Holy Rule as our guides. At our first meetings at the monastery this fall, we listened to the speakers from the Conference of North American Benedictine Oblate Directors:

- I Come...cradled in a circle,
binding the world in unity.
- I Come...to the peal of ringing bells
expectant with joy
as hope allays the toll of fear.
- I Come...to encourage non-violent solutions
to world problems
as more nations seek lasting peace.
- I Come...with complete understanding
as I carry the burden of hearts
filled with doubt.
- I Come...feeling a deep compassion
with those who suffer
as I, too, have been torn with grief.
- I Come...reaching out in love
to all who bend in my embrace.
- I Come...with Power:
Persons, Nations –
search for it – demand it – hold it.
Do they not know that I possess it?
It comes with LOVE.



~Sr. Dale Wollum, OSB



Sr. Kathryn Huber, Kyle Kramer and Sr. Sheila Marie Fitzpatrick who addressed the topic of creation and stewardship from their experience. We were blessed to have our oblates from Jamestown join us in these meetings. Sr. Kathryn emphasized that all creation is gift. We look to Jesus and St. Benedict as our models and guides to reverence and respect all Creation. Kyle Kramer spoke to us from his experience of organic farming. He focused on sustainability and spirituality. We need to trust in the slow work of God while we do our part in stewarding the earth, no matter how small our efforts are. How do we develop an awareness that creation influences us and we influence creation (human and nonhuman)?

May these days of preparation for Christmas, a time to celebrate Christ and all creation, ready us to welcome Christ’s coming now and in the future.



These Days of Waiting on God

Sister Stephanie Dolyniuk, Assistant Director of Oblates



There is no better time than Advent to turn our heads and hearts around to the true meaning of our lives. Each year we anticipate the coming of the babe in the manger. And each year, we have the opportunity to start again, to learn anew how to best live into the meaning of Christ within us.

The name Advent comes from the Latin word, *advenire* (“to come to”), and refers to the coming of Jesus Christ to earth. This is the time of year during which God’s people begin preparing for the celebration of the annual birth of a Savior that comes into our midst.

Advent is the perfect time to clear and prepare the Way. During this time of year, we are reminded to focus our attention on spiritual matters, to look inward and listen attentively. There is a rich tradition

of Christianity taking time each day for Advent devotions: As we strive to make the birth of Christ real and present in your life, take time to ponder, explore and celebrate the meaning of this important time. Through reflection and prayer, reading and meditation, we can make our hearts a place where a blessing of peace desires to abide and where the birth of the Prince of Peace might take place.

Advent Prayer:

May the forgiving spirit of Him to whom we dedicate this season prevail again on earth.

May hunger disappear and terrorists cease their senseless acts.

May people live in freedom, worship as they see fit, and love others.

May the sanctity of the home be preserved.

May peace, everlasting peace, reign supreme.



Top photo: Sister Stephanie Dolyniuk, Sister Patricia Schap, Helen Geinert and Sister JoAnn Krebsbach

Bottom photo: Helen Geinert signs the oblation document.



We welcome Helen Geinert, who made her oblation as an oblate of Annunciation Monastery, on October 2. We keep you and all of our faithful oblates in our prayers this Advent and always!