



# Oblate NEWSLETTER

Fall 2025

## Upcoming Events



**November 9  
Presentation by  
Sr. Raphaela Cady**  
*The Sources of the  
Rule of St. Benedict —  
Including  
St. Augustine*

The election of Pope Leo XIV brings lots of inquiry about the largely unknown Order of St. Augustine but Benedictine monastics know that Augustine's Rule predates the Rule of Benedict and provided both text and inspiration for St. Benedict as he wrote his Rule. Sr. Raphaela is a Benedictine sister discerning transfer to Annunciation Monastery. She was active in living as a Benedictine oblate, as a Benedictine sister and as a student at St. Martin's University where she took courses on Benedict and the Rule.

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



**Advent Day of  
Reflection  
December 7, 2025**  
  
**Presented by  
Oblate Claudia Dietrich**

***Please feel free to invite guests.***

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 1:00-2:30 pm  
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.

The Day of Reflection is offered as an antidote to an exceptionally busy season of events, shopping, family visits and the many other distractions of the season.

## Celebrating New Life

***Oblate Kate Weigum Schon and her husband, Alex, welcomed their first child, Augustine Leo, on May 16, 2025. His baptism was held at St. Anne's Church in Bismarck. Both of their brothers are seminarians for the Diocese of Bismarck.***



## UMary Oblate Community

***Oblates employed at the University of Mary are forming a more intentional group to meet periodically, form community and provide ongoing support to their oblate vocation. Oblates Trish Smith, Michael Taylor, Kristi Wanner and Cindy Weigum provide a preliminary group to inform faculty, staff and students of the impact of their oblate vocation and to pray as a small community.***

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BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF ANNUNCIATION MONASTERY

## Remembering Oblate Jane Greer

Oblate Jane Greer was eulogized in a national publication as one of the nation's greatest (living) poets. Jane died suddenly following complications of emergency surgery. Many oblates joined other mourners at her wake and funeral services.

Jane was not only a weekly monastery switchboard volunteer, but she assisted two of our visiting students from a Vietnamese religious order based in Portland, OR, with their English skills. To honor their dedicated teacher and friend, the sisters gathered in Portland to view Jane's livestreamed services. Jane's work as a poet, reviewer and writer appeared in a number of publications, and led to speaking engagements and classroom lectures around the country.

Jane was active in her local parish, on the Serra Club board of directors, and as a faithful volunteer serving the greatest needs of the community. Our condolences to her husband, Jim (whom she referred to as "Mr. Wonderful"), son, daughter-in-law and grandson.

## The Benedictine Wedding Party

Oblates David and Gay Gray chose to celebrate their wedding vows in a very Benedictine way asking two monastic friends to serve as witnesses when they solemnized their vows on May 14, 2025, at Spirit of Life Catholic Church in Mandan.



Pictured left to right: Sr. Rosemary, Gay Cotiangco Gray, Father Keith Streifel, pastor of Spirit of Life, David Gray and Brother Bertrand Vogelweide of Assumption Abbey.

Gay is an oblate candidate awaiting October 5 oblation. She has recently published a collection of poems titled *Spark of the Divine* which she also illustrated. The book is available to assist the ministries of the Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing, Germany. Gay was a former member of their religious community in the Philippines.

## Oblates on Real Presence Radio



On June 26, Sr. Agatha Muggli and oblate Kristi Wanner were interviewed on Real Presence Radio by Fr. Kreigg Hochhalter and Karen Selensky about the oblate formation program. Sr. Agatha discussed the

content and steps of formation while Kristi talked about the ongoing impact of being an oblate on her life. We are grateful to them for sharing their gifts with a very large audience.

Topics for the formation program are selected for their importance in living Benedictine spirituality in the daily life of an oblate. Presentations are jointly given by oblates and sisters.

A new cohort will begin mid-October and we are actively looking for a few more participants to join the group. Current oblates, as well as new candidates are welcome. Sessions meet one Saturday morning per month.

## Oblates in Service



This hard-working group of oblates volunteered to help Stepping Stone Ministries medical respite center prepare for its Grand Opening.

The center evolved from the graduate project in Social Work undertaken by Sr. Idelle Badt and opens for patients October 1. Patients will be referred by local hospitals when there are no other viable discharge options. During their stay, staff and volunteers from medical and social services work with the guests to help them transition to a more stable environment.

# Renew your Oblation for 2025-2026

## 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](mailto: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 701-255-1520 and renew verbally. We give thanks for all of you.

## Schedule of Oblate Gatherings/Retreats 2025-26

<u>September 14</u> Potluck 12:15 PM	Welcome back! Cindy Weigum will reflect on her recent pilgrimage with the students in the Nursing Academy at the University of Mary meeting follows until 3 PM
<u>October 5</u> 11 AM-3 PM	Oblation of oblate candidates and renewal of oblations at the 11 AM Eucharistic Liturgy. Afternoon Oblate Sunday gathering 1-3pm. Everyone invited for lunch.
<u>November 9</u> 10 AM-3 PM	<b>Special presentation by Sr. Raphaela Cady on the Augustinian roots of the Rule of Saint Benedict</b> . A reading from Thomas Merton, OCSO, will be distributed in preparation for the Advent Retreat
<u>December 7</u> 10 AM-2:30 PM	<b>Advent Day of Reflection</b> –Oblate Claudia Dietrich presenter -- please invite guests. January reading by Thomas Keating, OCSO, will be distributed, Early dismissal to allow those wishing to attend the Christmas at Mary concert time to get to the university.
<u>January 11, 2026</u> 1-3 PM	Discussion of January reading from Thomas Keating. Reading for February distributed: Hope and Forgiveness reading from the book <i>Real Mercy</i> .
<u>February 8</u> 1-3 PM	Discussion of February reading Hope and Forgiveness. <b>No article for March –Retreat.</b>
<u>March 8</u> 10 AM-3 PM	<b>Lenten retreat</b> –presenter to be announced -- please invite guests. April reading distributed.
<u>April 12</u> 1-3 PM	Discussion of April reading
<u>May 17</u> 12:15-3 PM	Closing Potluck & Day of Reflection & Dialogue/monastic updates/evaluation of the past year,

Oblate Program  
Annunciation Monastery  
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