



# 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](http://www.stplacid.org)

Fall - Winter

August 2015

## Convergence

By Sharon McDonald, OSB

Our Candidate Maureen Cleary treasures this picture of the Annunciation by Henry Ossawa Tanner (1898). It shows the Holy Spirit as Light, announcing to Mary that she is to be the Mother of God. In this picture, Heaven and Earth are connected. The Eternal touches the Temporal. When Candidate Maureen moved to Olympia from Portland she had her own vivid experience of the Sacred meeting the Ordinary.

As part of her move to Washington state, Maureen went to the Department of Licensing to get new car license plates. She was amazed to see that her new car license plates ended with "VOW." In her heart she knew that she was being called to re-enter religious life. With inner Joy she knew this license plate was an outward sign and grace pointing toward and inviting her to surrender to this interior grace and moment of truth.

Our live-in Oblate Barbara Robertson also recently experienced a convergence of ordinary events that confirmed for her the wisdom of Zaddock Hakohen of Lubin: *"The first premise of faith is to believe that there is no such thing as happenstance.... Every detail, small or great, they are all from the Holy One."* In 2013 Barbara left 14 years of missionary work with the Lutheran Church in Morogoro, Tanzania,



Henry Ossawa Tanner, *The Annunciation*, 1898, Philadelphia Museum of Art.

knowing that somehow she was being called to continue to work in the mission field but in the USA. In the midst of transition and re-entering American culture, Barbara unsuccessfully looked for employment. She was discouraged and wondered what God planned for her.

In August a year ago, Barbara received an email from Sister Laura telling her that St Martin University's Office of International Programs was looking for a teacher. The grace of that life changing email proved to hold God's tangible guidance for Barbara who is now an adjunct instructor of students who have come to the US from abroad.

In May, the Priory Community discerned that Postulant Molly was ready to enter the Novitiate. The day after receiving this Good News affirming her desire to continue the Monastic journey, Molly went out for an early morning walk. She was hugely surprised and happy to see that the lilac tree she transplanted a

year ago was thriving and blooming. The connection between the transplanted and blooming tree and Molly's own journey of being re-rooted and now blossoming did not go

unnoticed by Molly. "This is such an affirmation of my becoming the person God is calling me to be!"

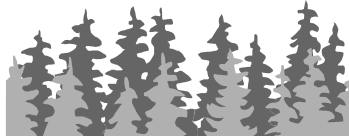
The logo for Pope Francis' Year of Consecrated Life says:

*Wake Up the World!*

The psalmist in Psalm 5 says: *"At dawn, I will make ready and watch for You, O God. I will watch for You, for Your Presence, for your Guidance."*

May we each continue to live a life dedicated to manifesting God's call and action in our lives. *May it be so!*





## From the Priory

**LaVon Hardison**, our friend and local jazz and gospel singer, graced our January 4 Epiphany party this



year with presence and her songs—what a delight for us and all our friends who attended.

**Sister Maureen O'Larey**, former prioress of St. Placid, spent part of her sabbatical on a journey to Tanzania from January 6 to March 10. She took with her some donated supplies, and she helped the **Sisters at St. Agnes, Chipole**, do some needed remodeling. Sister Maureen has now returned home, ending her sabbatical on April 30 of this year.



**Sister Maureen O'Larey** (back row) with **Sister Redempta** (far left), students, teachers, and **Sister Henricka** (far right), headmistress, at St. Agnes School, Chipole.

On February 1, **Sound Counterpoint** played at our fundraising concert. A chamber group composed of **Linda Melsted** on Baroque Violin, **Curtis Foster** on Baroque Oboe, **Miyo Aoki** on Recorder, and **Jonathan Oddie**

on Harpsichord made some wonderful music that Sunday afternoon.

**Sister Monika Ellis** and her sister **Katie Callahan**, along with **Jim Christianson**, **Liz Langeland** and **Chris Lubinski**, went to **Holden Village** February 8-13. They provided spiritual direction and an introduction to spinning and other fiber arts to the community there.



**Sister Monika** adjusts bobbin for a spinning student; **Jim Christianson** in background

February 13-15, **Sister Lucy Wynkoop** attended a workshop on addiction called "Walking with the Wounded" at Our Lady of Peace Retreat House in Beaverton, Oregon.

**Katrina Covert** organized a retreat here for two classes of fifth graders from **St. Patrick's of Tacoma** on February 26. She, as well as another teacher and several parents, accompanied them. **Postulant Molly** shared her vocation story, and **Sister Lucy** spoke about St. Benedict and Benedictine saints. The youngsters were interested and focused, and asked good questions.

Five participants, including three high school seniors, attended our February 28-March 1 **Benedictine Vocation Retreat** this year. The community especially enjoyed the informal time spent with them in the evening.

From Easter Sunday, April 5 to Saturday April 11, our cook/kitchen manager **Keith Underwood** was on mission with a group from **St. Michael's parish** to a village near Juarez, Mexico.

A March 6 fundraising party at St. Placid, given by her friends for our House Manager **Lee Miller** to help with medical expenses, was very well attended. Lively music was provided by the **Artesian Rumble Arkestra** and the **Olympia Peace Choir**.

During Lent, **Sister Laura Swan** put out a used book table in our lobby to raise funds to help renovate the elementary school children's dorms at **St. Agnes, Chipole**. Thanks to everyone who helped by buying books.

Our prioress **Sister Sharon McDonald** attended April 22-24 meeting of the regional **Leadership Conference of Women Religious** meeting in West Seattle.

The **Viva! Vocation Retreat** sponsored by the **Seattle Archdiocese** was held at St. Placid May 2-3, with six participants and six Sister facilitators of various orders, including **Sister Lucy Wynkoop**.



**Viva! facilitators and participants**

**Sister Lucy** also attended the May 15-16 meetings of the **Religious Formation Conference** and the **National Religious Vocation Conference** in Beaverton, held at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon.

On May 20, our dear friends of the **Young Ladies' Institute**, Tahoma Chapter 67, showered us with paper products. We enjoyed sitting for a good visit with our friends; we are so grateful for all they do for us.

Continued from page 2...

St. Martin's University student **Lisa Dougan** served as an intern at the Spirituality Center from January through April of this year. She was a great help to Center staff who were very thankful for her help. We wish Lisa well!



Teachers and students from nearby **Chinook Middle School** spent a day of service with us on May 29. They did some outdoor cleanup, led by **Oblate Liz Langeland**.



**Sister Sharon McDonald sits with Chinook Middle School students during their Day of Compassion.**

At an Evening Praise ritual on June 9, **Molly Cady** became a novice, and will now be known as **Novice Molly**.



Our June 10-17 community retreat included four days with conferences by **Kathy McNany, OSB** of Emmanuel Monastery, Baltimore, Maryland, followed by four days of silence.



The community always looks forward to this retreat and is very grateful for this time.

**Sisters Sharon McDonald and Laura Swan** attended the Chapter meeting of The **Federation of St. Benedict** in Duluth, Minnesota, July 14-20. Delegates elected **Sister Kerry**



**Sister Damaris Zander** celebrated 70 years of vowed religious life at Morning Praise on July 11, the Feast of St. Benedict. Community members and her family and friends were present. The ritual was followed by a reception in our multipurpose room, with good things to eat provided by Chef Keith Underwood. What a joyful day!

Continued from Column 1...

**O'Reilly** of St. Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, Minnesota as president.



**Sisters Laura Swan and Sharon McDonald at Federation Chapter**

## Oblates

**Camille Wooden Obl SB** attended the NAABOD 2015 Biennial Meeting on "Nurturing Benedictine Spirituality: From Theory to Practice" at Subiaco Abbey in Subiaco, Arkansas July 10-15, 2014. Camille brought back information to share with other Oblates here.

**Cheryl Gudger Obl SB** met with Benedictine Oblates from across the country at **St. Scholastica Monastery** in Atchison, Kansas. **Irene Nowell, OSB** presented "The Psalms Belong to You."

On June 28 **Carlos Brosas** and **Liz Langeland** became Oblates, **Jolene Russell** became an Oblate Candidate, and **Natasha Nay** transferred her Oblation from St. Benedict's Monastery in Bakerstown, Pennsylvania to St. Placid Priory. **Anne Cacciari** plans to become an Oblate Candidate in the fall.



**Jolene Russell, Oblate Candidate, with Liz Langeland, Natasha Nay, and Carlos Brosas, new Oblates at St. Placid Priory**

The form below is an easy way to get your tickets for St. Placid Priory's October 4 fundraiser. For more information, see p. 4.

Age	Price	No. of Tickets	Total
Adult	\$25.00	_____	\$_____
Senior	\$15.00	_____	\$_____
Student	\$15.00	_____	\$_____
Name: _____		St Placid Priory	
Address: _____		500 College St NE	
City _____ State _____ Zip _____		Lacey, WA 98516	
Send form + check; Tickets by return mail.			
Your ck # here: # _____		Total enclosed: \$_____	

## Goings on at the Center

**Oasis 2015-2016** offers contemplative retreat time. Six monthly gatherings meet on the third Thursday afternoons from 1:30-7:15 pm beginning September 17, 2015 and concluding May 21, 2016. There will be two retreats of 2 days each November 18-20, 2015 and March 16-18, 2016. Spiritual direction and a group prayer experience are available to aid your reflections, as is silence. Sisters from St. Placid are the presenters and spiritual directors. "For several years I have participated in Oasis. This year we have been reflecting on *Prayer of the Heart* by Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee and are invited to name our intention and then let it go. I was very touched by the concept: 'if our heart has heard the prayer, God has heard the prayer.' The Sisters and staff provide a welcoming and comfortable environment which enables me to begin my precious time with God. Spiritual direction, the monthly presentation, Mass, dinner with the Sisters, evening prayer and rest time provides a respite from my busy life. Also, long walks on the well maintained trails present surprises along the way. Sharing with the women in our Oasis group is very special. If you feel the need for a scheduled retreat, I highly recommend the Oasis program."

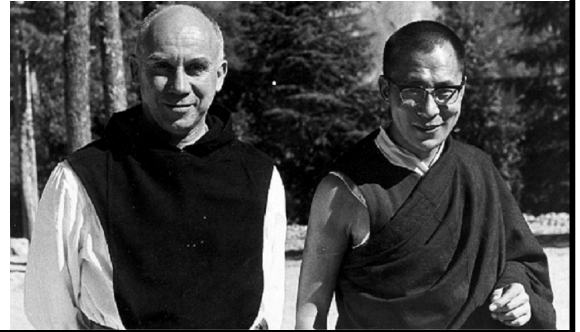
—Dorothy Tenkhoff

**Opening in Presence 2015-2016** develops practices that nurture our remaining present to the experience of being loved by and loving God. Through extended silence, breath and movement, we will explore the spiritual journey now by looking at resistances, building trust, looking at stories we create, cutting the cord, create the new and road ahead. Seven sessions are on the third Tuesday of the month from 9:00 to Noon beginning the third week of October 20, 2015 and concluding April 19, 2016.

## October 4 Fundraiser at St. Placid Priory

On **Sunday, October 4, 1:30 - 3:30 pm**, St. Placid Priory presents a screening of Morgan Atkinson's new documentary called **The Many Storeys and Last Days of Thomas Merton**. Morgan Atkinson will be here to do a presentation about the film with question and answer period following. The film is "a story of adventure and search...from his home at the Abbey of Gethsemani across America in the turbulent year of 1968 and finally to Asia for meetings with the Dalai Lama and other spiritual seekers. The purpose of the journey? As always with Merton, he seeks a fuller union with God." **For tickets, please call Janice at 360.438.2595 M-F, or the Priory at other times: 360.438.1771.**

We will have tickets at the store when it's open, or at the Priory reception desk. **Adults \$25, Seniors and Students \$15.** This promises to be an excellent film with interesting discussion afterwards. **Order tickets, p. 3.**



The cost of the 7 sessions is \$350. **Jamie Deering** is the facilitator.

"I had to take a medical retirement 3 years ago after a horrible accident, unable to return to my thinking job. Since I started Opening in Presence, incredible changes have taken place in my thoughts and behaviors. I didn't have great expectations of any particular nature when I started the class but wanted a deeper connection with The Divine and I thought meditation would be the way. These Tuesday sessions are always the best day of the month. I have started 3 new things that I attribute directly to this class: teaching an assertive communication class at the Senior Center, taking a watercolor class and writing a meditation book. Something in me has been freed up. It is hard to put into words but I think I have made a deeper connection to The Divine and I can look out at the world with less fear. All of these things have come about because of Jamie's class, providing this opportunity for my soul to grow." —Barbara Hojem

**Retreats**—"There are very few Benedictine monastic centers offering hospitality in the United States.

The Priory Spirituality Center is the perfect place for a spiritual retreat or a simple respite away from the dailiness of busy lives. As a guest you are invited to meals, liturgy, a wonderful spiritual library, and beautiful and quiet grounds to walk upon. You are lovingly held in a palm of protection while doing what your spirit needs most...read, pray, meditate, contemplate, walk, write, draw, knit, or take a nap. Benedictine sisters are available for spiritual direction\* during your personal retreat. It is a unique and wonderful oasis for group or private retreats, writers, creative people, or anyone seeking a time of silence and reflection. All faiths and people are honored, respected and welcomed with open arms. When I am able I give myself one silent day a month at the monastery, and I always leave feeling renewed. It could be a healing gift to offer to another a day of silence, a time to reflect in sacred spaciousness." —Carolyn Cristina Manzoni

\*We offer **Spiritual Direction**--in the Christian tradition it might be defined as "the practice of listening with another in a prayerful relationship in order to more clearly hear and experience the movement of God in one's life." For more information see [www.stplacid.org](http://www.stplacid.org) under Spirituality Center—Spiritual Direction.

**Program Information**

**Save 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](http://www.stplacid.org) and look under Spirituality Center, Programs and Retreats.

**God's Gift of Abundant Time**

September 5  
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM



We will focus on three aspects of God's Gift of Abundant Time: 1) God's faithfulness and generosity; 2) Living in God's time, deep time; and 3) a brief look at the history of time, and then consider the work of contemporary theologians regarding time.

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

**Kathleen MacInnis Kichline**

**Introduction to Centering Prayer**

September 12  
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 it and opportunities to share experiences and ask questions.



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

**Kay Kukowski and Mary Solberg**

**Movement as Prayer**

September 19  
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM



Movement expresses Spirit. Our bodies often get stuck in faltering, constricted movement. We

will explore our longing for wholeness, our varied responses to movement and the triggers that kidnap us. Whether triggered by trauma or longing, we open in God through gentle movement that invites re-patterning of the way we recognize our bodies as sacred.

**Register by prior Friday \$60**  
**Bring a sack lunch, yoga mat, blanket and hand towel. Wear loose clothing—no hoods please**  
Minimum 5, Maximum 20  
**Jamie Deering**

**Poetry of Days**

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



This program will focus on writing poetry about the ordinary experiences of life. We will explore how thoughtfully noticing and writing about our most ordinary moments and days often illuminates and offers to us the most extraordinary and spiritual connections to life itself.

**Register by prior Friday: \$50**  
**Bring a sack lunch, writing paper and pen or pencil**  
Minimum 5

**Cecily Markham**

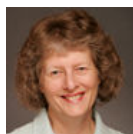
**Introduction to the Enneagram**

October 3  
Saturday 9:00AM-4:00PM

The Enneagram is an important tool for understanding ourselves and others. This introduction highlights the spiritual aspects of the nine distinct worldviews of the Enneagram and will help you begin to discover or confirm your own type. Class fee includes a copy of *The Essential Enneagram* by Dr. David Daniels and Virginia Price, PhD. (revised 2009).

**Register by prior Friday \$60**  
**Bring a sack lunch and a journal or notebook**  
Minimum 6, Maximum 20

**Debra Janison**



**Drawing as a Spiritual Practice**

October 10  
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM



Through various creative and expressive ways, like sketching and drawing, collages, and poetry, we will learn how to create a prayer journal that you will treasure as you get deeper in your spiritual journey. Bring a new journal or sketch book if you don't have one, your favorite arts/crafts and drawing tools and let's have fun praying. No art experience necessary.

**Register by prior Friday \$50**  
**Bring a sack lunch + items listed above**  
Minimum 6, Maximum 20  
**Roy DeLeon**

**Silent Centering Prayer Retreat**

October 16-18  
Friday 7:15PM-Sunday 1:30PM

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 at least six months of daily Centering Prayer practice.



**Register by prior Friday \$180**  
Minimum 8, Maximum 10  
**Kay Kukowski and Mary Solberg**

**Leaving Your Legacy Through Story**

October 17  
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM



Reb Zalman Schacter once asked, "Are you saved?" not in a theological sense, but in a computer sense. Have we been "saved" in the sense of "downloading" our life experiences to future generations? This highly interactive workshop will help you to review your story and to begin recording your legacy.

**Register by prior Friday \$50**  
**Workbook fee \$5**  
**Bring a sack lunch and pen or pencil**  
Minimum 5, Maximum 15

**Linda Henry**

*Continued on page 6...*

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**Grit/Grace/Gratitude for Life**

October 24  
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

When have you faced a painful situation with perseverance and courage? How have you experienced humility and forgiveness through a difficult life transition? For what gifts do you feel thankfulness and appreciation? Come spend a day exploring these questions acknowledging mind, body, and spirit that have carried you across the thresholds of your life.



**Register by prior Friday \$60**  
Bring a sack lunch and a journal.  
Minimum 6, Maximum 25  
**Amelia Carroll**

**Stories That Mirror and Mentor**

October 31  
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

The metaphors in fairytales and folktales as well as contemporary stories can mirror important aspects of who we are and seek to be. They also can mentor us in finding our way *home*. Come prepared to enter the magic realm of *storyland* and learn to create satisfactory endings to your own living stories.



**Register by prior Friday \$60**  
**Materials fee \$5**  
**Bring a sack lunch and notebook or other writing materials**  
Minimum 6, Maximum 15  
**Jan Lawry**

**Decision-Making on the Labyrinth**

November 7  
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

The Labyrinth, as a powerful prayer tool, can be helpful for decision-making. We will use the three labyrinth movements of Release, Receive, and Return, together with a



metaphor of The Trading Post to explore God's call and our Response.  
**Register by prior Friday \$50**  
**Bring a sack lunch, journal and Bible**  
Minimum 5  
**Bee Jay Mar**

**Celtic Gifts for the Church of TODAY!**

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



Far from being a mere nostalgia trip, our Celtic Christian roots have great value for us today including a world view for our church that encompasses environmental values, valuing the feminine/women/feminine process, Anamcara/SoulFriend tradition, mystical experience, monastic practice, prayer and music for worship and for every act of daily life.  
**Register by prior Friday \$50**  
**Bring a sack lunch**  
Minimum 8, Maximum 20  
**Tom Cashman**

**A Day of SoulCollage®: Deepening Gratitude**

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



This hands-on workshop allows you to experience the **one** and the **many** within yourself using an intuitive, creative, simple yet powerful spiritual practice. As you create SoulCollage® prayer cards and learn to work with them in a variety of sacred ways, you'll experience a deepening, grander sense of gratitude.  
**Register by prior Friday \$50**  
**Materials fee \$5**  
**Bring a sack lunch, scissors and any magazines/pictures you would like to use (also lots provided)**  
Minimum 5, Maximum 20  
**Suzanne West, MA**

**Advent Promises Retreat**

December 4-6  
Friday 7:15PM-Sunday 12:00PM



A silent beginning to Advent may deepen your journey to Christmas. We'll open with prayer, relaxation and preparation materials for possible use during the retreat and close with group prayer and sharing. A spiritual director will be available, if desired, to listen with you as you discern the actions of God in your life.

**Register by prior Friday \$150**  
**with spiritual direction \$185**  
Minimum 3, Maximum 10  
**Therese Gonville, OSB**

**The Visitation as Interconnectedness**

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



We all have visitation moments where we recognize God within us and others. The emphasis of the retreat will be on expanding our global and spiritual viewpoint of visitations moments. Benedictine spirituality and higher consciousness will be roadmaps to the gift of interconnectedness.

**Register by prior Friday \$50**  
**Bring a sack lunch**  
Minimum: 5  
**Lucy Wynkoop, OSB**

**Giving Voice to Our Hearts**

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

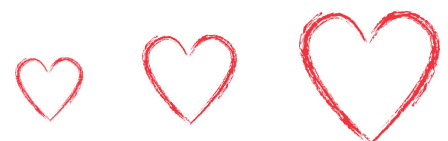


We will look at various prayer forms, grouped as: Petition, that foundational human movement where we come in our need before a God who can provide; Praise and Thanksgiving, our natural response to God's gracious action in our lives; and Peace Making, right relationship with God, ourselves and one another.

**Register by prior Friday \$50**  
**Bring a sack lunch**  
Minimum: 5  
**Kathleen MacInnis Kichline**



**See our website for presenter information:**  
[www.stplacid.org](http://www.stplacid.org)



Continued on page 7...

Continued from page 6...

**Beginners Silent Retreat**

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

Take the plunge into a silent retreat. Learn first-hand 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 a silent 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**

**Music and Imagination to Encourage Spiritual Growth**

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



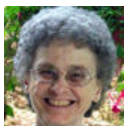
Music frees the imagination. Imagination is a main path for sensing spirit. Powered by music, we will cultivate journeys in the realm of imagination towards deeper spiritual experience. We will listen to selections of evocative music and track the free flow of our imagination. After each journey we share our experiences, noting common and unique themes.

**Register by prior Friday: \$50**  
**Bring a sack lunch, pen and paper**  
Minimum 5  
**Jerry DeVore**

**Discerning Life Choices for Women**

January 22-24  
Friday 7:15PM-Sunday 12:00 Noon

In silence and stillness, allow yourself to become soft clay in the Hands of the Potter asking what is God's plan for your life. We'll open with prayer and guided meditation and close with group sharing and a closing prayer and ritual.



**Register by prior Friday: \$160**  
**with spiritual direction \$185**  
Minimum 3, Maximum 10  
**Therese Gonneville, OSB**

**Bless the Work of our Hands**

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



Enjoy a day of prayer, reflection, and creating with the hand craft of your choice. Hand crafting can be ways of touching God and letting God touch you. Learn to bless each stitch and pass on these blessings through the work of your hands. Come and celebrate your God-given talents!

**Register by prior Friday \$50**  
**Bring a sack lunch.**  
Minimum 5, Maximum 12  
**Monika Ellis, OSB**

**One-ing: Entering Through the Mystics' Gate**

January 30  
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM



Poets, saints and mystics tell us only one thing is needed: moment-by-moment connection to the divine. Why then is it so hard to release our anxious, muttering little selves, to enter the serenity and joy of divine Self? This practical workshop explores the spiritual practice and experience that Julian of Norwich called "one-ing."

**Register by prior Friday \$50**  
**Bring a sack lunch.**  
Minimum 5, Maximum 15  
**Jodi Kilcup, Ph.D.**

**Journaling for Meaning-Making and Wellness**

February 6  
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

Discover the healthy (and fun!) benefits of journaling for improved self-care and an enriched spiritual practice. Together we will create collaged journals and then explore creative ideas to inspire and support a daily journaling practice.

**Register by prior Friday: \$50**  
**Bring a sack lunch.**  
Minimum 5, Maximum 12  
**Melissa Layer, M.A.**



**Benedictine Vocation Discernment**

February 6-7  
Saturday 9:00AM-Sunday 12:30PM

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



**Register by prior Friday No fee**  
**Benedictine Sisters**  
Contact Sister Lucy Wynkoop at [lucywynkoop@gmail.com](mailto:lucywynkoop@gmail.com) or call 360-438-2595

**Coming Up Next in 2016:**

- Feb. 13: Meditation for Beginners**
- Feb. 19-21: Lenten Journey**
- Feb. 20: Seek and You Will Find**

See [www.stplacid.org](http://www.stplacid.org) for details.

**Wisdom Women**

A lively group of readers/thinkers who enjoy sharing about many kinds of religious and spiritual topics. We meet the **first Monday** of the month October through June, **7:30-9:00PM** in the Spirituality Center. Our **first fall gathering is October 5**, reflecting on Barbara Brown Taylor's book, ***Learning to Walk in the Dark*** (introduction and chapters 1-4). The other two books chosen by the group for 2015-2016 are ***If the Oceans Were Ink*** by Carla Power and ***Ask the Beasts*** by Elizabeth A. Johnson.

New members are always welcome. Contact **Sr. Mary Giles**, facilitator, at **360-438-1771** if you'd like more in formation. There is a **yearly \$50.00** donation to the Priory Spirituality Center to attend this group.

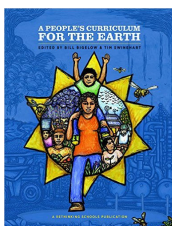
# For This We Give Thanks!

We give great thanks for **Sister Damaris Zander's** life and vocation, for her 70 years of faithfully fulfilling her monastic promise! What a joyful celebration we had on July 11, with many of her family and friends, as she renewed her monastic promise in chapel and then led everyone into the multipurpose room for food, fun and laughter!



**Sister Damaris reads a card**

In the monastery we are passing this book around because it helps us imagine solutions to think and act differently: *A People's Curriculum*



*For the Earth.* In the light of **Pope Francis' Encyclical on Climate Change**, we give thanks for all resources that help us understand that life on Earth is at risk.

We give thanks for the transformation we experience happening here in our forest setting:

—We are happy to see that the devastation created by the fall of a 120 foot Douglas Fir during our February windstorm has been made into a park by **Jerry Haupt**. Jerry, our generous friend and volunteer who includes trail maintenance in his rounds, created a rustic space with table and benches along the path that



**Sister Damaris, center, with family on July 11. Her brother Jerome is at her side.**

circles the monastery. He has also recently created a map of our trails that is available in the Priory lobby.

—We are grateful to John Meier and his grandson Jerimiah, who fenced in five flower beds. To date the rabbits have not found a way to eat the stalks of the plants in these flower beds.

—We have also happily discovered that planting boxwood mini-shrubs among the flowers encourages our deer (including a resident two point buck and a doe) to graze on the clover in our grassy places instead of the gardens.



**Volunteer Jerry's latest addition to our grounds—a lovely place to be...**



**St. Placid H.S. Class of 1965**

For St. Placid High School's lively and vivacious Class of 1965, we give many thanks! In celebration of their 50th Jubilee this year, they made a tour of the former high school and also came to visit with the Sisters on July 28 in the present monastery. How nice to see them all again!

We give thanks for the abundance of people who spent time on retreat at The Priory Spirituality Center during the summer months this year. We are grateful for all God does for us, and for the way God works in the lives of those who come here for refreshment and renewal. It is a special joy for us to pray for anyone who comes on retreat. Setting aside time from a busy life for retreat is like knocking on the door of the Holy One. Scripture says, "Knock, and the door shall be opened...."

**We, the Benedictine Sisters of St. Placid Priory, a monastic community,** 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.

**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 / 500 College St. NE / Lacey, WA 98516-5339**

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

Program \_\_\_\_\_

Program Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ Eve. Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Spiritual Direction and Healing Touch  
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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

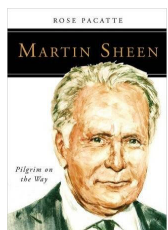
Scholarship Donation enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## Sr. Laura's Scriptorium

### Books That Merit Attention

**People of God** is a new series of inspiring biographies from Liturgical Press that allow us to see our own struggles and gifts through the lives of (near) contemporaries that show us how we too can make a positive impact on the world despite all our warts and weaknesses. Thus far, the series includes author Flannery O'Connor, monk Thomas Merton, martyred Archbishop Oscar Romero, Pope Francis, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Pope John XXIII and actor



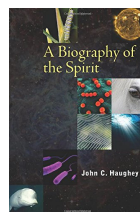
Martin Sheen. I just finished reading ***Martin Sheen: Pilgrim on the Way*** by Sister Rose Pacatte. Her portrayal is honest and paints a very human gentleman who has managed to touch the lives of so many in the normal course of his day.

***Pope Francis: Morning Homilies in the Chapel of St. Martha's Guest House***, Orbis Books, 2015. Pope Francis has captured the imagination

of Catholics and non-Catholics alike. He has sparked new hope among the spiritually hungry. This is a nice introduction to the heart and spirituality of Pope Francis through the lens of four months of daily homilies in the earliest days of his pontificate.



***40 Days with the Holy Spirit***, by Jack Levison, Paraclete Press, 2015. ***A Biography of the Spirit: There Lies the Dearest Freshness Deep Down Things***, by John Haughey, SJ, Orbis Books, 2015.

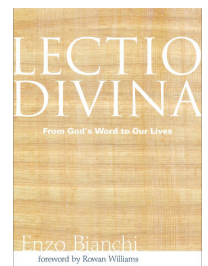


These two excellent resources invite us into a deeper understanding of and relationship with the Holy Spirit. Levi

son has crafted 40 short "visits" with the Holy Spirit: a scripture passage is accompanied by insightful and delightful

reflections upon meanings to be gained from that passage, space for the reader to reflect and concluded with original prayers. Haughey explores facets of the Holy Spirit through the lens of the explosion of scientific discoveries. I enjoyed both of these.

***Lectio Divina: From God's Word to Our Lives***, by Enzo Bianchi, Paraclete Press, 2015. Bianchi is a gifted scholar known as the founder of a dynamic monastic community and for his ecumenical work. This is not so much a "how-to" manual, rather a "lectio on lectio" kind of book. Bianchi engages both mind and heart, offering a gentle challenge to readers in our contemporary need for transformation.





**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 2015**

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- Receiving more than one copy



## What's New at the Priory Store

Sister Maureen O'Larey, OSB

At the Priory Store, we have items available that inspire and deepen our connection to God and to one another. From the first day that we began this ministry, we have carried "Elf-Help" books.

Abbey Press, the publisher, says that these books "offer simple, sage advice to all ages on dealing with many of life's challenges." These books are delightfully illustrated, and in just a few words can give practical advice and encouragement.

We offer both the "Elf-Help Therapy" books for adults and the "Elf-Help for Kids" books. Abbey Press is constantly adding new titles to this series, responding to contemporary challenges.

The books in the adult "Elf-Help Therapy" series are small and fit well in an envelope with a greeting card, providing support to a loved one in time of need.



The newest books in the "Elf-Help for Kids" books are *Time-Out from Technology, A Kid's Guide to Unplugging and Having Fun* and *It's Not Fair! Knowing What's Right, What's Not, and What You Can Do About It*.

These books can be read by a child and can also help caring adults discuss important issues with children. One grandfather loves these books and purchased every title of the "Elf-Help for Kids" books for his grandchildren!

### Spirituality Center Staff

- Janice Ariza — Center Coordinator
- Lucy Wynkoop, OSB — Program Coordinator
- Mary Giles Mailhot, OSB — Staff
- Monika Ellis, OSB — Staff
- Therese Gonnevillle, OSB — Staff
- Camille Wooden, Obl.OSB — Weekend Hospitality
- Cheryl Gudger, Obl.OSB — Weekend Hospitality
- Chris Lubinski, Obl.OSB — Weekend Hospitality
- Natasha Nay, 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**.