



# Tucson Oblate Newsletter

## May, 2014



*Dance of the Trinity*

*This is Mary Sheridan writing the Newsletter this month. As some of you may know, Sr. Lenora has been ill the last couple of weeks, and as of this writing is still not feeling well. She has asked me to help with the tasks that I can do. Please hold her in prayer. There is a note from Lenora at end of letter.\**

In this Easter season, our focus is most obviously on Jesus who has risen and will shortly be ascending. We should not forget, however, that Jesus was raised by and returns to his Father, and that he breathed and breathes the Spirit upon the Apostles and us. Sr. Pascaline gave me the word perichoresis – what the dictionary describes as the “community of being” among the members of the Trinity. Sr. Pascaline refers to it as a triune “dance.”

This concept of remembering the Persons of the Trinity in their dance with one another is especially meaningful to me as I prepare my presentations for Renewal Day, coming up May 18. My subject will be “Balance in the Rule of St. Benedict.”

At Tucson's April meeting, Tucson Oblate Laurie Olson spoke about and showed pictures of her work in Haiti. As she had described in September, 2012, Laurie's plan had been to volunteer with the Religious of Jesus and Mary in Gros Morne for a year. Unfortunately, she had to return home after 5 months due to health issues.

Laurie described Haiti as a place of contrasts—solar power but no reliable electricity, cell phones and computers but unpaved roads. Above all, it is a place of poverty, so the sisters' work takes a number of approaches: running a school, taking people to the hospital, running a summer camp, bringing in medical volunteers to staff rural clinics, developing clean water, etc. Laurie's work was often similarly “other tasks as assigned,” although her main job was running the house where the volunteer medical personnel stayed.

Haiti's health challenges include high infant mortality, HIV, and a very limited healthcare infrastructure. In addition to administering the house, Laurie did a lot of driving to the clinics, which were often in churches, and helped with the set-up and pharmacy. She also drove the sick to hospitals, and attended a

lot of funerals.

Laurie was particularly struck by the conditions of poverty which, she came to believe, the world allows, tolerates, and perpetuates. Haiti was once the richest of the French colonies before it became independent through a slave revolt. But a US-imposed trade embargo ordered by President Jefferson, plus ruinous reparations that Haiti had to pay to France, changed this. Today, 2/3 of the population struggles to meet their food needs, and international aid programs too often hurt the local economy while benefitting the sending country.

Laurie has been home for a year now, but still feels that part of herself is in Haiti. She found the overwhelming need there very hard, but “every day was an adventure.” She remains grateful for good roads, hot showers, and air conditioning. She has come to realize that which people we elect and which charities we support make a difference internationally.

Sr. Lenora ended the presentation by commenting that the Rule of Benedict speaks of the poor in relation to the food, clothing, and hospitality of the monastery. Each of us needs to discern what we are called to do around this part of the Rule.

**TUCSON: Next Meeting is Renewal Day, Sunday, May 18.**

**Behold!**  
**I make**  
**all things**  
**new!**

*As in previous Renewal Days, our schedule will be:*

- 9:00** – All are welcome to join the Monastic Community for Mass (and for Lauds at 8:00, for early birds). Following Mass, a light breakfast will be available in the Assembly Room.
- 10:30** (or as soon as we can start)—Welcome, then presentation on balance in the RB.
- 11:30**—Oblate candidates being enrolled, and those making oblation, meet with directors. Others have QUIET time for reflection, browsing in the library, etc.

**12:00**—Midday prayer in Chapel with community. Enrollments and Oblations follow, with Sr. Ramona, superior of the monastery, presiding. Sr. Lenora plans to be present, but is grateful to take it a bit easy.

**12:30**—Lunch downstairs. Main dish provided, salads and desserts are potluck.\*

**1:45** (approx.)—Second presentation on balance.

**3:00-3:30**—Closing and clean-up.

*\*Those who were not at the April meeting to sign up, and who plan to be at the Renewal Day, are invited to bring a salad or dessert or something for breakfast, as their contribution to the cost of food. Please call Bette (520) 834-5300, or email her at [bjnien12@msn.com](mailto:bjnien12@msn.com) regarding what you can bring. If you do not bring anything, we are grateful for a contribution of \$7-8.*

### **Prayers Requested:**

In addition to prayers for Sr. Lenora, you are also asked to pray for Mayola McCreary, recovering from surgery; for Chris Asaro, in a nursing home; and for the Benedictine Sisters' General Chapter at Clyde in June.

### **"Stay Tuned":**

**Feast of St. Benedict:** We are planning to do something to commemorate the feast of St. Benedict in **July**, most probably on Saturday the 12th. Just what has not yet been determined. We'll let you know. Our Tucson Oblate Deans are meeting this Saturday to discuss this and plans for our next Oblate season. Keep us in prayer, and if you have any suggestions to contribute, *let us know before Saturday.*

**PRESCOTT:** Next meeting **May 18, 1:30-3:30 PM, St. Anthony Claret Room.**

*Shirley Maday writes:* Guests are welcome to hear Mike Schroeder speak regarding his attendance at the World Oblate Congress in Rome. He will conduct the liturgy. Bring Karen Armstrong's book to discuss her "Last Words" chapter.

*For more information,* contact Nancy Hinshaw: 928-445-1271

**PHOENIX CENTRAL:** Next meeting, **Saturday, May 10, 2014, 8:45 a.m. for Inquirers and Candidates, and 9:30 a.m. for all.** Mount Claret Retreat Center, 4633 North 54th Street, Phoenix, 85018.

*Patty Williams writes:* Our meeting in May will include prayers, Lectio and a lesson/discussion. Please join those of us who will be at Mount Claret for prayer and community.

*For more information* call Patty Williams: [602-957-1464](tel:602-957-1464) or email [Benedictine@cox.net](mailto:Benedictine@cox.net)

**PHOENIX EAST VALLEY:** *Nancy Kaib writes:* Just an update to let you know that our regular meeting room is available on the 17th. The woman in charge of scheduling has to get the okay of the staff but expects that should not be a problem - so lets count on having our meeting on the 17th., not the 24th. More soon.

**Library Corner:** *THANK YOU* to those who have made a special effort to get their books back and pay their fines. You have set a good example for others, and your contributions are appreciated. Books may be checked out over the summer, so come early and borrow some good reading! If we have a July gathering at the monastery, the library will also be open then. *There will also be a small book sale at the Renewal Day.*

**\* Personal Note from Sr. Lenora:** I cannot thank all of you enough for the prayers and for the personal messages and cards. Please forgive me for not acknowledging each of them personally. I'm certain they are helping me in this journey of discovering just what ails me. It is a complete mystery to me, and so far, to my doctors too. I'm learning to live with the continuing symptoms. Mary has been and is incredibly helpful, a most faithful and efficient companion and friend through it all. So please thank her too! This letter is late, but it's the earliest we could make it!

*Love, Lenora, OSB*