

TUCSON OBLATE NEWS LETTER -- December, 2016

God is calling us to rejoice. To be alert, to be awake to the great mystery that God is with us. Advent is a time to prepare our hearts, to be ready to rest in the Heart of God, for that is where we will find him. Our world is being reborn, generation by generation, and God's creation shows in trimesters of conception and gestation, our shared future dancing in the womb, eager to be born in all the kayos and crisis around us. Father Godfrey Diekmann told his students "It's the Incarnation, that we don't believe. We don't believe we are invited to become the very life of God. "To me this is what the Eucharist is, God comes to me, for me to become one with me, one with all creation, all peoples, no matter what, every one is the temple of God. I believe that Benedict got this as he says in the Rule "everything is to be treated as sacred vessels of the Altar. Benedict died after receiving the Eucharist, with his brother monks holding him up he died in the arms of the community. This is not our work, but God working in us, loving us, forgiving us, calling us to let Him/Her live in us. Emmanuel! God with every moment of our lives.

With the election of a new President there is much consternation, maybe fear from within. I would like to suggest that each day we pray and place on the Altar of the World, all the fruit, the good of the world on the Paten, and all the fears, suffering, pain, death in the Chalice especial all our elected government officials that they will work for the common good, for all of us. Send to President Elect D. Trump, your prayers, that God will open his mind and heart to be Christ for All. He too is a temple of the Holy Spirit, and pray the breath of God will enter him and to change what needs to be changed so that he will be the best that God is calling him to be. God can work miracles.

SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER PRESENTATION:

At the November meeting, Mary Sheridan presented on "Listening." "Listen," is of course the first word of the Rule. So it is important to Benedictines. It is also Mary said, a gift that we give to others. In the media, as well as the recent political season, we have seen plenty of people talking over one another. When we are talked over, or not listened to, we may feel devalued and even angry.

Mary first talked about a 3-part method of how to listen to serious conversation. The first part is silence-before we can listen, we need to have our minds quiet and ready to receive what will be said. If we have our heads full of other business, or listen only far enough to begin planning our answers, we are not truly listening. We are at risk of missing or misinterpreting important communications.

The second part of listening is the attention given to the other person's communication. Listening is hard work. It requires focus on what the other person is saying, and remembering what is said. These skills can be developed over time and with practice.

The final part of this listening method is thinking over the conversation afterwards. Often this is the time when the real meaning of the conversation becomes clear, and we are able to decide what our proper response is, if one is called for.

Mary then applied this listening model to our relationship to God, to the Rule and to Scripture. Praying is much more than speaking to God, it is also listening to God directly, through others, through Scripture, through the Rule. This method of listening can also be usefully applied to that listening.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Please update email and street addresses and phone numbers when these change.
- The Lectio group continues to meet from 10AM to 11AM, every Saturday in the prayer room (off the chapel). All are welcome.
- Sr. Hope would like to review qualifications for those who feel ready after one year to become a candidate, and for those who feel ready after two years if they wish to make oblation. I would like to visit with each of you before our January meeting when candidates and those ready for Oblation are received.
- Prayers for Bethany Forbes, for a successful negative breast biopsy.

DECEMBER 18TH OBLATE MEETING

Our next meeting will be December 18th at 2 p.m. The doors open at 12:50 for inquirers, candidates and anyone else who would like to come early to use the library or visit with others. The class will be on "LECITO" and Sister Kathleen Clare will conduct the class.

INQUIRERS' AND CANDIDATES' CLASS. This class will start at 1:00 p.m. and finish at 1:45 to join the others in the basement. The Class is in the prayer room on the right side as you enter the Chapel. Sr. Hope will do the class on Leadership and Followership in RB: and Flexibility. Assignment Read Chapter 2, Qualities of the Abbot, Chapter 3 Summoning the Brothers for Council. Questions for discussion! What does Benedict say about leadership? The concept of servant leadership, the abbot as servant leader, and the importance of including the monks in decision making. Mutual listening. Balance and flexibility in RB and as key to the survival and usefulness of the RB today. Importance and difficulty of balancing our lives and staying flexible.

PRESCOTT: Shirley Maday reports: We shared on Michael Casey's book, The Road to Eternal Life, in Ch. 26, Casey stressed the importance of effective self-knowledge to avoid the feeling that we are superior to others. He said that the sign of a truly upright person is "concordance among thought, word, and action." Benedict warns "Do not wish to be called holy before being so, but first be holy so that it may be more truthfully

said” RB 4:62 Next Meeting December 18th 1:30 p.m. Lesson: Chapters 27 in Casey’s book, pp.95-99. We meet from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the FORUM (next to the kitchen)

EAST VALLEY OBLATES: Our next meeting will be on Saturday, December 17th. We are meeting one week earlier in the month due to the fourth Saturday being Christmas Eve. We will continue with our study of Mercy through the DVDs produced by Fr. Michael Gaitley. For more information about 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 will be a great way to prepare for our 9:30 a.m. Saturday meetings. We will also discuss what we want to study for 2017.

PHOENIX CENTRAL: For information call Patty Williams 602-957-1464. We meet at Mount Claret Retreat Center, 4633 N. 54th St. Phoenix, 85018. Our meeting room is in the St. John Paul II room in the back of the parking lot. Our group will meet with the East Valley Oblates on Nov. 12th with the East Valley group at St. Andrews Catholic Church at 9:30 a.m.

Rejoice and be Glad this Advent because we are invited to become the very Life of God.

Sr. Hope

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