



## **TUCSON OBLATE NEWS LETTER**

**NOVEMBER 2015**

Greetings to all the saints here on this earth. *Your journey is a sacred journey. It is about change, growth, discovery, movement and transformation. It is continuously about expanding your vision of what is possible, stretching your soul, teaching you to see clearly and deeply, helping you to listen to the God within you.*

Pope Francis has left us with many challenges, love, and creative ideas in so many areas as he visited us in Sept. Let us continue to study, pray and act on his suggestions.

### **I thank Sr. Kathleen Clare for her reflections on the first Chapter of the Encyclical: “What is happening to our Common Home.”**

Sister Kathleen Clare said that in reflecting on the chapter she came to greater awareness of our planet’s environmental crisis. She urged the Oblates to reflect thoughtfully on the chapter. Sister Kathleen Clare pointed out that Laudati Si’ is written to everyone, not only to Catholics, because all have responsibility to care for our common home. She said the encyclical is a letter of value in awakening reflection on our relationship to all of creation, and on the love of God for us in bestowing the gift of life. Chapter one of the encyclical lays out the indicators of problems affecting the environmental situation of our planet at this time, and warns of increasing and ultimate destruction if action is not taken to mitigate the dangerous course of human activity responsible for decline. All of these problems adversely affect the quality of human life, especially for those who are most vulnerable, who because of their lack of resources, are least able to adapt. The encyclical holds that environmental degradation cannot be combatted unless the causes of human and social degradation are attended to. Pope Francis speaks of the lack of justice in service of profit that sustains a system of global inequality, and that we cannot disregard the wellbeing of the poor, who are a majority of the world. We must be concerned about their suffering, and this means being concerned about global issues.

**Sisters Hope and Kathleen Clare visited our Oblates in Prescott**, a beautiful mountain town. We had the opportunity to do some sharing and Sr. Hope presented her introduction to the encyclical with the group. The group will continue their study of Michael Casey’s book, The Road to Eternal Life, chapters 15 and 16. Their next meeting is NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> 1:30 - 3:30 P.M. at ST. ANTHONY CLARET ROOM.

**On Saturday Oct 31st Sisters Hope and Kathleen Clare drove to Chandler** to meet with the Phoenix Central and Phoenix East Valley Oblates met from 9:30 till noon. Sister Hope gave her talk on Pope Francis’ encyclical. The meeting was well attended. Many ideas were shared relating to the encyclical and how it can be lived in our lives.

**East Valley Phoenix** For more Information, on oblate meetings call Nancy Kaib 480-883 8025 or Frank Young 480-219-1505

**Phoenix Central** for oblate meetings call Patty Williams 602-957-1464

**TUCSON** Our next meeting will be Sunday November 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Doors open at 1:00 for inquirers, candidates and anyone else who would like to come early to use the library, or visit with others. Sister Kathleen Clare will share her reflections on the Chapter 2 of the Encyclical, the “Gospel of Creations.”

### **Inquirers and Candidates**

Oblate Candidates and inquirers meet in prayer room; class begins at 1:00 p.m. {1<sup>st</sup> door on right from chapel upstairs] **Topic Hospitality**. Mary Sheridan leads the class. The class ends at 1:45 to join the larger group

Read “Qualifications of the Cellarer”, Ch. 31 “Reception of the Guest,” Ch. 53 “Table for the Superior and common Guest” Ch. 56” “The Reception of Visiting Monks,” Ch. 61. Optional reading: Benedictine Handbook on Hospitality and The Oblate life Benedictine Hospitality

1. Questions for reflection and sharing. What questions/comments do you have from the last meeting, or from your reading?
2. What does hospitality mean in modern life? What are some ways we can be more hospitable. How does Benedict build in protections for the monastery as a whole through his regulations about guests? Are there similar protections {boundaries} that we need in our practice of hospitality?
3. Benedict talks about caring for all property of the monastery “as vessels of the altar.” Does this seem appropriate for modern life, when so many things are disposable? How might our lives change if we followed this part of the Rule?
- 4 What do you think Benedict means in his discussion of how to respond to impossible requests? Is this advice realistic?

If anyone is getting this letter through mail and has an email address could you let Sister Hope know so you can be on the email list?

The **Kitty** is getting low due to postage for oblates about 70 letters mailed to oblates.

As we close let us remember all the Saints who already live in God, our parents, siblings, friends enemies etc.

Let us remember all the souls who are waiting to be in the Heart of God. JESUS says to us “In the world you will have trouble, but courage! The victory is mine; I have conquered the world.” John 16:33

A blessed THANKSGIVING as we remember all the gifts that we have been blessed with this past year. Thank You for the gift that each of you are to us in being part of our Benedictine Community.

Blessings, Sr. Hope

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