



Oblate

# NEWSLETTER

Summer 2023

## Beginning the Oblate Year 2023-2024



**September 10, 2023**  
**online/in person**  
*On Removing One's  
Knife in Bed and  
Utmost Care of the  
Wayward RB 22 & 27*

**Jeffrey Johnson, Oblate Formation Program, presenter**

The readings for the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time press the importance of listening, telling, and then possibly involving community in the effort to help a sister or brother.

Listening, telling, and community are staples of Benedictine life. What if we think of the Rule's injunction to 'not take your knife to bed lest you cut yourself', as a metaphor in today's world for things that keep one awake?

What is the Benedictine response to listen to the telling of what may burden, or cut, a sister or brother, those things one resists telling. And what about the Benedictine response to wayward telling?

Benedict, and the readings for this 23rd Sunday, affirm the care required in listening, and in helping one's sister or brother out of life's difficulties, mistakes, regrets, and into new meanings.

Benedictine hospitality shines in unseen moments of one listening to another, and a new light can be shed in these moments that can heal and open a wider vision of God's presence in every time, place, and circumstance.

If it is not possible for you to attend both morning and afternoon sessions, you are welcome to join us at 1:00 pm.

If you will be attending virtually, a Zoom link will be sent out a week before the retreat.

**Initial Schedule of Oblate  
Sunday Gatherings 2023-2024**  
(Content in Progress)

**September 10 10a-3p) Retreat  
Presentation by Jeff Johnson, Oblate Formation Program. Please bring a dish to share for a lunchtime potluck—Usual retreat schedule: 1 conference followed by Eucharist, lunch then afternoon sessions).**

**October 15 OBLATE SUNDAY 11a-3p  
Oblates will renew their oblations immediately following oblations;**

**Renewal certificates will be signed and oblation anniversaries celebrated during the gathering.**

**November 5 1-3p  
December 3 10a-3p ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION**

**January 7 1-3p**

**February 4 1-3p**

**March 3 LENTEN RETREAT 10a-3p**

**April 7 1-3p**

**May 5 1-3 p**

**June 2 1-3p Our time of personal and group reflection as our oblate program seeks to bring us all closer to God and each other.**

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Oblate Tillie Fischer and her Rosary mission

BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF ANNUNCIATION MONASTERY

## Oblates— Formation and Celebration

### Oblate Formation Program

We are again forming next year's cohort and openings are available for newly interested persons and oblates wishing to deepen their lived experience as oblates. Sessions are presented by sisters and oblates with the guidance of an Oblate Formation Team and assisted by oblate mentors who meet regularly (electronically or in person) with Candidates.

As we seek new oblates to join with our community in living the Benedictine way of life, we again begin plans for the fall cohort of the formation program. The program begins anew in October and meets one Saturday morning a month for about three hours for twelve months ending with final Oblation. July and August sessions are presented via recordings and members do not meet in person those two summer months.

We are now in the final months of formation for Cohort Three of the new program with a cohort of six candidates. All report a very positive experience which gives a thorough grounding in the Rule as well as the practical aspects of living the Benedictine charism as a layperson.

If this sounds like an opportunity you would like to be part of, please contact Sr. Rosemary at (701)355-8909 or by email at: [oblates@annunciationmonastery.org](mailto:oblates@annunciationmonastery.org)

### American Benedictine Academy

Monastic research grants and an essay contest are available from the American Benedictine Academy to oblates. For additional information please visit: <https://americanbenedictine.org/grants-awards/>

### Our Newest Oblates



Cohort One 2021 in our new oblate formation program: Martha Iverson, Emily Lysne, Julie Yarwood and Marianne Hofer



Cohort Two: 2022 Top Photo Oblates Jeannine Saabye, Tillie Fischer, and David Gray. Lower Photo: Allison Fitzgerald who made her oblation in September before departing with Oblate Emily Lysne for graduate school at Oxford, UK

Cohort Three will make oblation in October, Cohort Four will begin in October.

## Oblate Service

*New Oblate Tillie Fischer offers this story of her worldwide ministry. Her story was published in her parish bulletin in 2021. This photo is with her friend Oblate Diane Krupinsky following Tillie's oblation in 2022.*



### **My Hand in the Rosary by Tillie Fischer 2021**

While living on the Ranch in 1971 in Sioux county, one long winter day I needed to get out. I went to visit my parents in Mandan. Mother was anxious to show me what she received from her sister in Elko, Nevada—a yellow envelope containing a Rosary Kit. She said, “Tillie, I want you to have this; I want no part of it.” She was not about to work with pliers and wire; she preferred her needle skills. I was most enthused for a new hobby for those long winter days. The kit contained enough supplies to make ten Rosaries and included easy instructions on how to make a Rosary. Needless to say, my first ten Rosaries were far from the perfect job.

I enjoyed it so much that I wanted to continue making Rosaries and ordered more supplies from Our Lady's Rosary Makers Catalog, Louisville, Kentucky. Now what was I going to do with all of those Rosaries? I soon found out when *Our Lady's Messenger Newsletter* came in the mail with many requests for Rosaries.

One of my first choices was The Reverend Patrick Peyton in New York for Guatemala; I received a letter of thanks. Next was Mother Theresa in the Bronx with a special request for Rosaries for Eastern European Countries for which I received a letter of recognition. I also sent Rosaries to Fr. Jarquim of Nicaragua (recognition received). He is originally from South Dakota. It is always a pleasure and an honor to make and send Mission Rosaries to the needy.

After a few years my life took a turn when my husband and I, son and daughter moved to Mandan and fewer Rosaries were made as it was necessary for me to take a job outside of the house. My husband and a son passed away, children were married. Many Rosaries were made and prayed as I cared for my husband and son during illnesses. I later remarried Francis Fischer, a prayerful Rosary man, and moved to Bismarck.

Word got out that I made Rosaries and Don Lucas and Myron Senechal wanted to start a Rosary Club. They came to our house for some guidance in making Rosaries. Would I be interested? How could I say no? Although shy as I was, I gave a few classes and enjoyed it. Therefore, St. Anne's Rosary Makers came to be, and I am so proud of them. They have done extremely well, reaching out far and wide. I also received special recognition from Fr. Ed Wehner for helping start the group.



Oblate Program  
Annunciation Monastery  
7520 University Drive  
Bismarck, ND 58504