



Oblate NEWSLETTER

Fall 2024

Upcoming Events



November 10
Presentation by
Dr. Mike Taylor —
Mass Rocks & Hedge
Schools: Benedictine
Hallmarks of Colonial
Resistance

Mass Rocks and Hedge Schools in Ireland north and south emerged during oppressive times in Ireland manifested at the hands of colonialism by the British Government through Penal Laws essentially banning worship and education. Historically, Benedictine communities like Holy Cross Abbey in Rostrevor Northern Ireland, and Glenstal Abbey near Limerick in the Republic of Ireland, have been allies in aiding the oppressed engaged in colonial, along with more recent efforts for peace and reconciliation encapsulated in Christian unity. The purpose of this presentation is to share several years of service-learning abroad experiences in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland with students and faculty at the University of Mary.

Finally, Dr. Taylor will explain how shared trip experiences using examples such as Mass Rocks and Hedge Schools — can adapt these signs of colonial resistance as models of disciplined, Benedictine values, of a way toward learning and freedom with hopeful emancipation in their own general and teaching contexts and communities.

The presentation by Dr. Taylor will follow the usual retreat schedule 10am-3 pm



Advent Day of
Reflection
December 8, 2024
Presented by
Sr. Nicole Kunze

Advent Reflection Day

Morning Session 10:00 am

Lunch options — participants may choose to eat with the sisters in the dining room or in silence in the Community Room.

Afternoon Session 1:00-3:00 pm

Please feel free to invite guests. A link will be sent out and posted on our website for those who are not able to join us in person but will join electronically. More info to come!

Milestones and News

Sara Freidt Wanner and her husband Brett welcomed their first child, Otto, on July 19. Otto and parents are doing well.

Oblate candidate Kate Weigum was married to Alex Schon May 25. Kate is our first third generation oblate, joining her mother, Cindy Weigum, and grandmother Lorrie Seeger.

Oblate Priscilla Barr mourns the sudden death of her father, Mike Jones. Her parents live in Arizona.

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November
presentation on Irish
Monasticism

Advent Day of
Reflection to be
presented by
Sr. Nicole Kunze.

Milestones and
News

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Downsizing— the
Benedictine Way

New Cohort in
Formation at the
Penitentiary

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from Assembly

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2024-2025 Schedule

BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF ANNUNCIATION MONASTERY

www.annunciationmonastery.org

Downsizing with Benedictine Decision-Making

Candace Simar is an oblate and author. Her latest book is titled: Sister Lumberjack. Candace and her husband, Keith, recently moved from their home in the woods of Pequot Lakes, Minnesota, to a condominium in the same community.

Stability, Fidelity, and Obedience

We recently sold our home in the woods and moved into a condo. You may wonder what the monastic vows from the Rule of Saint Benedict have to do with our downsizing. It turns out, everything.

My husband, bless his stable heart, wanted to stay in the area where we had lived for the entire fifty years of our marriage. A place in sunny Arizona or New Mexico sounded like a better option to me. Or any state without Minnesota winters or dreary Novembers. He found a beautiful condo for sale two miles away from where we had lived forever.

I pointed out warmer winters, new adventures, and more sunshine (important to SAD sufferers like me).

He pointed out winter activities he enjoys, lifelong friends, nearby family, and our church. He reminded me that it is not easy to develop a new support system in a strange place—needed at our age and stage in life. Besides, my sisters and brother live in Minnesota. It would be hard to leave them, too. We knew most everyone in town and cherished the sphere of influence where God had placed us.

It's not exciting to be "stable," but I was determined to exercise the Rule. While I'm not a big fan of obedience, I certainly wanted agreement between us. I "listened with the ears of my heart" and realized that I needed to change my opinion about moving away. The Rule of Benedict convinced me. Stability, fidelity, and obedience. As always, it was the practical guide for my daily life as an oblate.

Come and visit us in our new condo. It's satisfying to live where God has placed us.

(Oblate Candace and husband, Keith, practice "obedience" in the monastery kitchen during an earlier visit.



NAABOD Summer Assembly



Saint Benedict Retreat Center provided the Summer 2024 venue for the meeting of the North American Assembly of Benedictine Oblate Directors. Two members of our Advisory Committee, oblates Zanne Ness and

Kristi Wanner represented Annunciation Monastery at this Conference. They reported that the number of delegates set a new record for the organization with a very enthusiastic group of oblates. For the first time, the elected leadership of the national organization consisted of all oblates.

Kristi reported to the September gathering that the enthusiasm and commitment of the oblates was amazing. We learned that we are unique in developing an oblate formation cohort in a local prison, that we share the direction of incorporating oblates in many new aspects of our monastic life.



NDSP Formation Cohort

In May, three oblates and one oblate in formation began a new venture extending our presence and ministry at the North Dakota State Penitentiary. At our first session we were surprised that the group of men interested in becoming oblates had grown to six. Now we are seven! We are grateful for the assistance and flexibility of chaplaincy staff at the prison in getting readings electronically to the men in the group and in how they have welcomed our presence there.

Rolling on the River

Oblates joined sisters, employees and volunteers of the monastery for an afternoon Lewis and Clark Riverboat ride on the Missouri on August 11 to celebrate summer and enjoy an opportunity to get to know the families of our oblates. We filled our maximum capacity of 100 people on the boat and had great weather for the ride. What will we come up with for next year?



Renew your Oblation for 2024-2025

OBLATION RENEWAL

I, _____

renew my oblation as an Oblate of St. Benedict for the Community of the Benedictine Sisters of Annunciation Monastery, Bismarck, ND, and I promise again to serve God and promise a renewal of my life according to the spirit of the Rule of St. Benedict, as far as my state in life permits.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Signature _____

Date of Renewal _____



God, most compassionate and loving, strengthen me in my commitment to follow you in the way of St. Benedict. Through my daily prayer and work, may I be inspired to live in Christ and to bring his love to the world and his peace to all hearts. I make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please complete the form above to renew your oblation for this year. You may return it as a scanned document via email: Oblates@annunciationmonastery.org or mail it to; Annunciation Monastery Oblate Program, 7520 University Drive, Bismarck, ND 58504-9619. If mailing is not feasible for you at this time, you may call Sr. Rosemary at 701-355-8909 and renew verbally. We give thanks for all of you.

Schedule of Oblate Gatherings/Retreats 2024-2025

- September 15** Welcome back!
- October 6** Oblation of oblate candidates and renewal of oblations at the 11 AM Eucharistic Liturgy. Afternoon
Oblate Sunday gathering 1-3pm. Reflection on our own experiences of final oblation.
- November 10** Special presentation by Oblate Michael Taylor on the Roots and Contemporary
10 AM-3 PM Expression of Irish Benedictine Monasticism.
- December 8** Advent Day of Reflection –Prioress Nicole Kunze presenter -- please invite guests Distribute January
10 AM-3 PM reading – First Section *The Meaning of Monastic Stewardship* by Fr. Matthew Leavy, OSB
pages 227-232 ending “St. Benedict.”
- January 12, 2025** Discussion of January reading. Reading for February, pages 232-236, ending “balanced ecology.”
1-3 PM
- February 2** 1-3 PM Discussion of February reading. No article for March .
- March 9** 10 AM-3 PM Lenten retreat –presenter to be announced later-- please invite guests
- April 6** 1-3 PM Discussion of April reading
- May 4** 12:30-3PM Closing Potluck & Day of Reflection & Dialogue/monastic updates/evaluation of the past year

Oblate Program
Annunciation Monastery
7520 University Drive
Bismarck, ND 58504