



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 2017

Blessed with Peace Many months of committee work and planning culminated in our first annual *Images of Peace* Art Show and Sale. Artists came and set up their work. Chefs came, musicians came, people came to enjoy an evening of viewing art that included pottery, calligraphy, paintings of all sorts, fiber art, photography, feather art and more. The special refreshments, the live music and the beauty in the room created an ambiance and an elegance noted by many.

We were blessed to have with us Patty Bowman, the new executive director of the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center. We were blessed by the iconography, traditional and modern. Each artist blessed us by their presence and work. Our Docents, Oblates, Associates, Affiliates and Sisters created a welcoming environment where people could relax while enjoying the refreshments and music, to linger with the beauty of the art.

It was all done through generous volunteers and donors who resonated with the event's vision: "...to bring forth images of peace, revealing beauty and hope, and reminding us that there *is* peace now in our world." I think that vision was realized.

--Monika Ellis, OSB

Inner Peace "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." The words to the familiar song were echoing in my mind as I left the *Images of Peace* art show. The show had inspired me and left me feeling elated and ready to go to work nurturing peace. But how exactly? How to let the energy of this event carry into the next day of ordinary duties and inevitable frustrations?



Patron with artist Cecily Markham

Every religious tradition teaches that peace must begin inside each human person. And many of us know how to find peace *away* from the world: a quiet corner at home, outdoors in a special spot, or in the sanctuary of our chosen place of worship or meditation. But how do we be the peace the world needs when we are in the middle of all the turmoil?

Always and always it is about remembering where our center is: in God. God is peace itself and so are we when we know and believe this to be true. We can't conjure peace up ourselves, or will it into being. The peace we carry in us is not our own peace, but God's peace living in us.

Like so many other virtues we try to live, peace is available to us if we are an empty vessel, open to the in-pouring of God and all that God wishes us to be. I thought about the response I often make to a stressful situation: "How can I manage this?" And then wondered what would happen if I tried as both prayer and intention: "Help me find your peace in this moment." It seems like a good place to start.

--Camille Wooden, Obl.OSB

Communal Peace Benedict says "...let peace be your quest and aim" (Prologue 17). Our Benedictine community here strives to make peace a communal way of being. We experience peace and are reminded of peace in our Liturgy of the Hours. Our evening silent prayer is often for world peace. Our peaceful relationship with God extends to our community, to all people with whom we come in contact, and to our world. Our desire for peace, and to acknowledge the peace we already have, was the impetus for our *Images of Peace* art show on May 19.

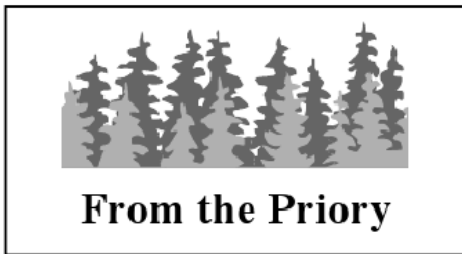


A sunset over the ocean, an image of peace by Dylan of Holy Family School, Lacey

The Rule of Benedict structures life in the community so all members can be at peace. We have an opportunity to practice peace daily. Our relationship to God and each other is at the heart of a dynamic community. Benedict invites us to work with each individual's needs, and to give each one the help they need so peace can prevail. Our weaknesses and limitations remind us we depend on God's grace to help us be a peaceful community. Asking for mutual forgiveness helps us recognize our need for a change of heart and creates peaceful relationships.

We have heard from others that our *Images of Peace* Art Show inspired them to think about peace in different ways. We invite you, too, to reflect on what peace means to you and how you and others can help create an environment of peace in our world.

--Lucy Wynkoop, OSB



Our annual **Benedictine Vocation Discernment Retreat**, a retreat for Catholic women discerning a call to Benedictine life, was held February 4-5 this year. The community and retreatants alike were blessed, especially in our gatherings and meals together.

On February 8, **Sister Laura Swan** and **Oblate Camille Wooden** attended the **Interfaith Works Breakfast for Clergy**. Clergy from around the area gathered to share the work of their faith communities.

Sister Laura, Novice Molly Cady and **Oblate Camille** attended the February 25 **Pro Musica** concert in Seattle at **St. James Cathedral** to see **Oblate Liz Langeland** perform.

In early March, **Sister Monika Ellis** attended a weaving workshop at Coupeville on Whidbey Island to learn more about card weaving with **John Mularkey**. A month later, Sister Monika learned to braid on the maru dai, the traditional loom used for Japanese braiding. She had a lesson with **Janis Saunders** of **The Braider's Hand** at Coupeville who makes the maru dai and carries all the books and materials for kumihimo braiding. Sister Monika uses braided strands for jewelry, key fobs, applique, and as elements for collage (*see "Tidepool" at right; maru dai below*).



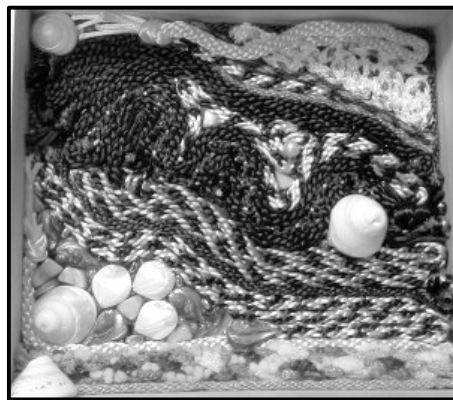
Art Show patrons show interest in the maru dai Sister Monika uses for braiding



Sanaa Joy Carey at St. Placid Priory

On March 26, the community at St. Placid invited everyone to a presentation by **Sister Lucy Wynkoop** and **Sanaa Joy Carey** on **Christian and Muslim understandings of spirituality**. People of both traditions dialogued in small groups, and then reported their experiences to the whole group. We found that we have many similar scriptures and values, and this, along with Sanaa Joy Carey's heartfelt presentation, was inspiring.

A group of about thirty **Norcia Community students at St. Martin's University** came April 8 to work on the Priory grounds. Afterward they enjoyed pizza in our Multipurpose Room.



Sister Monika's mixed media collage "Tidepool"

At 1:30 a.m. on April 10, the loud noise of a fire alarm began our **Silent Day of Prayer** a bit early. Turned out to be a faulty detector in our chapel, and we were grateful it was nothing worse.

Sister Laura, Novice Molly and **Oblate Camille** attended a dinner at **Seattle University** for women religious on April 23. They enjoyed a presentation about **Seattle University's 125th Anniversary**.

April 29 found our community staffing the big annual **Rummage Sale**. Lots of bargain-priced household goods found new homes, and of course we saw plenty of old friends and made new ones. Thanks to all who came to buy—and to all who donated things to sell.

The evening of April 29, **Sister Laura, Sister Monika** and **Novice Molly** enjoyed a lovely concert at St. Martin's University.

There were several other opportunities for music lovers here in the spring, too, thanks to generous donors who provided us with some free tickets to the **Olympia Symphony's "Music For All Seasons."**

A committee at St. Placid has been working diligently for some months to produce our **new Books of Praise**. At last, on Sunday April 30, Week 1 was ready to use. A week later, Week 2 was ready and Weeks 3 and 4 are in the works. We are very grateful to this committee of **Sisters and volunteers** for this work.

May 5-7 our community hosted the **6th annual Viva! Retreat** for women discerning a religious vocation. **Staffed by Jo-Anne Miller, CSJP, Chris Still, OSF, Judy Ryan, SNJM, Karen Hawkins, SP, Julian Cleary, OSB and Lucy Wynkoop, OSB**, the retreat was **sponsored by the Seattle Archdiocese Religious Vocation Committee and the Western Washington Serra Clubs**. Eight women spent time hearing Sisters' vocational stories, doing personal sharing, enjoying a reflective nature walk, and seeing videos on religious life.



2017 Viva! Participants and Staff

On May 20th **Sisters Lucy, Laura, Julian, Novice Molly** and **Oblate Camille** spent the day at an **LCWR regional workshop** in Renton given by **Sister Nancy Schreck** on planning for the future of religious life.

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L-R: Roy Renggli; Sister Sharon McDonald receiving a gift from YLI member Margaret Thompson

Our good friends from the **Tahoma** chapter of the **Young Ladies Institute** had a paper shower for us on May 24. We are always glad to see these friends we have known for so long, including our friend **Roy Renggli** who came along this time. Roy's late wife **Martha** was a YLI member for many years.

Somaura Jackson, a friend of our community, graduated June 1 from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Her degree is in cultural anthropology, with a focus on religion. Congratulations, Somaura!

St. Placid's annual community retreat was June 12-19. This year **Sister Anne McCarthy, OSB** of Erie, Pennsylvania, presented conferences for us on **Celtic Spirituality** the first 3 days. The balance of the retreat was silent. We are grateful for all the people who helped make our retreat possible.

Newer members of St. Placid Priory, **Novice Molly Cady** and **Sister Julian Cleary**, have been involved in conference/video calls with their monastic peers around the country for some time. They traveled to Florida for a face to face meeting July 22-23 along with director **Sister Laura Swan**. This kind of peer connection is helpful for women new to monastic life.



From the Archives: Keeping Our History Alive

As you enter the Priory chapel, on the right is a niche with **Our Lady of Hospitality** welcoming you in. Our Lady shows the way to Jesus. She was originally installed in the **convent Chapel at Holy Rosary parish** in Tacoma, where the St. Placid Sisters lived while teaching at the parish school. She was carved in Italy, using conceptual drawings by **Sister Nathalie Karels, OSB**, (1925 - 2014), a founding Sister of the Priory.

We'll be sharing more of our archival treasures in future newsletters, so be sure to watch for them.



OBLATE NEWS



New Oblates Kathy Androes-Downes & Andrea Langeland

Oblates wrapped up the year with June retreats. Some came to the weekend retreat taught by **Sr. Lucy** on the Liturgy of the Hours and left with new understandings and a lot to think about.

Others chose one of the silent retreats, the last one culminating in the **Foundation Day** ceremony on the 28th of June. We welcomed **new Oblates Kathy Androes-Downes and Andrea Langeland**. Oblates will begin meeting again on second Sundays starting in September.

Foundation Day, commemorates the day St. Placid Priory was founded in 1952. This is an important day for the community and also a day for renewal of commitment. Sisters renew their monastic promise, Oblates make or renew their oblation, and Affiliates renew their affiliation with the community.



Oblates renew their oblation

GOINGS ON AT THE CENTER

Spiritual Practices of Aging 2017-2018

This course will provide not only information but also spiritual practices that help in aging well. In particular, it addresses the question: How does the contemplative life—one of prayer and encountering God—shape one for wisdom and resiliency in the second half of life?

Looking at wisdom and resiliency as markers for facing the beauty and pain of getting older, each session addresses aspects of aging that require an “elegant kenosis”—letting go in the midst of embracing the life that God has given. Learning through awareness of God, others, and self lays the foundation for the entire course. Seeking to nurture the contemplative life, this course reminds us of the value of noticing, pausing, listening, and responding.

Deepening Women’s Spirituality 2017-2018

Join **Amelia Carroll** for a monthly gathering of renewal to look deeper into your spiritual soul. She will present timeless tales and questions for reflection and will give creative suggestions to strengthen connection to you spiritual self and to the wondrous and diverse world around you. Using poetry, meditation, journaling, and creative and expressive art, this shared time will honor your story and bring meaning to your joys and sorrows. For women of all ages who are seeking to discover the universal power of connection, community and spirit.

Clergy Contemplative Retreats:

What would your life look like if you gave yourself 3 retreats per year with guided lectio divina and a full day of silent prayer, time to journal, time to be—whatever it is that you need?

“The Quaker writer and educator, **Parker Palmer** has written: ‘If we are willing to sit quietly and wait for a while, the soul may show itself.’ That

is what the Priory’s Clergy Retreats provide for me: time to sit quietly and wait, for the sake of nurturing my own soul.

“Sometimes the unpredictability of parish ministry, means that sitting and waiting comes at a time of deep exhaustion; at others it nurtures a creative burst of energy. Whatever the reality of life in the parish at that time, having time apart on the calendar, a commitment I make to myself to nurture the needs of my own spirit always sends me back to my ministry renewed. The invitation to participate or not in the rhythms of worship with the sisters, meals in silence or in the community, spiritual direction, walks in the woods or simply sleeping makes space I need on a regular basis for my soul to show itself and be nurtured.”

—*Val Metropoulos*

Listening with the Spirit 2017-2019 is a two-year formation/discernment process to become a Spiritual Director.

“In addition to exploring spiritual direction issues, the second year of LWS was spent interning with directees and group supervision. I learned to hold sacred space while my companion explored the movement of the Spirit in her life. Additionally I experienced value in my personal life. Recently my husband and I were challenged with a 3 week situation that was clearly of God. We decided to take this experience to our spiritual director to discern where God is leading us – we don’t want to miss His calling! I love the intensity of the Holy Spirit. We are to hold each other in that deep love of Christ. What a special way to approach each session with my directees. Thank you LWS for this opportunity to go deep in my relationship with our Creator and continue my journey with the Spirit.”

—*Pat Papadopoulos*

Oasis 2017-2018 offers contemplative retreat time.

“Oasis is a great name for this program at St. Placid. The time I spend here is just that: an Oasis. This year’s topic, Befriending Our Desires, has opened up a new meaning of “desire” for me.

Desire is a good and holy part of our lives. Desire touches all parts of my life, whether it is intimacy with my spouse, being open to new friendships and deepening the old, finding new ways that God might be asking me to serve him, opening my heart to a closer friendship with Jesus—all of that is a part of desire in my life. During the time I am here there is the quiet time for contemplation, praying, listening to what my heart is telling me, and maybe a little nap.”

—*Claudia Murray*

Individual and Group Retreats

At the Center, we have space for you to come on an undirected, private retreat, or you may wish to bring a group for retreat. With 10 rooms, 19 beds, a kitchen, and two meeting spaces, we hope you find The Priory Spirituality Center will fulfill your needs.

“After my first private retreat at St. Placid, I felt so full of God’s love for myself it spilled over onto my family when I returned home. I told my family I wanted to come again if it worked out. They were very encouraging and wanted me to do so because they like who I am when I come home – a well-rested, full of love, and peaceful person. When I retreat here, everyone in my world benefits.”

—*D. Lawson*

Find additional information about these programs and more at www.stplacid.org.



Melissa Wright works with Sister Lucy as Program Assistant at The Priory Spirituality Center.

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+ 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.

Mirroring Self, Mirroring Soul: A Psycho-Spiritual Journey

September 9
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm



Through drawing one's face on the mirror, we will engage with the faces that emerge. These faces may surface as friends, mentors, or tricksters and will lead us to illuminate that which resides beneath the surface of everyday psychological awareness.

Register by prior Friday: \$60
Bring a sack lunch, a mirror to draw on (some will be available for \$5 each), **images, materials, or words for collage making.**

Minimum 8, Maximum: 24

Darcie Richardson, Ph.D., is a Pacifica Graduate Institute graduate. Prior to her work with Somatic Depth Psychology, she practiced as a Mediator and taught conflict resolution skills. She is a Personal Life Coach, Professional Mediator, and artist.

Introduction to Centering Prayer

September 16
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm

Sourced from the depths of Christian contemplative tradition, Centering Prayer has emerged as a life-changing practice for those who embrace it. Learn the method—or renew your practice of this ancient way of silent prayer. Our day-long format offers a relaxed way to hear the basics, practice, and ask questions.

Register by Prior Friday: \$60

Bring a sack lunch.

Min: 8, Max: 30

**Kay Kukowski
and Mary Solberg**



Discernment for Young Adults

September 23
Saturday 10:00am-2:00pm

Confused about God's plan for you? Longing to know how to hear God's desire for you? Join us for a few hours of companionship and prayer while we explore different possibilities of discernment for your life using some wisdom from Nancy Reeves' book about discernment: *I'd Say Yes God, If I Knew What You Wanted.*

Register by Prior Friday: \$25
or by donation with student ID

Please bring a cold dish to share at the potluck lunch.

Minimum: 5, Maximum: 20

Melissa Wright received a Bachelor's in Arts in Religious Studies from Saint Martin's University in 2015. After several years volunteering in youth and young adult ministries, she currently works as an assistant at The Priory Spirituality Center.

Lucy Wynkoop, OSB



Dialing In: A New Perspective on Aging

September 30
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm

Dialing In invites us to be in the now, focused on who we are, and what we can do today. This highly interactive workshop with large and small group participation challenges commonly held ageist beliefs, examines how to make meaningful transitions and offers tools to create a personal aging road map.

Register by Prior Friday: \$50
Bring a sack lunch.

Minimum: 5, Maximum: 18

Linda Henry



Sketching for Peace and Nonviolence



October 7
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm

"Seek Peace and pursue it," says Benedict's 6th century Rule. There are various ways to fulfill this goal. We'll explore how sketching can bring and nourish peace and non-violence within ourselves and in all our relationships. We will look at and discuss existing art, and we'll have time to practice sketching for peace and justice. All levels of sketching experience, from none to advanced, are welcome.

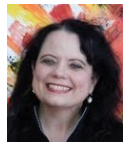
Register by Prior Friday: \$50

Bring a sack lunch.

Minimum: 6

Roy DeLeon

Lipstick, Old Keys, and the Hand Held Mirror: Journey into the Images of a Poem



October 14
Saturday 9am-3pm

We will explore the personal, spiritual, and transpersonal power of imagery in poetry. Poems will be presented and experienced engaging various media—encompassing music, movement, and photographic visuals. Participants will be offered a creative time for writing and art creations and presenting their artistic works.

Register by Prior Friday: \$60

Bring a sack lunch, writing paper, pen or pencil, and art supplies if desired.

Minimum: 8

Cecily Markham

Biblical Introduction to Enneagram

October 21
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm



The Enneagram is an ancient tool of spiritual discernment that provides insights about the human personality and what motivates us to think, act, and feel as we do. This introductory workshop will include a biblical perspective on the value of self-discovery, descriptions of the nine Enneagram personality patterns and how they are interrelated, and practical applications to unleash a fuller expression of one's

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true identity as a reflection of God's image.

Register by Prior Friday: \$60
Bring a sack lunch
 Minimum: 5, Maximum: 20
Marilyn Vancil

Silent Centering Prayer Retreat

Oct. 27-29, 2017 and March 23-25, 2018
 Friday 7:15pm-Sunday 1:30pm

This is a rare opportunity for experienced practitioners to be with others committed to the contemplative path. Sustained by multiple periods of Centering Prayer and tapping into chant, Lectio Divina, and meditative walking, we intentionally create an environment that supports our continuing Centering Prayer practice.

Register by Prior Friday: \$200
Bring a sack lunch.
 Minimum: 8, Maximum: 10
Kay Kukowski and Mary Solberg

Compassion and Politics

November 4
 Saturday 9am-3pm



This workshop addresses the state of political polarization in our society today. How can we move beyond an "us vs. them" mentality? How can we be passionate advocates for justice without demonizing those who hold different political views? What do our faith traditions teach us about open and compassionate encounters with the political "other?"

Register by Prior Friday: \$50
Bring a sack lunch.
 Minimum: 5, Maximum: 30
Patty Bowman

The Celtic Way of Prayer in Word & Song

November 11
 Saturday 9am-3pm

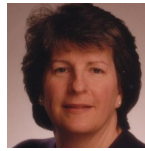


Total immersion in the ethos of the Celtic Christian church happens through spoken and sung prayer. We will work with original and contemporary texts from the *Carmina Gaedlica* to the Iona Community of today. After singing and praying together we'll write prayers of our own in the Celtic style.

Register by Prior Friday: \$50
Bring a sack lunch.
 Minimum: 5
Tom Cashman

Blue Sapphire of the Mind

November 18
 Saturday, 9am-3pm



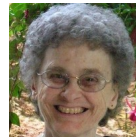
Early Christian monastics recognized the penetrating presence of the Divine in creation, that place where we encounter our deepest selves. The call to care for the environment is deeply human and contemplative. This day is based upon the quietly ground-breaking work of Douglas Christie. Participants are encouraged to at least begin reading Christie's *Blue Sapphire of the Mind* before attending.

Register by priory Friday: \$50
Bring a sack lunch
 Min: 8 Max: 20
Laura Swan, OSB

Advent Retreat: Come Jesus, Come

December 1 – 3
 Friday 7:15pm-Sunday 11:00am

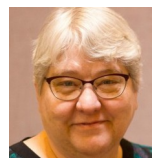
During this silent retreat you will experience a guided meditation time, receive handouts to use during the retreat, and have reflective times to prepare your heart and yourself to receive the blessings that Jesus wishes to give you this Christmas. Spiritual Direction is also available upon request.



Register by Prior Friday: \$160
with Spiritual Direction \$200
 Minimum: 3, Maximum: 10
Therese Gonnevillle, OSB

Advent Joy to Last all Year

December 12
 Saturday 9am-3pm



Advent is a time of waiting, of stillness and of great joy. How often is our Advent joy drowned out by the activity and demands of the season? And how long does our joy last? Can it become a force, like faith and hope, that sustains us through the year? We will discover, and reflect on, the enduring roots of our joy in this season and beyond.

Register by Prior Friday: \$50
Bring a sack lunch.
 Minimum: 15
Camille Wooden, Obl.OSB

Creating Beauty Out of a Big Mess

January 6
 Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm



What a *mess* life can be! And yet, there is such beauty in life and in creation. We will spend the day carefully reflecting on life. We will study and select yarns and threads that hold meaning, from a messy mound, to create a lovely and strong braided strand.

Register by Prior Friday: \$50
Bring a sack lunch.
 Minimum: 5
Monika Ellis, OSB

The Divine Hidden Feminine

January 13
 Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm



There is a hunger to connect to the Feminine in a new way. We will explore the roots of the Feminine experience from the inside, what it means to our soul to recover and reconnect to our vital life. Using poetry and writing, we will seek to join Soul to soul.

Register by Prior Friday: \$60
Bring a sack lunch, paper, and writing instruments
 Minimum: 5, Maximum: 20
Silvia Behrend, D.Min, M. Div.

Contemplative Discernment: Listening with the Ear of the Heart

January 20
 Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm



What can we learn from monks, poets and saints about spiritual way-finding and discernment? More than decision-making, the heart of discernment is the practice of *listening*, as a way of life. This practical workshop focuses on growth in prayerful and trusting receptivity to God's dream for us, while easing anxiety and fear.

Register by Prior Friday: \$50
 Bring a sack lunch.
 Minimum: 5, Maximum: 25
Jodi Kilcup, Ph.D.

For more about our presenters, see www.stplacid.org

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Benedictine Vocation Discernment

January 27-28
Saturday 8:30am-Sunday 12:30pm

Come join the Sisters to listen to your call from Scripture and from the Prologue of the Rule of Benedict. Experience being with the Sisters in a community setting 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**

**The Power of Forgiveness:
Writing to Heal**

February 3
Saturday 9am-4pm



Do you long to heal a piercing life wound that begs forgiveness? Join in this spiritually-based, interactive workshop where you will learn how to incorporate a writing/hearing/bearing-witness component, as a means of forgiveness. Writing becomes a powerful outlet for expressing feelings about emotionally challenging experiences.

Register by Prior Friday: **\$60**
Bring a sack lunch, pen, and notebook or journal.

Minimum: 5, Maximum: 10
Kathleen P. Perkins, PhD

**The Art of Self-Compassion:
Mindfully Caring for Your Spirit**

February 10
Saturday 9am-3pm



The art of self-compassion promotes compassion to oneself and hence, compassion for all living beings in the world we share. Discover through reflection and meditation how this practice can help you honor and accept your humanness, enhance interpersonal relationships and promote care of the spirit.

Register by Prior Friday: **\$60**
Bring a sack lunch, journal, walking shoes, and raincoat.

Minimum: 8, Maximum: 14
Jane Fleming, MPM

Lenten Retreat

February 16-18
Friday 7:15pm- Sunday 12:00pm

Handouts and a guided meditation at the retreat introduction will help to open your awareness to God's presence. As you spend time with Jesus and what you may be called to live out from this retreat, Spiritual Direction will be available to help guide you.

Register by Prior Friday: **\$160**
with Spiritual Direction **\$200**

Bring a sack lunch
Minimum: 3, Maximum: 10
Therese Gonneville, OSB

**At the Garden Gate:
Women in Midlife**

February 24
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm



We will invite the wisdom of Joyce Rupp and Sue Monk Kidd into our authentic circle of life review, integration and curious inquiry for the path yet to be explored. Journaling, simple collage, poem-making and heart-full sharing will enliven and celebrate this ripening season of our lives.

Register by Prior Friday: **\$50**
Bring a sack lunch and journal.

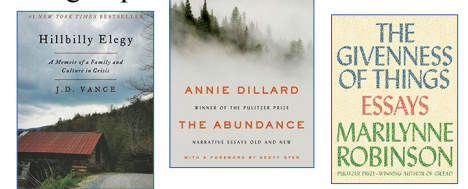
Minimum: 6, Maximum: 15
Melissa Layer, M.A.

Wisdom Women

We are 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, 7:30pm-9:00pm in the Spirituality Center. *Because January 1, 2018 is on Monday, we will meet Tuesday, January 2nd.

Our first fall gathering is **Monday, October 2nd**. We will reflect on a book we have read over the summer: **Hillbilly Elegy** by J. D. Vance. We have chosen two other books: **The Abundance** by Annie Dillard and **The Givenness of Things** by Marilynne Robinson. We will choose a third book by a woman theologian to be read later in 2018.

New Members are always welcome. Contact **Sister Mary Giles**, facilitator, at **360-438-1771** if you would like more information. There is a yearly \$50.00 donation to the Priory Spirituality Center to attend this group.



Un Retiro Espiritual, a Spiritual Retreat for Uncertain Times, was led here by **Catalina Martinez** and **Kathryn Rickert** in July. This was a retreat especially for those whose first language is Spanish. The day turned out to be a blessing for the twenty adults and ten children who attended—and also for the retreat leaders. The children spent time coloring and talking with **Oblate Camille Wooden**, **Center Coordinator Janice Ariza**, and **Mary Franklin**. **Sister Lucy Wynkoop** helped organize activities and worked with the facilitators.



Catalina Martinez and Kathryn Rickert

also enjoying the spiritual benefits of this day.

Some of the adults who belong to a band brought their instruments. They provided music for the retreat, while

Please watch for announcements about future retreats for Spanish speakers, and tell anyone who may be interested.

For This We Give Thanks

“...the Holy One '...has called us to the eternal presence.” --Rule of Benedict, Prologue (1 Thess. 2:12)

We give thanks for the lives of those whom God has recently called home:

- +David Young
- +Mary "Jan" McKenzie
- +Tim Milnes
- +Carol and Art Getchman
- +Mary Norris
- +Barbara Gibson
- +Steve Russell
- +Ruth Langen

We give thanks...

--For our **Inner Artist**, who often encounters wonder in what we see around us. We have many trees around our grounds, and one large, tall fir tree has a lovely embellishment of wisteria blossoms up to about 2/3 of its height. Wisteria is a vigorous grower which can damage smaller trees, but this large fir wears it like a necklace.

--For the art of **Cinema Divina** and especially for the work of local writer/media artist **Marilyn Freeman** in this area. Her images of peace capture "Hope" when she compares the "bent over woman" in Luke 13:10-13 to our bent over world. In "The Mystic" she invites us to another way of seeing. Each of her films invites us to an interior peace. See some of these at marilynfreeman.com.



Oblate Marilyn Freeman

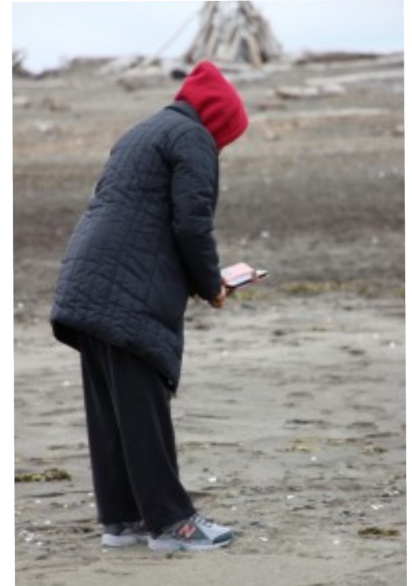
--For connecting globally...**Novice Molly's** story: "One day I took Tanzanian **Sister Donatha** to the Ocean Shores jetty, well known for the rocks including agates and garnets that wash up on the beach. I started to take pictures of the rocks in the sand. Sister Donatha gave me a funny look, and I explained that I used to stuff my pockets full of rocks when I came to the beach, taken by their intricacy and colors. But finally I had no place to put them—I had baskets overflowing with rocks. Now, like me, Sr. Donatha can take pictures of them and take home as many as she wants. And their colors never fade when they dry out."

--For creative writing which can express values we hold dear, our love of God, and be a blessing for the future. Oblate Camille Wooden wrote the Benedictus below—a creative rewriting of the scripture we chant every morning at the end of Morning Praise.

Benedictus for the Earth

Blessed are you
 O God of all creation,
 For you sustain and
 provide for your people.
 You made for us a world
 created through your word
 and upheld in your spirit,
 For the nourishment, renewal
 and delight of every living thing.
 Your love for all that lives
 attends the falling of a sparrow
 and the singing of a whale.
 We are the work of your hands,
 fashioned in your image
 Made to join our voice with
 all else that lives
 In one joyful hymn of praise.
 In this new day's rising,
 let the Light that blessed creation's
 dawn
 Guide us to love and cherish
 this earth,
 to care for all life,
 to return to you with grateful love
 the song of creation that you
 began.

--Obl. Camille Wooden



Sister Donatha at Ocean Shores, beginning her "rock (picture) collection."

May 19 Art Show: Blessing in the Lobby

Artist God, Creator of all we are—

May the imaginative and inspiring art work of our children gathered in this threshold space elevate our spirits. May it ignite our own inborn creativity and vision of new possibilities of what peace can be— personally, collectively and globally.

May each of us experience the universal truth of the Butterfly Effect: every event, no matter how small, has an effect on all other events, no matter how large. The creation of every piece of art here tonight sends its Beauty throughout the universe.

These blessings we ask in the name of **Mary, Queen of Peace**, to whom this Art Show is dedicated—Amen.



Tiger cuddling a child, an image of peace by Sophia, St. Michael's Parish School, Olympia

We, the Benedictine Sisters of St. Placid Priory, a monastic community, cultivate a contemplative spirit that leads to hospitality and works of justice and peace. 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

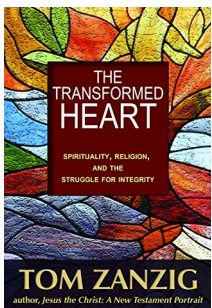
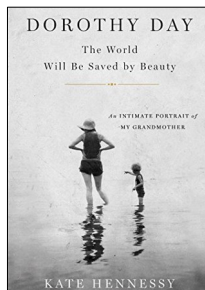
is an ecumenical Christian ministry that encourages people of all faiths to seek and discern the voice of God in their lives and in the world. We offer a peaceful and contemplative setting for personal reflection. We encourage and challenge people to know the presence of God in their lives through classes,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



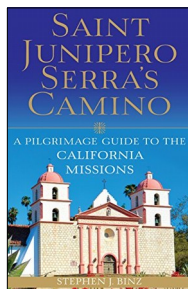
Sister Laura's Scriptorium:
Books that Merit Attention

Dorothy Day. *The World Will Be Saved by Beauty. An Intimate Portrait of My Grandmother*, by Kate Hennessy, Scribner, 2017. This is a highly readable portrait of the Servant of God Dorothy Day, a complex and oftentimes contradictory person. Hennessy allows us to see the very human, passionate, sometimes difficult, and always caring woman, a person not always revealed in Day's own writings.



The Transformed Heart. *Spirituality, Religious, and the Struggle for Integrity*, by Tom Zanzig, Orbis Books, 2017. We hear about the “nones,” those who claim to be spiritual without being religious. This is the best resource I've encountered for taking the “nones” seriously, challenging them toward an other-oriented integrity. And therefore challenging the “religious” to deepen their hearts and trust the Holy Spirit.

Saint Junipero Serra's Camino. *A Pilgrimage Guild to the California Missions*, by Stephen Binz, Franciscan Media, 2017. Interested in the California Missions? Planning a trip soon? This is the most complete resource I've encountered. His approach is both historical and spiritual. We learn of both native and Franciscan spirituality, as well as a “liturgical reading” of the interior of each mission church.



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

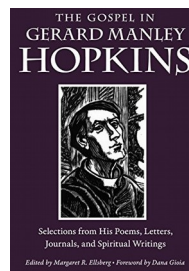
We request half the registration fee as a non-refundable deposit for a program or retreat at the time of registration to confirm space. Any donation you make above program costs will be used for scholarships.

Full Payment enclosed \$ _____

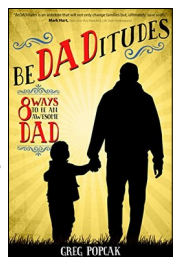
Deposit enclosed \$ _____

Scholarship Donation enclosed \$ _____

The Gospel in Gerard Manley Hopkins. *Selections from His Poems, Letters, Journals, and Spiritual Writings*, edited by Margaret Ellsberg, Plough, 2017. Are you a fan of his poetry? Hopkins lived a life-long struggle with faith that ultimately gave birth to his powerful poetry and other writings. This is a gentle journey into the heart of a much-loved writer who gifted us with a refreshing way to see God's hand at work in our world.



BeDADitudes. *8 Ways to Be an Awesome Dad*, by Greg Popcak, Ave Maria, 2017. A fun and deceptively simple take on how to be a great dad. Popcak begins with the Beatitudes, then applies them to life-affirming fatherhood. Fathers, like all of us, can only give what they've got, so the author briefly explores spirituality as a prelude to good parenting. A great gift for the new dad you know.



The Reckless Way of Love. *Notes on Following Jesus* by Dorothy Day, Plough, 2017. This is a small collection of Day's thoughts on the life of discipleship and all the challenging ways Jesus called us to love others. This small volume is a great source for *lectio*.



**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 2017

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What's New at the Priory Store –

—by Zoila Roberts

Fall is a time of new beginnings. The school year starts. New programs at the Priory Spirituality Center begin. We take the risk to learn new things and embark on new adventures on our journey to God.

I invite you to celebrate with us your new beginnings and special events and occasions. We have an assortment of beautiful Ministry of the Arts cards from The Sisters of St. Joseph who “affirm the power and prophecy of the arts and believe the arts to be an important ministry for hope and healing in a critical moment of world transformation.”

You are also invited to deepen your relationship with God, not only with programs and retreats at the Priory Spirituality Center, but also with our large selection of Bibles, Missals, prayer books, and books for spiritual reading.

I want to remind our Spanish speaking friends that we have a Spanish language corner for you. Tenemos unos libros interesantes en Español. And we had a very well-attended spiritual retreat for Spanish speakers in July (*see page 7*). We hope to do more retreats like this.

Spirituality Center Staff

Janice Ariza – Center Coordinator
Lucy Wynkoop, OSB – Program Coordinator
Melissa Wright – Program Assistant
Mary Giles Mailhot, OSB – Staff
Monika Ellis, OSB – Staff
Therese Gonneville, OSB – Staff

Weekend Hospitality Staff

Camille Wooden, Obl. OSB
Kathy Androes-Downes, Obl. OSB
Eva Hayward-George, Obl. OSB
Jolene Russell, Obl. OSB

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.