

Tucson Oblate Newsletter - August, 2016

Chapter 4 in the Rule of St. Benedict, "The Tools of Good Works" has been chosen as our theme for this year's meetings. The topic of our first Oblate meeting this September will be Peace in the Rule of Benedict. In preparation, I would like to share this excerpt from "The Lord speaks of peace to his people" by Julian of Norwich. The more I read this passage, the more it means to me.

"Our good Lord, the Holy Spirit--endless life dwelling in our souls--always protects us and gives us peace. Through grace, God's Spirit brings each soul to tranquility and makes it obedient and reconciles it to God. Our good Lord constantly leads us on this path of mercy while we're in this unpredictable life.

"In my vision, I saw no anger except on humanity's side, and God forgives us that, for anger is nothing else but an irrationality and our antagonism to peace and love. It comes from a lack of power or a lack of wisdom or a lack of goodness, and this lack is not in God. It is on our side, because through sin and dejection, we have in us an anger and constant opposition to peace and love.

"In God's lovely look of compassion and sympathy, He reveals this truth often because the foundation of mercy is love and the business of mercy is to protect us in love. This was revealed to me in such a way that I could perceive nothing about the qualities of mercy outside of the fact that it is all love in love."

May we come to know God's Peace in Love.

Announcements:

- Please let us know your new email and street addresses when these change.
- Jo Ann Stoneman passed away in June; a Mass in our chapel has been said for her.
- Let us remember in prayer some of our oblates: Denise Brogna who had major surgery, Kellyanne Hale whose father died in July, Nancy Mairs who had a stroke, and Halsey Taylor who is recovering from an accident.
- The Lectio group meets at 10:00 a.m. every Saturday in the prayer room (off the chapel).

SEPTEMBER 18TH OBLATE MEETING

Our next meeting will be September 18th, at 2:00 p.m. The doors open at 12:45 p.m. for inquirers, candidates and anyone else who would like to come early to use the library or visit with others. Sr. Hope will give the reflection.

INQUIRERS AND CANDIDATES CLASS. The class for inquirers and candidates will start at 1:00 p.m. and finish at 1:45 p.m., allowing time to join the others in the basement. The class will take place in the prayer room on the right side as you enter the Chapel.

- For this first class, the five deans and I will meet with all of you. We will introduce the deans, who will briefly tell about their oblate experience.
- Seeking God is the purpose of all life and oblation. Some are called to this as Benedictines, some to other spiritualities. The 2-year preparation process is a time of discernment. We need to know the Rule of Benedict, and that we are on a journey for the rest of our lives. The Rule of Benedict is Gospel living; we are called to live differently than the world lives. Reading a commentary on the Rule helps us to understand living the Rule today. "Being in the school of the Lords service" is a daily effort, and we are not going to do it perfectly. Those considering oblation are encouraged to have a mentor during this time of study. All of the deans are available to help you on your journey, in person,

by email, or phone. You can contact any one of us. We are delighted that you are interested in becoming part of this Benedictine community.

- Inquirers and candidates should be ready to discuss briefly why they are interested in oblation at this time.

CHAPTER NEWS

TUCSON: On July 17th, the oblates gathered for an ice cream social in honor of the Feast of St. Benedict. We enjoyed new varieties of ice cream and toppings, and great conversation. About 20 showed up for the fun. Thank you to those who brought ice cream, as the Sisters benefitted from what was left over. It was delicious!

PRESCOTT: Shirley Maday reports: We continue sharing on Michael Casey's book, *The Road to Eternal Life*, Ch. 20. We discussed how, in his kindness, the Lord is showing us the road of life, and how the spiritual journey leads us beyond comfortable limits. St. Benedict wants us to recognize that even now Christ is pointing out to us the way we should go. We meet from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at St. Anthony Claret Room.

EAST VALLEY OBLATES: This summer the oblates had the option to attend the Marian Conference in Phoenix entitled "Mercy Will Change the World." For more information about the Fall classes call Nancy Kaib (480) 883-8025, or Frank Young (480) 219-1505 Nancy mentioned that St. Andrews now has Saturday morning Mass at 8:30 a.m. For those of you who can get there that would be a great way to prepare for our Saturday meetings.

PHOENIX CENTRAL: For information call Patty Williams 602-957-1464. We meet at Mount Claret Retreat Center, 4633 N. 54th St. Phoenix. We meet in the St. John Paul II room in the back of the parking lot.

May this year of study be blessed and full of growth for all of us as we journey on the "path of holiness."

Sr. Hope