



## TUCSON OBLATE NEWSLETTER

### DECEMBER, 2015

This first Sunday of Advent we are moving into the beginning of the Liturgical year. Advent is a season of good and new hope. The joy of Advent comes from listening more attentively - listening with the ear of our heart. Jesus' coming into our heart calls us to daily renewal: in Mass, in Lectio Divina, private prayer, adoration, work, and consciousness. A prayer for this season as you move through your daily schedule is, "Lord Jesus, Come into my Heart. Come."

Christmas is not about spending money to buy, but about opening our heart to Jesus. Can we pull back from the craziness of rushing to take more time for prayer? Part of the Church's Proclamation at liturgy Christmas Eve is, "Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to **Consecrate** the **WORLD** by his most **LOVING PRESENCE** . . . The world has been consecrated by Christ's loving presence – consecrated not because of our need, but because of his desire." Jesus wants our hearts!

**TUCSON: THE NEXT MEETING Sunday DEC 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Doors open at 12:45** for inquirers, candidates and anyone else who would like to come early, use the library, or visit with others. The class for inquirers and candidates will start at 1:00 p.m. and finish at 1:45 to join the others in the basement. The class is on the right as you enter the Chapel. The topic is the Vows and Promises with Sr. Kathleen Clare. Preparation: Read Ch. 5 on Obedience, Ch. 29 Readmission of any who leave the Monastery, Ch. 58 The Procedure for Receiving Brothers, Ch. 59 Children Offered by Nobles or by the Poor, Ch. 60 Admission of Priest into the Monastery, Ch. 71 Mutual Obedience, Ch. 72 the Good Zeal of Monks, and Ch. 73 This Rule only the Beginning.

Questions for Discussion:

1. With Candidates who have been Candidates at least a year-do you feel ready to move forward with "good zeal" to Oblation in Jan or May?
2. How do you understand the basic Benedictine promises of stability, conversation, and obedience? How can you apply these to your daily life?
3. Why is "good zeal" so important for monastic community Life?
4. Has your life and spiritual practice changed over these months of studying the RB?

#### **Meeting for the Oblate Group as a Whole**

**Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> Chapter 3 of LAUDATO SI' the Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis – Mary Sheridan**

**At the Nov. Tucson oblate meeting**, Sr. Kathleen Clare presented on Chapter 2 of the encyclical, "The Gospel of Creation." It was noted that the word "gospel" means "good news," and is most familiar to us in context with the New Testament: the Gospel--the good news--of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The term "Gospel of Creation" conveys the good news of God's loving plan of a universe called into being by the Father in which all of creation is woven together by the love of God, interconnected and interdependent, continually on a pilgrimage toward the ultimate destiny of the universe: the fullness of God at the end of time. The great Biblical narratives say much about the relationships of human beings with the world. As uniquely intelligent and gifted beings, and because of our deep communion with the rest of nature, we have a tremendous responsibility to care for all of creation (of which we are a part), and to defend the dignity of human life. Scripture reveals to us God's plan in the mysteries of the universe, and God's message to us from nature in the harmony of creation:

- + God created human beings out of love – bestowing upon us an infinite dignity.
- +Sin disrupted the harmony between human beings and nature.

- + Human beings have responsibility for God's earth.
- + Human beings have an obligation to use the earth's goods responsibly.
- + We are called to recognize that other living beings have a value of their own in God's eyes.
- + Disregard for maintaining a proper relationship with my neighbor ruins my relationship with myself, with others, with God, and with the earth.
- + Renewal entails recovering and respecting the rhythms of nature inscribed by the Creator.
- + Contemplating the all-powerful God who created the universe brings renewal in times of trial.
- + The God who created the universe out of nothing can also intervene in this world and overcome every form of evil.
- + God creates and alone owns the world.

The encyclical makes clear that "Peace, justice, and preservation of creation are three absolutely connected themes which cannot be separated and treated individually." This is a wonderful chapter for meditation.

**Our library** Has many excellent books please feel free to take them for Lectio Divina. A good Advent practice would be to take 20 minutes each day to read from a spiritual book. This can free us from the rush of the world. We will also have a book sale at the December meeting, including some Liturgy of the Hours books.

**Oblate Death.** Susan Stokes, a Prescott Oblate, entered eternity Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> from cancer. Our custom is to have a Mass said for our deceased oblates. A Mass card was sent to her brother. The Mass will be Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> 2016 in our Chapel. We appreciate your letting us know when someone dies.

**Death of one of the Sisters:** Sr. Bridget Riorden at our Clyde house was found in the early morning having had a massive stroke, and died soon after. It has been a shock to all of us as Bridget was an active member of the Clyde community.

**Divine Office:** Oblates are welcome to pray the Divine Office with us, which we pray daily in our chapel. Books are in the front for your use. Lauds is usually at 7:30 a.m., Mass is usually at 5 p.m. and Vespers is usually at 7:00 p.m. There is a schedule in the back showing weekend times and changes.

**Revised Benedictine Prayer Book:** Sorry, but we still have not received these from the publisher. They now say that they will ship in the new year.

**Prescott: Next meeting Sunday Dec. 20th 1:30 to 3:30 in St Anthony Claret Room.**

The lesson is from Michael Casey's book, *The Road to Eternal Life*, Ch. 18, pp.66-71, and *Laudato Si' Study Guide*, introduction pp 4-7 and session one pp. 8-16. Prayers are asked for Joan Terwilliger, Donna Lovett, and Tom Kayser of Prescott.

**Phoenix East Valley: Next meeting Saturday Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 –noon at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church in the Cursillo Center** From Nancy Kaib: "at our last meeting we talked about the visions that Sr. (St.) Faustina had which led to the painting of the Divine Mercy painting, then spent time focused on it as our Lectio exercise. We also viewed a DVD which gave us some history about Sr. Faustina and the initial promulgation of Divine Mercy. In December we will begin a yearlong study of Mercy as the Church celebrates the Year of Mercy.

**Phoenix Central:** Pattie Williams wrote, "Our meeting is on the second Saturday of the month, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be talking about the year of Mercy this month. A presentation will be given by Susan Pease, who is a new oblate. We are so blessed to have such wonderful people.

**Oblation for candidates and those ready to being candidates from inquirers:** Two list will be put out for you to sign if you are ready to go forward as a Benedictine Oblate or Oblate Candidate. Phoenix and Prescott, please let me know of anyone whose name I don't have.

May your advent be filled with the dwelling of Christ in your Hearts, May Peace fill your Christmas and New Year.

Sr. Hope

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