



## TUCSON OBLATE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2017



How beautiful is this season of Advent provided by the Church! Through it, we reflect on the longing of our ancestors-in-faith who awaited the fulfillment of prophesy. We ourselves, watch, wait, and prepare our own hearts for the commemoration of the birth of the Holy One. In our world broken in so many ways, we are reminded again and again throughout Advent of God's eternal and enduring love for us. So great is God's compassion and mercy in taking on our humanity to draw us unto himself. St. Augustine wrote: "*It was not enough for God to make the Son our guide for the way. God made him the way itself, that we might travel with him as leader, and by him as the way.*"

As Benedictines we have a profound appreciation for the wisdom of Saint Benedict who has put forth in his Rule monastic practices which aide us in centering ourselves in Christ. May we follow Christ the Leader on the path of Life. May we follow Christ the Way to an ever-deepening relationship of love with God and with one another. May we be seekers of the God who is seeking us, and share in the healing and reconciliation that brings new life to our inner being and to the world. O Come Emmanuel ... *God with us!*

### SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER PRESENTATION

At our November meeting, Sharon Hammond and William Joseph talked about their experiences at the Fourth World Congress of Benedictine Oblates in Rome, Nov. 4-10. The theme, "A Way Forward: The Benedictine Community in Movement," referenced Oblates with the worldwide challenges of decreased monastic vocations, aging/dying monks, and closing monasteries. Much of the Congress experience was devoted to listening and sharing with other Oblates. Prayer in the form of liturgy was an important component of the Congress. The Oblates had an audience with Pope Francis, who conferred an Apostolic Blessing that extends to all Oblates. They also had dinner at Sant' Anselmo, the International Benedictine University, and met the Abbot Primate, Gregory Polan, from Conception, MO. (See Abbot Gregory's address attached). The keynote address was given by Sr. Joan Chittister of the Erie (PA) Benedictines and is available on website <https://www.monasteriesoftheheart.org>.

Presentations at the Congress focused on:

- the importance of relationships with individuals, communities, societies, and the world as a whole
- the building of communities of friendship with a sense of belonging
- stability: "the liberty to move with the times, to recognize the changing needs and circumstances of society"
- responsibility: the Oblate's lifetime promise to a particular way of life and set of values  
responsibility in ministry for those Oblate groups in which it is explicit
- prayer and work: the heart of Benedictine spirituality- important aspects of an Oblate's life  
discussion of prayer forms: liturgical prayer, Lectio Divina
- a full day of discussion of *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis's letter on the care of creation

There was enthusiastic response in our Oblate group for further discussion on the topics of care for creation and the practice of Lectio Divina at future meetings.

**DECEMBER OBLATE MEETING:** Our next meeting on Dec. 17th begins at 2:00 p.m. in Murphey Gallery East at St. Philip's in the Hills Church (Campbell and River Rd). Doors are open for anyone who wishes to come early and visit with others. Sr Kathleen Clare will be our presenter speaking on The Intimate Reading of Lectio Divina.

**INQUIRERS AND CANDIDATES CLASS:** Inquirers meet in the Ferguson Room from 1:00-1:45 p.m. The door is unlocked for those wishing to arrive early. Mary Sheridan will lead the class on **Conversion of Heart (Conversatio)**. **Read in advance:** RB Ch.72 The Good Zeal of Monks. **Question for discussion:** What are the easy and hard things for you in the Rule of Benedict?

**NEWS:**

Just a reminder: Our **TUSCON OBLATE RENEWAL DAY** will be on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> (not Sunday) in the East Gallery at St. Philip's. Details to follow in next month's newsletter.

**CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER GROUP:** Monday night meetings, formerly at the monastery, will be moving to St. Philip's. All are welcome to join beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, in the La Paz room.

**4-DAY SALE:** at the Benedictine monastery on Dec. 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Included will be furniture, kitchenware, some art pieces, and more. Entrance at rear of monastery. Parking in lot by solar panels. Sales are Cash Only. Please invite your friends.

**PHOENIX CENTRAL OBLATES:** December meeting cancelled. For information call Patty Williams 602-957-1464.

Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - a Day of Benedictine Renewal at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Phoenix

All Oblates, Candidates, Inquirers plus family and friends are invited.

- 8:30 am Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle, [2312 E Campbell Avenue, Phoenix 85016](#)
- 9:00 am Morning Prayer in the church followed by Lectio Divina
- 10:00 am Continental breakfast and coffee in the Piazza
- 10:30 am Ceremony in the church followed by a presentation
- 12:00 pm Go forth!

**EAST VALLEY OLBATES:** Meeting Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> to avoid the holidays. For information call Nancy Kaib 480-883-8025 or Frank Young 480-219-1505.

**WEST PHOENIX OBLATES:** Meeting in Glendale for a morning of prayer, community, and fellowship on the third Saturday of the month from 9:00 a.m.-noon. Next meeting: Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. For information call Lisa at 623-374-2382.

**TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE:** Anyone in need of a ride to Oblate meetings, contact Sr. Kathleen Clare.



May the grace of this holy season fill us all with peace and hope. May Christ be born in our hearts.

Blessings to all our Oblates and friends and your families and loved ones,  
Sr. Kathleen Clare

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