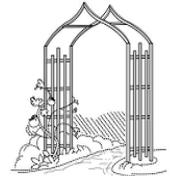




TUCSON OBLATE NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2018

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.
And he replied, "Go out into the darkness
and put your hand into the hand of God.
That shall be better than light and safer than a known way!"
M.L. Haskins



Dear Oblates and Friends,

As we approach the closing of the Tucson monastery in February, and the Sisters return to the house of their foundation in Clyde, Missouri, Oblates and Sisters alike may indeed feel, as the poet has so gently stated, that we are going out into the "darkness," the unknown, of this new year. We share that perception, to some small degree, with millions of people today throughout our world who know the sufferings of war, poverty, and natural disasters. We all share in the human experience of loss, of transitions, of endings and new beginnings. For those of us who have come to know the God whom we seek, as St. Benedict would say, we have the sure knowledge that we are not alone - that God is with us - that God dwells with us in one another- and that in putting our hand, individually and collectively, "into the hand of God," we are led on the Way in his light- a way that is all good and compassionate and loving. We can courageously, and even joyfully, put our trust in God to lead us, because our God incarnate is Emmanuel, *God with Us*, Lord of Light.

SUMMARY OF DECEMBER PRESENTATION

The Intimate Reading of Lectio Divina was presented by Sr. Kathleen Clare. Note was made of lectio divina as one of the important Benedictine traditions given much attention to at the International Oblate Congress held this past autumn in Rome. The opening words of address given by Abbot Primate Gregory Polan were read emphasizing the impact of lectio divina on one's on-going growth in spiritual life. We are to be the light of Christ in our world. To be that light, to interiorize that light, we must come to know Christ - to put on the mind of Christ- to become empty, pure of heart, and transformed in the love of Christ that we might bear Christ to a broken world so much in need of him. In lectio divina we meet the God who is seeking us. Our personal encounter with God through our reading of the sacred scriptures draws us into an ever-deepening relationship whereby God speaks to us, heart to heart, in great intimacy. The immersion of our very selves into the presence of this holiness, and our response to it, transforms us into the likeness of Christ that we may be bearers of Christ to our world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This January oblate newsletter will be the last letter sent out from the Tucson Oblate Chapter. Henceforth, the monthly oblate newsletter will originate from our monastery, Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Clyde, Missouri. Whether receiving by email or through the postal service, every oblate should

receive the monthly newsletter from Sr. Sarah the Congregational Oblate Director. If you do not receive her newsletter, please inform the leader of your oblate group so that the oversight can be corrected. The oblate newsletter is also available on our website: <http://www.benedictineoblates.com> under *Resources*.

INQUIRERS AND CANDIDATES CLASS: No January class due to Day of Renewal.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20TH OBLATE RENEWAL DAY 9:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Murphey Gallery East, St. Philip's in the Hills (Campbell & River)

Theme: Sacred Space, Sacred Time, Sacred People. Presenters: Sister Kathleen Clare and Sr. Hope.

Schedule:

9:00 AM Doors open for socializing, coffee and donuts

9:30 AM Opening prayer and morning presentation begins

11:45 AM **Lunch**

Last names beginning with A-0 please bring salads

Last names beginning with P-Z please bring desserts

Sisters will supply chicken salad and drinks

1:00 PM To chapel for ceremony of rededication of baptistry and reception of candidates.
Amy Grace and Stella MacKenzie will enter their candidacy.

2:00 PM Afternoon presentation and closing prayer

3:00 PM Conclusion of day

LAY COORDINATOR: Our dean Sharon Hammond has graciously accepted the position of the lay coordinator

for the Tucson group of Oblates. We are sure she will be a wonderful leader for the group after the

monastery is closed. Sharon can be contacted at (520) 664-5136 or tucsonoblates@gmail.com

NEW DEANS: Isabel Delgado and Karen Perez have joined our group of deans. We are grateful for their generosity and enthusiasm in accepting this position.

LUNCH FOR DAY OF RENEWAL: Please remember to bring a food contribution to our Day of Renewal. See suggestions above according to last names. This system seemed to work well at renewal day last May

DONATIONS TO KITTY: All donations on renewal day will be offered to St. Philip's in gratitude for the hospitality shown to us over these past months. Please be generous.

LIBRARY BOOKS: The Oblate Special Collection is now set up in St. Philip's library on the shelf to the left of the DVD's and directly under the audio section. Please feel free to make use of these books and any of those in the fine collection of St. Philip's as well.

LOOKING FOR TALENT: If anyone can play an instrument and feels able to accompany the singing of Office

at our meetings, please contact Sharon. She is also seeking anyone with technology skills.

PHOENIX CENTRAL OBLATES: Day of Renewal has been rescheduled for Feb. 10th. Sat. Jan. 13th will be a regular meeting day. For information call Patty Williams 602-957-1464.

Saturday, Day of Renewal, February 10, 2018

AGENDA

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!

We are so sorry to hear of the passing of Patty's brother. Please keep him and all the family in your prayers.

EAST VALLEY OBLATES: Meeting Sat. Jan. 27th. 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 AM-noon. For information call Lisa at 623-374-2382.

May the grace of the holy season we have just celebrated continue to strengthen and bless us. We look forward to being together for our Day of Renewal on Saturday, January 20th. Blessings to all our Oblates and friends, your families and loved ones, in this coming New Year.

Sr. Kathleen Clare



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