



Tucson Oblate Letter ~ May, 2016

May is a rich month as we celebrate the Feast of the ASCENSION OF THE LORD to heaven, bringing his Father the fruits of his incarnate life, and leaving in his disciples the seed of holiness.

Our DAY OF RENEWAL is on the FEAST of PENTECOST, May 15th (see below for schedule). For Christians, the breath of God continues to be present among us as the Holy Spirit, connecting us not only with God but also with the world around us. The Spirit is the feminine principle in the Godhead, the Mother of all creation. Mother Church! The breath symbolizes the living divine reality present in each of us and in all creation.

John 20: 19-23: “After Jesus’ death and his Resurrection he appeared to the disciples, he stood among them and said ‘Peace be with you, as the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’” Jesus breathes new life into his disciples. Just as God breathed into the nostrils of Adam in the book of Genesis, there was new life. The Holy Spirit is a living reality in our lives, always creating and bringing life. The Holy Spirit who was present in the beginning is the same one who comes to our aid in the present moment, this eternal now, to renew and recreate us. May the Spirit gift ALL of you to be followers of Jesus, recreating our world into a world of LOVE.

APRIL PRESENTATION

At the April meeting, Sr. Hope presented on Ch. 6, “Ecological Education and Spirituality” from Laudato Si Paragraph 236. Sr. Hope concentrated on Pope Francis’s discussion of the Eucharist—especially relevant to the Eucharistic charism of the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and our Oblates. Francis quoted, “even when it is celebrated on the humble altar of a country church, the Eucharist is always in some way celebrated on the altar of the world.”

In writing about the Eucharist, Pope Francis quoted Pope John Paul II, Teilhard de Chardin, and Pope Benedict XVI. Benedict wrote about creation, environment, and Eucharist, writing in *The Sacrament of Charity (Sacramentum Caritatis)*, “Jesus ‘draws us into himself.’ The substantial conversion of bread and wine into his body and blood introduces within creation the principal of a radical change, a sort of ‘nuclear fission’ . . . which penetrates to the heart of all being, a change meant to set off a process which transforms reality, a process leading ultimately to the transfiguration of the entire world, to the point where God will be all in all.” For Benedict, this nuclear fission is Love. St. Augustine and Pope Leo the Great both said, “We become what we partake of, we become the body of Christ.” God became human so that humanity might become divine.

Teilhard was a theologian and scientist who saw the entire cosmos as a living host. He believed that each of us lives and develops in consciousness, like living cells in a huge organism. At various times, theologians have described this great being as the total Christ, the cosmic Christ, the Universal Christ, or the Mystical Body of Christ. In Teilhard's vision, it is Christ's task as well as ours to turn the fragmented world, through love, into one immense being, the body of Christ glowing with divine energy. The risen Christ is the one in whom all things hold together. We each live and move and have our being in this "Divine Milieu." But most of us are unaware of our calling. Each Christian is called to take her or his place at the altar of the world and there offer to God the growth and sufferings of the day. When God is seen as present everywhere, one's whole life becomes communion.

Sr. Hope acknowledged that these might be new concepts for some, but reminded us that, just as the universe is expanding, our image of God can expand as well. All of life is about growth, about transformation (*conversatio*) to allow growth into God and growth into the Oneness of the Universe created by our God.

PRESCOTT: Shirley Maday reports that Bethany Forbes will make her enrollment as a candidate for Oblation at the May meeting. In April, Dr. Hirschboeck spoke to the Prescott group on *Laudato Si'*, as she did in Tucson. Nancy suggested that the group read Matthew Kelly's book, *Rediscover Jesus*, Chapter 17, "Radical Relationships." The group continues their study of Michael Casey's book, *The Road to Eternal Life*. For the May 15th meeting they will discuss Ch. 22, pp. 78-81. The meeting will be 1:30 -3:30p.m. at St. Anthony Claret Room.

EAST VALLEY OBLATES: The East Valley Oblates met in April, continuing their study of the Year of Mercy. For more Information on oblate meetings call Nancy Kaib 480-883 8025 or Frank Young 480-219-1505

PHOENIX CENTRAL for information on oblate meetings call Patty Williams, 602-957-1464. The Phoenix group continues studying the Year of Mercy, with Christina Du Bois presenting the in April.

TUCSON Our next meeting will be Sunday MAY 15th 2016. This is a Renewal Day from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m..

Schedule:

9:00 All are welcome to join us for Mass - the Feast of Pentecost.

10:00 Light Breakfast--bagels, donuts, and coffee.

10:30 Video Presentation: Rev. Dr. Jane Tomaine, from the Oblate National Congress last year, speaking on practices in the Rule of Benedict.

11:30 Prayer or sharing with one another on material from the presentation. Library will be open with new books out and a book sale.

12:00 Day Hour: prayer in Chapel with community

12:30 Lunch downstairs. Thanks to all who are bringing salads and desserts. We are providing sandwiches.

2:00 Video Presentation: Sr. Karen Joseph, also from the Oblate National Congress.

3:00 Closing and cleanup

A \$5.00 offering for the cost of the sandwiches would be welcome.

There will be NO REGULAR MEETINGS June, July or August.

A suggestion has been made to have a social in July on the 3rd Sunday (the 17th) in honor of the feast of St. Benedict, and so we can keep in contact with one another. Everyone could bring their favorite ice cream???? No decision has been made yet. Any other ideas in how to keep in contact during the summer? If you have opinions on the social or other matters, please speak with Sr. Hope or one of the Deans.

May the warmth of the summer and God's LOVE flow in all of you. You are a blessing and gift to me.

Sr. Hope

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