



St. Placid Priory

Welcome to the forest where monastic life thrives, and you will thrive.

The Priory Spirituality Center ♦ The Conference Center ♦ The Priory Store ♦ www.stplacid.org

Fall - Winter

August 2013

Responding to God's Call

By
Postulant Mary Vanek

As a child growing up on the Texas Panhandle, I knew summer had come by the long and loud trilling of the cicadas. Their waves of chittering whirred through the long afternoons of dry heat. We'd run through Elwood Park across the street from St. Mary's Academy grade school, searching the tall live oak trees (the only spot to find more than a couple of trees in one place on our dry, hot tableland) and stare at the papery husks the cicadas left attached to the trees. Those husks would crumble into a papery crinkled dust if we tried to get one intact off the tree the insect had latched onto to molt, only to emerge long enough to sing its song, attract a mate, procreate, and burrow back down into the ground to begin again. My first tactile encounter with mystery.

In the 90 plus degree heat of a late summer afternoon years later, I asked Mother Bernadette how she knew she had a vocation. She and two of her sisters had been at daily Mass for a week while they were visiting relatives in and around Amarillo. I envied them their easy grace and deep peace as we prayed the Mass together. Mother Bernadette smiled, looking past me for the moment toward the trees of Westhaven Park, both of us listening to the rise and fall of the cicadas' song. She told me she felt most truly at home when she was at prayer, praying the Mass with her Sisters.

I wanted that peace, that trust that shone from those Sisters' clear and shining eyes. Most of my working days

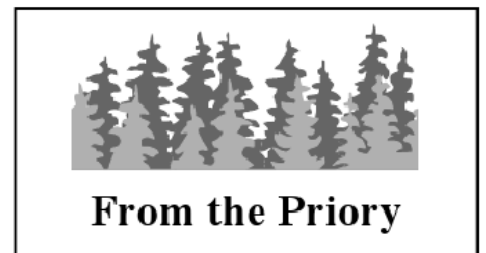
were spent listening to the hysteria of people who needed the help of a police officer, paramedic, or firefighter as I answered the 9-1-1 lines for my city. A good job as far as job security and a paycheck went. And I lived in a nice apartment with two lovely, slightly crazed cats. Even drove a car new enough to have a warranty. Settled. Secure. And my confessor and spiritual guide was a good priest who could actually preach. But some nights I could not sleep for the hollow ache in my heart.



Cicada exiting its shell

My little sister and I went on a pilgrimage of sorts to Sanctuario de Chimayo in northern New Mexico on a late August day trip. I wanted to tell her that I thought I had a vocation to religious life, to a place that would let me listen for the voice of God—with the “ear of my heart” as Father Benedict wrote in the Prologue to his Rule. We stepped outside the mission church with its sacred dirt that has healed enough people it's come to be known as the “Lourdes of America,” and sat in the shade of huge elm, live oak, and maple trees, the cicadas at full-throated chorus. My little sister looked at me and said, yes, you do.

In that moment I let go. In the time that followed, I let the echo of that “yes,” the rise and fall of the cicadas' music teach me to trust the process that unfolded. I donated clothes, books, cats, and wondered at the feeling of finally doing the right things that seeped deeper and deeper into my soul. For every thing I “gave up,” God and the Benedictine Sisters of St. Placid's gave to me the gifts of prayer, of being present in the moment, of trusting in the process. They let me hold lightly onto the bonds of community freely forged in the answer I'd made to the ritual question asked of Benedictine postulants, “What do you seek?” What a relief and deep blessing to be able to answer, “the will of God for me to be found living in this place with these women, my Sisters in Christ.” In America, in the early 21st century, I have finally come home to the place where I now listen with the ear of my heart, attend to God's word, accept the responsibility to do freely what is asked of me, and revel in singing the ancient rhythms of praise and sacrifice, content to leave behind a papery husk that will witness to the fact that I was here—and having heard God's call, I answered it.



From the Priory

January 30-February 5, **Sister Maureen O'Larey** attended the meeting of the Conference of the Benedictine Prioresses at the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson, Arizona.

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Sister Lucy Wynkoop gave a retreat for **St. Michael's women** on February 2 on the topic of Grace.



Liz Norton, Sr. Lucy, & Mary Wharton

Vicki Boeckman & Friends gave a recorder concert here as a fundraiser for St. Placid Priory on February 24. This trio of internationally known musicians was a joy to hear and see. If you missed them, make a note: **Ensemble Electra**, another group Vicki plays with, will be here to perform for us on **February 9, 2014!** See page 4.

March 2-3 was our **Benedictine vocation discernment weekend**, hosted by all the Sisters at St. Placid. Six interested women were in attendance.

Affiliate Mary Vanek is now **Postulant Mary Vanek** as of March 21. Blessings to Postulant Mary in the beginnings of her monastic journey!

The **Knitters & Spinners Retreat** was held at Johanna Mitchell's house on March 23. They all enjoyed a lovely day together.

April 4-7, **Sister Laura Swan** and **Postulant Mary Vanek** attended the **Religious Formation Conference on the Transformation of Religious Life**, hosted by the **Sisters of Providence** in Renton. About 150 attended.

Sister Lucy Wynkoop, Postulant Mary Vanek and **Volunteer Andrea Langeland** attended the annual **Northwest Women's Convocation**, held April 12-13 in Bellevue. The theme was **Grace on the Margins**.

The **Priory Store** was represented at the **Women's Convocation** by **Sister**

Maureen O'Larey and **Oblate Alexandra Johnson**, who talked with many women about **St. Placid Priory** and the **Priory Spirituality Center**—as well as the religious articles they displayed and sold.



Alexa, Sr. Maureen at the Convocation

Sisters Maureen O'Larey, Laura Swan, Therese Gonnevillie and **Postulant Mary Vanek** attended the annual **Knights of Columbus** clergy appreciation dinner on April 18. Thanks to all our Knight friends for this dinner and for the support they provide for new vocations!

On May 21, **Postulant Mary Vanek** and **Sister Lucy Wynkoop** spoke with young adults at **St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church** in Tacoma. Their topic was "Mary and the Mystery of Christ in the Church."

Our **Tacoma Young Ladies Institute** friends came to St. Placid on May 15 to bless us with their company and their annual **Paper Shower**. It was a pleasure to visit with them once more. We are so grateful for their generosity!



YLI members Justine Fleck and Freda Echtle chat with **Sister Sharon McDonald** and **Sister Laura Swan**



Sister Margaret Ann Rohling, OSB
1921 – 2013

Sister Margaret Ann (Finette) Rohling died at the age of 91 on June 24. She was born December 21, 1921 in Swanville, MN to Joseph and Rose (Gau) Rohling. She entered St. Benedict's Convent, St. Joseph, MN, and made her Monastic Profession July 11, 1942.

Sister Margaret Ann was one of the 35 founding members of St. Placid Priory, established June 28, 1952. She taught at Holy Rosary, Visitation and St. Ann's Schools in Tacoma; All Saints' School, Puyallup; and Queen of Angels School in Port Angeles. Sister Margaret Ann served frequently as Principal, most notably at Holy Rosary and Queen of Angels Schools where she was a much beloved leader.

Sister retired to the Priory in 1998, where she continued to serve in various ways. She was very welcoming of guests, and spent time visiting with them, listening to their stories and often their troubles. They departed confident of her wisdom and the power of her prayer. Sister's first priority was a life of prayer, spending hours before the Blessed Sacrament praying for the many requests given to her and to the community. Sister Margaret Ann is survived by her brother James of California, many nieces, nephews and cousins, and her Sisters at St. Placid Priory.

Donations in memory of Sr. Margaret Ann may be sent to St. Placid Priory, 500 College St NE, Lacey WA 98516.

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The **Romanian Mothers and Sisters of Holy Theophany Monastery** visited us on May 19. We enjoyed getting to know each other better, telling stories, and sampling refreshments.



Sister Seraphina, Sister Maureen, and Mothers Anastasia, Johanna and Irene



Sister Sharon McDonald, OSB
Monastic Profession: July 11, 1963



Sister Lucy Wynkoop, OSB
Monastic Profession: July 11, 1963

Oblates

By Anne Frichtl, Obl.OSB

Stability was the theme of our Oblate retreat June 2-3. Like the steadfastness of the sun rising and setting each day, the ebb and flow of the tides, regular exercise, sleep, times to engage, times to reflect and pray, we benefit from stability in our lives. In our explorations, we discovered that the Benedictine commitment to stability involves that of place, heart, purpose and state of mind, and that our primary stability is in God.

Some of the ways we experience a sense of being grounded and stable is through balance, commitment, wholeness, awareness, discerning how to be fully present to God, to ourselves, and to others. The Rule of Benedict calls for steady attention to everything: prayer, service, continuity, and love of one another. (RB 72.8) Stability encompasses virtuous traits such as endurance and forbearance, yet rigidity misses the mark. Stability does not ask us to remain in a place where we cannot grow and flourish.

“When life seems unclear, out of control, wavering, it is stability in a Monastery of the Heart that leads us from one day to the next.” —Joan Chittister, on Stability of Heart.



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Golden Jubilee



Sister Sharon McDonald and **Sister Lucy Wynkoop** celebrated 50 years of vowed monastic life this year. They renewed their Monastic Promise on July 11, and on July 14 family and friends came to help us celebrate. We are so grateful to God for the vocations, gifts and community-making efforts of these two Sisters!

Visitation School's Distinguished Alum of the Year



Sister Sharon McDonald, 3rd from right, with members of her family who attended the April 21 celebration at Visitation Catholic Church, Tacoma

Sister Sharon McDonald's family has six generations of membership history at **Visitation Catholic Church** in Tacoma. **Visitation School** chose **Sister Sharon** for their **2013 Distinguished Alumni of the Year** award. Sister Sharon, accompanied by **Sister Maureen O'Larey**, was honored with a plaque during a ceremony and reception at Visitation Parish School on April 21. The day was full of memories, stories and laughter.

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The June 22-23 **Viva!** vocation discernment retreat, sponsored by communities of **Women Religious** in the **Archdiocese of Seattle**, was held at St. Placid Priory. Three women attended, as well as three Sister staff from various communities. **Viva!** is an annual event—please tell women interested in religious life about it. For information, they can call Sr. Lucy at 360.438.2595.



Viva! Participants and Sisters, June 2013

We celebrated our **Foundation Day** on June 28—61 years of blessing! New Oblates **Kathleen Allen, Robert Eicher** and **Brian Peterson** made their oblation; **Andrea Langeland** and **Molly Cady** became Oblate Candidates.



Kathleen Allen, Andrea Langeland, Robert Eicher, Brian Peterson and Molly Cady



Sr. Maureen co-signs Brian Peterson's oblation document as he watches

GOINGS ON AT THE CENTER

Opening in Presence, a monthly contemplation group beginning in the fall, is offered on second Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m.-Noon. (**October 9, November 13, December 11, 2013 and January 8, February 12, March 12, April 9, 2014**) Each month we gather to experience opening in God. Through deep silence, breath, movement, and words of facilitation, we explore opening inside a specific theme (sacred word, sacred image, interior image, sound, and more). We finish each session with reflection, rest, and sharing and then return to our daily living renewed and prompted in loving action. The cost for the program is \$350 for 7 sessions. **Jamie Deering** is the facilitator for this program. She trained with the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation.

Oasis Contemplative Time

Like most people in our culture, I am caught up in a fast-paced lifestyle. If I am not doing something, I pace the floors and find it difficult to slow down and just sit, reflect or even read a book. This past year I decided to take part in the Oasis Program, a time for contemplation, rest, reflection, spiritual direction, reading and small-group sharing, and simply participating in the slower rhythm of monastic life through prayer and breaking bread with the Sisters. Surrounded by the beauty and sounds of nature and birds, Oasis allowed me to explore the gifts of discernment, self-discovery and silence. While difficult at first, I gave myself permission just TO BE without distractions, noise and demands. Balancing silent reflection and a slower pace of life with daily demands and joys has become a priority for me; because of this, I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in Oasis and to the Sisters and my companions in the Program.

—Linda Fredericks

Registration forms for long term programs are on our website www.stplacid.org in Spirituality Center Programs & Retreats

To see current information about the **Oasis** contemplative time program, go to www.stplacid.org Programs & Retreats—Long Term Programs.

Retreat Prayer Poem... by Byron

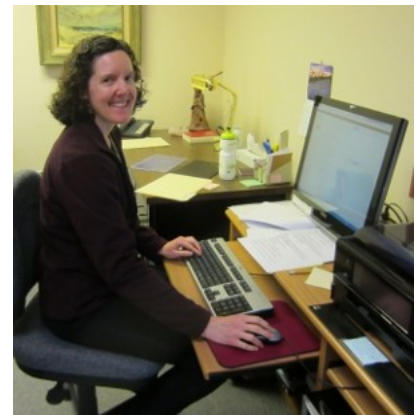
“God, Let me grow in my awareness of you. Let me be the tree, with my top branches outstretched, leaves turned toward your sun, drinking in your light. Let me feel the energy move through my trunk, past the broken branches of my pain; finding my roots deep in your earth, drinking tears from years of fears, dilute them with your rain. Let me be the stained glass, with my own combination of the common colors of humanity; showing their truest beauty when I turn to you, and your light shines through me.”

A Still, Quiet Place... by Evonne

Where can I go when all the world seems so noisy? To escape the have to's of my daily, weekly and yearly obligations? To SEEK calm, quiet, serenity?—able to listen to my spirit, turn off my thoughts—a quiet, sacred space where I can just be—Still, Quiet. St. Placid Priory Spirituality Center provides me that space where I can go on personal retreat and be reminded of myself—the essence of who I am and the God plan that is my life.

Feeling Whole... by Samantha

Sometimes I feel like one of God's special outcasts. The Sisters and volunteers here have made me feel wanted, and like a member of an eclectic family. Thank you. Thank you for making my heart feel whole for these past few days. I have been blessed.



We are very grateful for **Andrea Langeland's** volunteer work from January through May.

Program Information Pages 5 – 7

+ Our retreats include the opportunity to join the Sisters for Eucharist, meals, and the Liturgy of the Hours.

+ Spiritual Direction may be available on retreat for an additional fee. Please request an appointment when you register.

+ For information on our presenters, go to our website: www.stplacid.org and look under Spirituality Center, Programs and Retreats.

Loving Kindness Contemplation Group

September 14
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

Explore opening and responding in Presence through a loving kindness meditation. Each line of the meditation is enhanced through contemplation. As we contemplate, we are guided in responding to what is opening. Through journaling, sharing, movement and more, participants actively respond in God, for God, expressing care and acceptance for self and others in all situations and relationships.

Register by prior Friday \$60
Bring a sack lunch, water bottle, notebook, pen/pencil. Minimum 6, Maximum 15
Jamie Deering

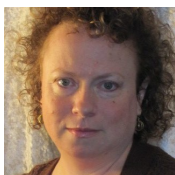


Tools for Teaching with Spirit

September 21
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

Sunday school success depends on the teacher's own spirit. Volunteer staff or parents who teach Sunday school will cultivate joy and strength as we explore the best practices for using story, song/music, prayer and poetry and arts and crafts to promote spiritual development in all age groups.

Register by prior Friday \$65
Bring a sack lunch, journal, favorite prayers, songs, and stories. Minimum 5, Maximum 14
Julie Shannon



Meditation

September 28
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

In this workshop we will review core traditional spiritual and modern secular meditation practices. We will also review the scientific findings reflecting the documented effects of different meditation practices. We will have some introductory practice of several forms of meditation including some technology-facilitated meditation.

Register by prior Friday \$50
Bring a sack lunch Minimum 5
Jerry R. DeVore



Introduction to the Enneagram

October 5
Saturday 9:00AM-4:00PM

The Enneagram of Personality Types is a tool for recognizing how habits of thinking, feeling and acting cause us to live under the illusion of separateness from God and each other. Learn the nine distinct world-views that make up the Enneagram and begin to discover your own type. A copy of *The Essential Enneagram* by Dr. David Daniels and Virginia Price, PhD (rev. 2009) is included in the class fee.

Register by prior Friday \$60
Bring a sack lunch Minimum 6, Max. 20
Debra Janison



Praying 24/7

October 12
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

Praying is being with God. But 24/7? It is possible—by choosing to be aware of God who is with us 24/7. Experience that presence through easy yoga, qigong, walking meditation, Taize chanting, drawing, journaling, reading, watching, breathing, and relaxing. It's a day of giving and receiving God's Love.

Register by prior Friday \$50
Bring a sack lunch, yoga or exercise mat, journal
Minimum 5
Roy DeLeon



The Arts of Holy Russia

October 19
Saturday 9:30AM-3:30PM

Explore the uplifting and inspirational beauties of this great mystical tradition. Listen to recordings of exquisite choral music, sing liturgical chant, and behold slides of fascinating icons and sacred spaces. Learn and be nourished by the power and depth of Russian Orthodox spirituality, its prayer practices, and its art forms.

Register by prior Friday \$60
Bring a sack lunch Minimum 10, Max. 30
Victoria Scarlett
Joseph Anderson



Writes of Passage

October 26
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

Join us in this continuing series of workshops on using the art and practice of poetry for working through difficulties and finding the beauty in the experiences of our lives. This year's class will offer more exercises for new and returning participants. All are welcome, and no previous writing experience is necessary.

Register by prior Friday \$50
Bring a sack lunch and a journal
Minimum 5
Vicky Edmonds



Silent Centering Prayer Retreat

November 1-3
Friday 7:15PM-Sunday 1:30

Take your relationship with God and your Centering Prayer practice deeper on this weekend silent retreat. Retreat includes periods of Centering Prayer and time for solitude within the intentional silence observed throughout the entire retreat. Intended for those with

Continued from page 5...

at least six months of daily Centering Prayer practice.

Register by prior Friday **\$180**
Minimum 6, Maximum 9

Kay Kukowski
Mary Solberg



Grandmother God: Learning to Love as God Loves

November 2
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

How is it that after a lifetime of loving we become grandparents and discover a love within us we had never known before? What does this tell us about how God loves us? Using the experience of grandparenthood, we break open our thinking on Images of God and discover a new glimpse of divine love.

Register by prior Friday **\$50**
Bring a sack lunch
Minimum 5

Kathleen M. Kichline



Liturgy of the Hours

November 9
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

In the last fifty years, there has been a renewed interest in the daily Prayer of the Church, also known as the Divine Hours or "fixed-hour prayer." The workshop will focus on how to pray the Liturgy of the Hours of the Roman Catholic tradition; it will also explore the history of the Divine Hours and look at many other resources available for daily prayer.

Register by prior Friday **\$50**
Bring a sack lunch
Minimum 5

Kenneth Peterson



Exploring the Mystery of Forgiveness

November 16
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

In this class we will explore some of these questions: What is forgiveness and what isn't? What areas, people, and situations in our lives call to us for forgiveness? What is expected of us and who expects it? Where are we in the process of forgiveness? What practices might help us along the way?

Register by prior Friday **\$50**

Bring a sack lunch
Minimum 8, Max. 22
Cherry Haisten



Negotiating Widowhood With Grace

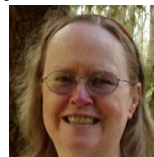
November 23
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

Whether one enters widowhood after a prolonged illness or due to unexpected death, change has occurred: Nothing is as it was, nor will it be again. How can one negotiate this experience with grace? We will explore periodic rituals after the funeral, praying our laments, dealing with rings-n-things, and filling empty hours with meaning.

Register by prior Friday **\$50**

Bring a sack lunch and a journal.
Minimum 5, Max. 10

Bee Jay Mar



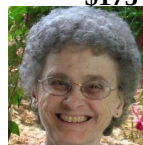
Advent Retreat: Watch and Pray

November 29 – December 1
Friday 7:15PM-Sunday 1:00PM

A silent beginning to Advent may deepen your journey to Christmas. The opening session will involve prayer, relaxation and preparation for the retreat with some materials for possible use during the retreat. The retreat will close with group prayer and sharing. A spiritual director will be available for those who wish, to listen with you as you discern the movement of God in your life.

Register by prior Friday: **\$140**
with spiritual direction **\$175**

Minimum 3, Max. 10
Therese Gonneville OSB



Advent Grace Bearers

December 14
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

What is grace? Mary was full of grace and so is each of us. We will reflect on our own grace-filled experiences using slides, music, reflection questions and sharing. We will conclude by practicing a *lectio on life*, and creating our own portraits of grace.

Register by prior Friday **\$50**

Bring a sack lunch

Minimum 20

Lucy Wynkoop OSB



Discerning Life Choices for Women

January 3-5, 2014
Friday 7:15PM – Sunday Noon

In silence and stillness within and without, allow yourself to become soft clay in the Hands of the Potter. Ask, "What is God's plan for my life, now or in the future?" The retreat opening will involve prayer, guided meditation, and some materials for reflection. On Saturday there will be a presentation: "Questions to Help Me in My Discernment," as well as story time, and optional spiritual direction. The closing session on Sunday will have group sharing and a closing prayer/ritual.

Register by prior Friday **\$160**
with spiritual direction **\$195**

Minimum 3, Maximum 10

Therese Gonneville, OSB

Life Review: Your Mini Autobiography

January 11
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

To share one's life story can be a daunting enterprise, unless taken in manageable doses. Participants will be given a series of thought provoking questions to stir up "resting memories." Responses will result in a composite that becomes a mini autobiography. Prayer, humor and song add to the musings of the day.

Register by prior Friday **\$50**

Bring a sack lunch,

notebook and pencil.

Minimum 5, Max. 12

Jackie Huetter



Please see
www.stplacid.org for
presenter information and
program descriptions

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Beginner's Silent Retreat

January 17-19
Friday 7:15PM-Sunday 1:30PM

Take the plunge into a silent retreat. Learn firsthand new ways of being and resting in God by praying, using scripture, journaling, and art. We will begin with an introduction to a silent retreat, make the retreat, and have a closing with opportunities to share what happened in the silence.

Register by prior Friday \$160
with spiritual direction \$195

Minimum 5, Maximum 10
Lucy Wynkoop OSB

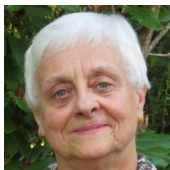
Introduction to Centering Prayer

January 18
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

Centering Prayer is a form of contemplative prayer, a prayer of being, when our hearts listen in silence. This day-long introduction covers the basics of Centering Prayer, with ample time for practicing Centering Prayer and with opportunities to share experiences and ask questions.

Register by prior Friday \$60
Bring a sack lunch
Minimum 8, Maximum 30

Cherry Haisten, Kay Kukowski



**Rachel and Leah:
At Odds with Ourselves**

January 25
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

We break open the biblical story of Rachel and Leah as a model of the conflicting values and messages that we, as women, carry within us. "In fleshy, fallible stories of human interaction, in the midst of and despite our human

Ensemble Electra



**St. Placid Fundraiser
February 9, 2014
2 – 3:30 PM**

Vicki Boeckmann – Recorder
Tekla Cunningham – Violin
Jillon S. Dupree – Harpsichord

Page 8 for details and tickets

dealings, God's purpose breaks through in our lives." *Sisters in Scripture*, p. 48
Register by prior Friday \$50
Bring a sack lunch
Minimum 5
Kathleen M. Kichline

Benedictine Vocation Discernment

January 25-26, 2014
Saturday 9:00am—Sunday 12:30pm

Come join the Sisters to listen to your call from Scripture and the Prologue of the Rule of Benedict about Benedictine community. Experience being with the St. Placid Sisters for reflection time, prayer, work and leisure. If you are a Catholic single woman discerning whether you have a vocation to a Benedictine way of life, this is a wonderful opportunity to share in community life with St. Placid Sisters.

Register by prior Friday No fee
Benedictine Sisters
Contact Sister Lucy Wynkoop at lucywynkoop@gmail.com or call her at 360-438-2595

**Please see
www.stplacid.org for
presenter information and
program descriptions**

**Beauty:
Our Connection to the Infinite**

February 1
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

In his book *Beauty: The Invisible Embrace*, John O'Donohue suggests that beauty connects us with the infinite and calls us to our highest selves. This is a day of "beauty immersion" -- let the beauty of music, nature, art feed you. Find what rekindles your soul and connects you with the Infinite.

Register by prior Friday \$60
Bring a sack lunch and journal.

Min. 6, Max. 16
Carol Spangler
Jane Fleming



God is... I am... Affirmative Prayer

February 8
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

We will study Jesus' teachings to learn how to affirm God's truth for us. Affirmative prayer helps us to turn to God, to lift our awareness of Spirit moving within us, to be open to accepting God's gifts for us. We will practice developing personal affirmative prayers.

Register by prior Friday \$50
Bring a sack lunch and a Bible
Minimum 5, Max. 20
Janet Rhodes



**Wisdom Women
Book Group:**

Our first weekly meeting is on October 14, 7:30-9:00 pm in the Spirituality Center. Our first sharing will be on *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor (Introduction, Chapters 1 & 2). For information about further dates and the two other books we'll read call **Sr. Mary Giles** at **438.1771**. New members can join this lively group at any time. There is a \$50 per year donation to the Priory Spirituality Center to attend Wisdom Women.

For This We Give Thanks

We give God thanks for the lives of our dear friends who teach us that *“Love is greater than death.”* —Song of Songs 8:6

We remember gratefully: our kind and generous Holy Rosary friend **Margaret Chaloner**; our long time friend and Tacoma St. Placid Club member **George Bader, Jr**; our loving and vivacious friend **Yvonne Clark**; and Sister Lucy's young and inspiring niece **Sarah Ann Hamilton**.

With grateful, joyous hearts we want you to know that **Sister Laura Swan's** book,



St. Placid Fundraiser:
Ensemble Electra
February 9, 2014
2 – 3:30 PM

In February 2013, **Vicki Boeckmann and Friends**, a recorder trio, performed for us. They were so well received that another group Vicki plays with will perform in 2014.

The Seattle-based trio, **Ensemble Electra**, performs with energy and passion the rich, varied repertoire for recorder, violin and harpsichord, specializing in music of the 17th and 18th centuries as well as newly-composed works. The trio's energetic, spontaneous style makes for playful and engaging concerts which appeal to audiences of all ages.

See details on ticket order form at right—and remember, children and teens are free!

The Forgotten Desert Mothers, has just been published in Chinese!

We give thanks for those who so graciously extend our presence—for example, by those who were pall bearers for our **Sister Margaret Ann**, and by the **Priory Knitters and Spinners, St. Placid Associates, Oblates and Friends** who provided food and flowers as we gathered to celebrate Sister Margaret Ann's Vigil and Mass of Resurrection.

Priscilla Pope-Levison brought her class at **Seattle Pacific University** to spend a retreat day and night of prayer and silence at the Priory Spirituality Center. For all who come to St. Placid to pray, to regroup, and to refocus we give thanks to God.



Postulant Mary Vanek leads the procession with the Crucifix; Teresa Burgman-Goen guides pallbearers (L-R) Charles McCullough, John Meier, Jim Johnson, Darrell Jesse, Larry Erickson and David Young, with Sisters Damaris Zander and Maureen O'Larey

As a community, we at St. Placid give thanks for God's guidance as we soon begin formulating our Direction Statements for the next four years. We once again hear the Call to individual and communal Transformation: yet again to divest, to trust, to breathe new life into our Benedictine Monastic values.

St. Placid Priory Fundraiser Feb 9, 2014, 2-3:30 pm

Ticket Order Form

Ensemble Electra

Vicki Boeckmann on Recorder
Tekla Cunningham on Violin
Jillon Stoppels Dupree on Harpsichord

Please fill in form, add check or money order payable to **St. Placid Priory & mail to: Sr. Sharon - Tickets St. Placid Priory 500 College St NE Lacey, WA 98516**

Name: _____
 Address: _____ Apt # _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Day Phone: _____ Eve. Phone: _____
 E-mail address: _____

AGE	PRICE	# OF TICKETS	TOTAL
ADULT	\$25.00	x <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
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CHILD OR TEEN	FREE	* <input type="text"/>	N/C
		* Please fill in above the number of children / teens in your family who will attend.	\$ <input type="text"/>
		Your check # here: <input type="text"/>	Total enclosed



Thanks for your support of the Benedictine Sisters of St. Placid Priory and our ministries!

As a monastic community, we the Benedictine Sisters of St. Placid Priory cultivate a contemplative spirit that leads to hospitality and works of justice. We witness Gospel values in building community. We are committed to nurturing spiritual growth in ourselves and others, collaborative leadership, stewardship of the environment, and taking risks in following God's call.

The Priory Spirituality Center

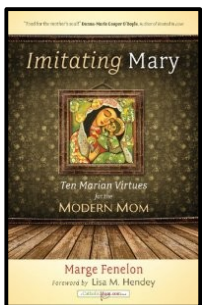
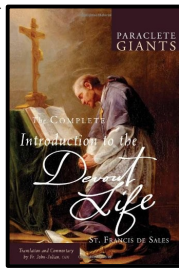
is an ecumenical Christian ministry that encourages people of all faiths to seek and discern the voice of God in their lives and in the world. We offer a peaceful and contemplative setting for personal reflection. We encourage and challenge people to know the presence of God in their lives through classes, workshops, retreats and individual spiritual direction.

The Priory Spirituality Center is a ministry of St. Placid Priory and reflects the Benedictine values of peace, hospitality, community, learning and prayerful discernment.



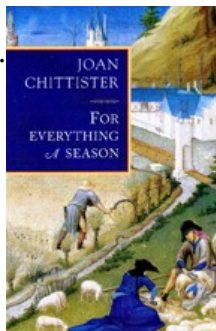
Sister Laura's Scriptorium:
Books that Merit Attention

The Complete Introduction to the Devout Life by St. Francis De Sales. Translation and Commentary by Fr. John-Julian, OJN. Paraclete Press, 2013. I spent my retreat with St. Francis de Sales and found him to be a good choice. St. Francis wrote specifically for lay people, guiding them toward a deep and mature spirituality in the midst of professions and involvement in greater society. I particularly appreciated that Fr. John-Julian's annotations are side by side to the text itself, thus easy to use. Find out why St. Francis de Sales remains a popular Doctor of the Church.



Imitating Mary. Ten Marian Virtues for a Modern Mom by Marge Fenelon. Ave Maria Press, 2013. A popular Catholic journalist presents aspects from the life of Mary, the mother of Jesus, as a model for modern mothers. Her lenses include Mary's fiat, patience, trust, obedience, endurance, courage, strength, hope, faith and joy. Readers will relate to her endearing stories of raising her own children.

For Everything a Season by Joan Chittister, OSB. Orbis Books, 2013. Through familiar verses from the Book of Ecclesiastes Sister Joan invites us to reflect on seeming contrasts and contradictions in life. As with most of her writing, her concern is with our maturing in the spiritual journey by becoming more aware of those areas where we are unseeing, deaf, and numb. This is a nice resource for prayer.



Registration: You may use this form to register for a day program, a retreat program or a private retreat. **The Center is open for private retreats unless a programmed retreat is scheduled.** For more information, call 360.438.2595, fax 360.438.9236 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org Please make checks payable to: **The Priory Spirituality Center**, located at 500 College St NE, Lacey WA 98516.

Please register me for the following program/s &/or retreat/s:

Program _____

Program Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Tel _____ Eve Tel _____

Email _____

Commuter? _____ Overnight? _____ (Willing to share a double room if necessary? Yes _____ No _____)

Spiritual Direction may be available by appointment. Please call 360.438.2595

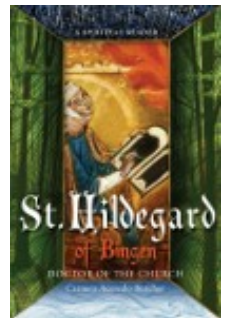
We request half the registration fee as a non-refundable deposit for a program or retreat at the time of registration to confirm space. Any donation you make above program costs will be used for scholarships.

Full Payment enclosed \$ _____

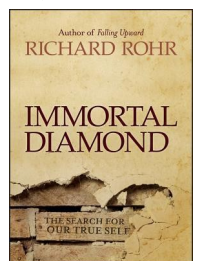
Deposit enclosed \$ _____

Scholarship Donation enclosed \$ _____

St. Hildegard of Bingen: a Spiritual Reader by Carmen Acevedo Butcher. Paraclete Press, 2007. Curious about our newest Doctor of the Church? After a brief introduction to her life, Carmen provides an introduction and lovely poetic translations of her songs and other writings. Hildegard's vibrant spirit and brilliance shine through. I highly recommend this as a heart-nurturing introduction.



Falling Upward: a Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life by Richard Rohr and **Immortal Diamond: The Search for Our True Self** by Richard Rohr. Jossey-Bass, 2011/2013. Each is a valuable resource for integrating our yearning for the Divine, a deepening prayer life born of hunger, and our growth as human persons. While thought-provoking, Father Rohr is quite readable. I appreciate his diverse resources.





**Benedictine Sisters
St. Placid Priory**
The Priory Spirituality Center
The Conference Center
The Priory Store
500 College St NE
Lacey, WA 98516-5339

Fall - Winter
August 2013

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What's New at the Priory Store –

by Sharon McDonald, OSB

“It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is most responsive to change.” --Charles Darwin

How does one stay resilient and responsive during times of change, of transition, or of re-inventing the familiar? Two ways come to my awareness: praying and finding one's center in Christ; and connecting with each other, giving and receiving God's love.

At the Priory Store we offer many books on prayer, discernment, spiritual direction and guidance. In meditating and reflecting we are guided by the voice and grace of God's Spirit: “Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ear will hear a voice behind you saying, 'This is the way, walk in it.'” --Isaiah 30:21

Reading the lives of the Saints and stories of companions on the Way, who time and time again learned to let go, adapt and thrive, teaches us that whatever our circumstances we too can find our Center and Balance in Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. --John 14:6 One gift that is often purchased here is a bronze cross created by the Monks of Maria Laach Abbey which strengthens us with the promise of Jesus: “I am with you always.” --Matthew 28:20

Celebrating family events like Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation by giving gifts that honor these and other sacred moments is a way to grace one's own personal life while simultaneously blessing others. A Priory Store card made by the Carmelite Sisters of Reno reminds us: “What we do with our heart affects the whole universe.”

When you want to deepen your center of stability in the midst of change, to renew your belief that “Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever,” (Hebrews 13:8) do connect with us at the Priory Store!

Spirituality Center Staff

Carolyn Galloway – Center Administrator
Lucy Wynkoop, OSB – Program Coordinator
Mary Giles Mailhot, OSB – Staff
Monika Ellis, OSB – Staff
Therese Gonnevillle, OSB – Staff
Laura Swan, OSB – Staff
Camille Wooden, Obl.OSB – Weekend Hospitality
Cheryl Gudger, Obl.OSB – Weekend Hospitality

Directions

Coming South on I-5

Take Exit 109
Right turn onto Martin Way
Right at next light onto College St. NE
Second Right turn is our driveway

Coming North on I-5

Take Exit 109
Left turn onto Martin Way
Right at second light onto College St. NE
Second Right turn is our driveway

The Priory Store welcomes as payment VISA and MasterCard. We gratefully continue to accept telephone orders and special orders for books and religious articles. Call us at 360-438-1771.

The Store, located off the lobby in the Priory, is open Friday Noon to 3:00 PM, and Saturday 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM.