



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

Winter-Spring

January 2019

Awareness is the Beginning

By Janice J. Ariza, Coordinator
The Priory Spirituality Center

The Call to Hospitality

In order to live side-by-side harmoniously on a very challenged planet, our call is to get to know one another and develop a deepening awareness of God's presence in each individual or group we encounter. How would our world be if we actually saw Jesus in every person we met? Whether on a daily basis or globally, our responses might look quite different. Looking at another without judgment and assumption takes a desire to be aware of another's culture along with the joys and the miseries they experience.

The Call to Self-Awareness

Fair treatment and equality for all is not a new concept, yet it is still a prevalent issue loaded with difficulties. As we grow in awareness of our own thought-life and reactions to people and situations, there is hope that we can learn to treat all with dignity no matter what the circumstances. It is a topic demanding attention in headlines and in our own encounters. The recent US Catholic Bishops' pastoral letter addresses the evil of racism that still exists in our communities and asks people to



open their hearts and love. The Leadership Conference of Women Religious resolve that "Following in the footsteps of Jesus, we commit ourselves to examine the root causes of injustice, particularly racism, and our own complicity as congregations, and to work to effect systemic change as we struggle to establish economic justice, abolish modern-day slavery, ensure immigrant rights, promote nonviolence, and protect Earth and its biosphere."

The Call to Be the Beloved Community

Another group working toward raising awareness is the **Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center (IPJC)** in Seattle. In November 2018, "**Building the Beloved Community: Racism and Beyond**" was offered as a one day workshop. Participants were enlightened and amazed at the complex and multi-layered facets that feed today's attitudes. We are called to a higher ground to learn a new set of rules and train ourselves to look at all kinds of people with

a fresh perspective. God wants us to be someone we have never been. "Beloved, now we are the people of God, and it is yet to appear what we shall be."

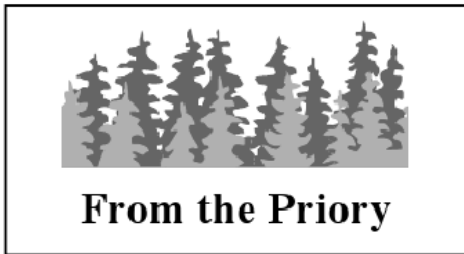
—1 John 3:2

The Call to Conversion

All of us at St. Placid were impressed when we heard about the workshop IPJC had presented, and we asked **Patty Bowman**, Director of IPJC, to facilitate a discussion here on **April 7 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM**. Patty agreed. In her acceptance she said, "I feel like, who am I to deliver a message about people who are marginalized, categorized and not really given a chance? We can only start where we start, and begin to peel off the layers in our own minds and hearts." Not all of those layers are as obvious as skin color, race or gender.

The Call to Connect

The core of the issue is about connecting with people who are marginalized and forgotten. Come to the **free event here on Sunday, April 7 at 2 pm** to learn how to connect with and how to be the Beloved Community. By bringing Patty Bowman here, we hope to bring the message of how to be the Beloved Community to those who live outside Seattle. "Come and see!" —John 1:39



From the Priory



Mary Vanek
August 28, 1954 - August 5, 2018

Mary Vanek, former member of St. Placid Priory, died in Amarillo, Texas on August 5, 2018. Mary lived with us for several years, brightening our lives with her Texas humor and delight in life. She was a gifted writer and an extraordinary editor, deeply missed by The Puget Sound Writers Guild.

Sister Julian Cleary, Postulant Camille Wooden, Candidate Mary Franklin and Volunteer Alicia Boulet attended the **Thurston County Fair** August 5, where **Sister Monika Ellis** was demonstrating her Fiber Arts.

On August 11, **Sister Laura Swan** gave a day of reflection on the Rule of Benedict and *Laudato Si* for the **Oblates of Saint Martin's Abbey**. A few of our Oblates joined as well.

Sister Mary Giles Mailhot and Candidate Mary Franklin attended the August 11 Nisqually dog show.

Sister Monika Ellis departed for Port Townsend August 18, where she

facilitated a day of prayer on the theme "The Colors of God" for **Grace Lutheran Church** of Port Townsend.

August 22, **Sister Donatha Gunda** returned from New Jersey where she visited friends and renewed her visa so that she can continue her studies at **St. Martin's University**.

Angela Carlin of **St. Martin's University** brought **Benedictine Scholars** over for a day retreat on September 8. Several community members joined them for lunch and a visit. **Sister Raphaela Cady** shared with them about St. Placid Priory's Community.



Postulant Mary Franklin

Postulant Tricia Burns

Mary Franklin and Tricia Burns became postulants at Evening Praise on September 8. A celebration in the dining room followed.



Suzanne Johnson and Jessika Satori

At Evening Praise on September 9, we received two Oblate Candidates, **Jessika Satori** and **Suzanne Johnson**. Welcome to Suzanne and Jessika!

Sister Monika Ellis departed on October 23 for Beaverton, OR, for the regional **Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)** meeting. The meeting was held at the **Sisters of St. Mary**

of Oregon, Beaverton, OR. Among other topics, immigrations issues were discussed.

Sisters Laura Swan, Raphaela Cady, Julian Cleary; Postulants Camille Wooden, Tricia Burns, Mary Franklin; and Alicia Boulet attended the **Religious Formation Conference** in Renton. The October 27 presentation was titled "Life-Giving Community: Cultivating Communication, Connection and Compassion."

On October 28, **Sister Monika Ellis** presented a talk on "The Role of Spiritual Direction" at **Gloria Dei Lutheran Church**, Olympia.

Sharing Silence: an Interfaith Meditation Group has met here each month since September. Several community members participate. The group is composed of all faith traditions, and its purpose is to share silence and be a peaceful presence of prayer and unity for the world. The group was co-founded by **Paul Reitmann** (Episcopal tradition) and **Jude Rozhon** (Buddhist tradition). It meets from **2:30 to 4:00 pm the fourth Sunday of the month**, in the **Spirituality Center's** Sophia room. There is no charge for this group. You may simply come (next meeting is **February 24**) or contact Paul Reitmann at preitmann@gmail.com or Sr. Julian at jcleary@stplacid.org.



Sister Donatha and Postulant Mary Franklin traveled to Tanzania November 15 with **Sister Donatha Gunda**, returning alone on December 20. Sister Donatha cele-

...Continued from page 2

brated her 25th Jubilee at home and returned here in early January.

Postulant Tricia Burns stayed busy in the fall, teaching a freshman class at St. Martin's University during the fall term. The class is designed to orient new students to University life and studies.



Novice Camille Wooden

On the Feast of St. Gertrude at Evening Praise, Postulant Camille Wooden became **Novice Camille**. It was the only *planned* part of November 16, which began at Morning Praise with our fire alarm going off. Turned out it was a washing machine belt which caused a lot of smoke and set off the alarm. Plenty of adrenaline to go around that day! By evening, we were glad for a reason to celebrate.



The 2018 Priory Fiber Arts Bearzaar Team

On November 17, **Priory Fiber Arts** had its usual booth at **Bearzaar**, the Olympia High School annual fund-

raiser. Community members and friends reported a busy day and lively sales. **Sister Monika Ellis** is also now offering **Fiber Arts classes** at St. Placid. For details of the next class (in March), see page 5.

Sister Laura Swan was interviewed December 7 by **Lisa Fields** of the **Jude 3 Project** about *The Forgotten Desert Mothers*, Sister Laura's first book.

Sisters Julian Cleary and Laura Swan, Novice Camille Wooden, Affiliate/Oblate Cheryl Gudger and Volunteer Alicia Boulet joined others on December 7 for a visit to the **Islamic Center of Olympia** for prayers and a gathering to learn about **Islam** and the community's own particular history. It was a much appreciated experience.

On December 16, **Sister Raphaela Cady, Postulant Tricia Burns, and Alicia Boulet** attended a panel discussion by several contributors to the 2018 book *In Our Own Words: Religious Life in a Changing World*, edited by Juliet Mousseau, RSCJ and Sarah Kohles, RSF. The event was hosted by the **Congregation of St. Joseph of Peace** in Bellevue.

Our volunteer, **Alicia Boulet**, became **Candidate Alicia** at a Sunday ritual on January 13 at Evening Praise. Her aunt and mother were present and joined us for a little celebration.

On Monday nights at 7:15 pm, a **Centering Prayer** group meets at **The Priory Spirituality Center**. The group's members are Centering Prayer practitioners and members of 12-Step programs. Every-one comes together for a 20 minute "sit," followed by sharing, allowing a deepening of the 11th step goal of "increasing our conscious contact with God." The group is almost a year old and is part of **Contemplative Outreach Northwest's** small but growing network of **11th Step/Centering Prayer** groups. The first of these groups came from a joint collaboration of the national Contem-

plative Outreach and Alcoholics Anonymous organizations. More information is available via the regional organization's website: **contemplativeoutreachnorthwest.org** or via the national Contemplative Outreach website, at **contemplativeoutreach.org/**

Images of Peace in our World

We at St. Placid Priory would be honored to have you join us at our 3rd Annual Images of Peace Art Show and Sale!

Gala
Friday, May 3, 2019
7:30pm-9:00pm
\$15 per person

Open House
Saturday, May 4, 2019
10:00am-3:00pm
Free Admission

Discerning Your Call

The annual **Archdiocesan Vocation Retreat** will be held April 6-7 at St. Placid Priory. Single Catholic women, 20-40, who want to explore a call to religious life, are invited. Registration fee of \$10.00 includes room and meals. Registration closes March 29. Sisters from six different communities will facilitate. Presentations plus time to reflect will provide a leisurely retreat. Contact Sister Julian, St. Placid Priory, 360.438.1771 or jcleary@stplacid.org More information at **stplacid.org**

GOINGS ON AT THE CENTER

Becoming a Wise Elder 2019 March through May with Susan Davis. Registration now open.

During this interactive workshop we will explore a way of living more consciously, more joyfully and more authentically during the Second Half of Life. We'll uncover the blessings that comprise the rich tapestry of our lives, and transmit the wisdom of a lifetime of learning to heal and nurture our loved ones, our world, and ourselves through Sage-ing®.

Listening With the Spirit Fall 2019-Spring 2020

A two-year formation/discernment process to become a Spiritual Director, beginning in the Fall. Applications are now available.

“This two-year program is intensive. A level of spiritual maturity is required before entering into the program, and then it serves as a kind of Refiner’s Fire that burns away the dross. Those who would stand in as instruments of Spirit (as directors) are acquainted with the challenges of different aspects of spiritual life as it is lived in ordinary life as well as during periods of crisis, in order to hold people in love, warmth of spirit and holiness. What a gift!”

—Patricia Kay

Oasis 2018-2019

Oasis offers monthly contemplative retreat time.

“I started attending Oasis last fall, and it has indeed been a time and place of spiritual sustenance. Simply getting the dates on the calendar before life fills in all the open space ensures that I have times set aside regularly for rest, reflection, and reconnection with God’s creative love. The monthly gatherings include a healthy balance of solitude,

spiritual direction, conversation, and texts to ponder. Our practice is framed by the wise words of Beatrice Bruteau in *Radical Optimism*: “most of the spiritual life is really a matter of relaxing.” Indeed, participation in Oasis has helped me to relax my grip on busyness and anxiety and open my heart to the rejuvenating presence of God. I am able to return to my family and my vocation with a renewed sense of gratitude, appreciation and wonder, awakened afresh to the many ways that God is present in ordinary life.”

—Pastor Darla DeFrance

Clergy Retreats 2018-2019

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

2019 retreats: February 25-26 and April 22-23.

“I wish I could express how important it is to be able to let go of the harness of leadership and to be cared for in my calling. So often, when people who are trained to lead in the church attend programs for spirituality, we get pressed into service using our skills. That takes us out of the healing space we have sought by leaving our parishes and puts us back to work. In the clergy retreats, though our roles in the church are acknowledged, it is our persons who are cared for. We are there to rest, read, refresh and renew. We have access to spiritual direction and the library. We can choose solitude or company, stillness or walking. Our only schedule is worship and meals. I gladly travel four hours to arrive, and when I leave, I enjoy the new energy and focus I take back with me to my parish. I would love to see more clergy participate in this program. The stabilizing benefit to the clergy and their worshipping communities is a blessing that amplifies well-being throughout our region.”

—Reverend Pamela Hunter

Retreats

The Center supports private and individual retreats year-round. This is a good time to remove yourself from the world and reflect on the graces of God.

“In December I attended the Advent Retreat. The retreat began with a guided mediation on the Holy Family which broke open the fear, worry, and exhaustion that had begun to cloud my life. The joy of Jesus, the delight of his parents, and the wisdom they carry together shook me into smiling and only became more vivid as I spent the weekend in silent meditation with 8 other retreatants. The simple hospitality of the Sisters and their staff, the beautiful grounds, our retreat leader’s thoughtful articles for reflection, and warm spiritual direction deepened my experience immensely. I am not the same after encountering this Sacred Love. This is the Love that now fills my heart each morning as I prepare for work and is what carries me through the day with grace. Thank you, Sisters of St. Placid Priory for opening your home to those of us who need to have our hearts opened again.”

—Michaela Kearns

Spiritual Direction

Available by appointment. Please see our website for Directors’ biographies and contact information.

“I came to the Priory two years ago seeking spiritual direction. I had recently retired and was looking for a new focus for my life and ministry. I wanted help discerning what God was calling me to. Spiritual direction has turned out to be one of the most exciting, meaningful and grace-filled spiritual experiences of my entire life. I am discovering my true self and how Christ dwells within my soul.” —Paul Rietmann

Additional information about these programs and more can be found at www.stplacid.org. Please register online.

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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. **New: Register online!**

Women of Wisdom: Writing from the Heart



February 2
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm

We will explore our heritage with women of wisdom by reading and reflecting on their writings, including poems by Mary Frye, Hildegard of Bingen, Fatimah Baraghani and others. There will be time for meditation, guided visualization, journaling, and sharing.

Register by Prior Friday: \$55
Bring a sack lunch, journal, and pen.
Anatha Attar, MA

Lipstick, Old Keys & The Hand Held Mirror



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

In Session 2, we will explore in greater depth, poetic metaphor and symbology, and the spiritual and transformational power of poetry. Poems will be experienced engaging various mediums embodying dream imagery, music, and photographic visuals. Participants will be offered creative time for writing and art and sharing their creations. *Note: Participants who did not attend Session 1, are most welcome to attend Session 2.*

Register by Prior Friday: \$65
Bring a sack lunch, paper, writing and art supplies
Cecily Markham

Introduction to an 11th Step Prayer Practice

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

The Mission: We are 12 Step people who practice Centering Prayer as our 11th Step and pass it on to others in 12 Step Recovery. Centering Prayer can help deepen our application of the 12 Steps generally, and the 11th Step specifically, through daily immersion in prayer and meditation. We believe that when applied as a daily supplement to the 12 Steps, Centering Prayer opens us to the deepest dimension of spirituality.

Register by prior Friday: Donation at the door
Bring a sack lunch
Gordon C. and David M.

The Art of Heart and Soul



February 23
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm

Spend a day exploring your heart and soul. We'll use simple art forms to encourage your heart and soul to speak and then engage in group spiritual direction to tell your story. Come! Be curious. Come! Try something new. Come and experience the Holy Spirit's presence in your life.

Register by Prior Friday: \$55
Bring a sack lunch
Cathy Raymond

Hildegard of Bingen's Medicine



March 2
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm

Enter the medieval world in which the earth, the healing plants, and humankind are expressions of divine harmony and the redemption of God. We'll explore the system and understandings from which abbess, mystic and skilled healer Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179) practiced her medicine, and engage with these healing ways ourselves.

Register by Prior Friday: \$65
Bring a sack lunch; please dress for the weather since we'll be outdoors at times.
Jane Valencia

Lenten Retreat



March 8-10
Friday 7:30pm
- Sunday 11:00am

During this silent retreat you will experience a guided imagery time, receive handouts to use during retreat, and reflective times to prepare your heart and yourself to receive the blessings this Lent will offer to you as you spend time with Jesus and what you may be called to live out from this retreat. Spiritual direction is also available upon request.

Register by February 23: \$175
with Spiritual Direction \$215
Therese Gonneville, OSB

Felting



March 9
Saturday 9:00-11:15am

Felting is a fun and creative activity that changes airy and light wool strands into solid fabrics and forms. We'll use a foam pad, a needle and wool roving (wool prepared for spinning) to do our felting. No experience necessary; materials are included. On this date we'll be felting an Easter egg.

Register by Fri. March 1: \$40
Bring a sack lunch
Sister Monika Ellis

Going Deeper with the Enneagram



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

This workshop will deepen one's understanding of the nine Enneagram patterns and how they both enhance and inhibit one's spiritual journey toward inner freedom and loving service. Content will include forms of prayer for each type, practical reflection practices, and interaction among participants. A basic knowledge of the Enneagram and your likely type is a prerequisite.

Register by Prior Friday: \$65
Bring a sack lunch
Marilyn Vancil

**Discernment:
A Journey of Discovery**



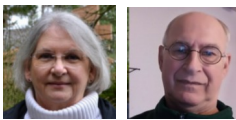
March 23
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm

“I know well the plans I have in mind for you, plans to give you a future full of hope.”(Jeremiah 29:11) Come spend a day reflecting and discovering how to make choices that can lead to the future God has in mind for you.

Register by Prior Friday: \$55
Bring a sack lunch
Jan Alkire

Silent Centering Prayer Retreat

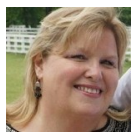
March 29-31
Friday 7:15pm
- Sunday 1:30pm



This silent retreat 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: \$225
Bob Delastrada
Charlotte Thompson

**My Heart,
Christ’s Home**



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

We will use our imagination, visualization techniques, journaling, Scripture, contemplation and sharing to see how our hearts are prepared (or not?) as a welcome space for Christ. We'll consider the messy spaces, discern our priorities for “housecleaning” and prepare strategies for transforming our heart into “Christ’s Home,” drawing inspiration from Robert Boyd Munger’s book *My Heart, Christ’s Home*.

Register by prior Friday: \$60
Bring a sack lunch, journal, and Bible
Nickie Lynn

**Blessed Movements with the
Passion and Resurrection**



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

We will prayerfully move with the story of the Passion and Resurrection of Christ as told in the gospel of John. By doing so, we become more present to Jesus’ experience. Body movements will be slow and gentle. For the physically challenged, the movements can be done while sitting on a chair.

Register by Prior Friday: \$55
Bring a sack lunch and an exercise mat or blanket
Roy DeLeon

Triduum Retreat

April 18-21
Thursday 3:00pm – Sunday 12:00pm

Come and spend time in quiet with Jesus as he enters this Paschal Journey from suffering to Resurrection. During this silent retreat you will experience guided meditation, receive handouts to prepare your heart, and receive the blessings of this Triduum. Spiritual Direction is available upon request.

Register by Prior Friday: \$220
with Spiritual Direction \$260
Therese Gonneville, OSB

**Mirroring Self,
Mirroring Anima Mundi**



April 27
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm

This retreat is an exploration of facial reflection. We explore these reflections in the mirror first, and then take our explorations outside to see where our psyche and soul are reflected back to us through Nature. We will explore and elucidate the importance of this connection.

Register by Prior Friday: \$65
Bring a sack lunch and items from nature meaningful to you
Darcie A. Richardson

Images of Peace Retreat



May 3-4
Friday 7:30pm
-Saturday 3:00pm

Help us kick off the Images of Peace Art Show at our Friday night Gala! Then with the insights of two of our featured artists, we will delve into prayerful exploration of the different art pieces using Visio Divina. We hope this retreat will give you the opportunity to experience Images of Peace more fully.

Register by Friday April 26 \$130
(includes Gala ticket)
Minimum 5, Maximum 10
Janice Ariza

**Music-Facilitated Imagery
for the Soul**



May 11
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm

We will practice deep listening to music selections in order to facilitate imagery. We'll also use Active Dreaming principles to work with that imagery. We will journey beyond the limitations of familiar routines into the realm of spirit and soul to explore vistas of possibility.

Register by prior Friday: \$55
Bring a sack lunch
Jerry DeVore

**Trusting Your Mystical
Experiences**



May 18
9:00am-3:00pm

Mystical Experiences come in many forms: a powerful dream that felt more real than life, a vision, a visitation, a Near-Death Experience (NDE), or a moment of grace in nature. Through Singing Medicine, hearing Robin’s NDE and meditation, we will help you unpack the meaning, truth, and breadth of your mystical experience.

Register by prior Friday: \$65
Bring a sack lunch
Robin Aisha Landsong, John Utter

See our website for more information on presenters. Register online at www.stplacid.org.

Hearing Our Stories in the Psalms

May 25
9:00am-3:00pm



The Psalms speak to all parts of the human condition. Together we will sift our own stories with the Psalms, using simple creative activities: writing, drawing, and movement. You will leave with practices that deepen your connection to these texts and give voice to the psalm singing in your life.

Register by Prior Friday: \$55
Bring a sack lunch, a journal, and comfortable clothing for simple movement.
Beth Amsbary
Tamara Roberts

**God the Artist:
We the Co-Creators**

July 6
Saturday 9:00am-3:30pm



God is the artist of our soul. This retreat will stimulate our creative souls. We will focus on our Potter God, using clay materials. We'll meet at The Priory Spirituality Center and drive to Walter and Renata Siegl's clay studio in Shelton, where they'll aid us with our creations. All of us are artists, so come to play and pray! The pieces will be glazed by Walter and Renata and you may pick them up at The Priory Spirituality Center after they are glazed.

Register by prior Friday: \$80
(includes glazing)
Bring a sack lunch
Lucy Wynkoop, OSB
Renata & Walter Siegl



Iconography Workshop and Retreat

August 18-22
Sunday 3:30pm – Thursday 3:30pm

Fr. Damian will introduce participants to the history, spirituality and techniques of traditional Byzantine Iconography. Each student will be provided with all the materials and supplies to complete an icon of St. Gertrude using the egg-tempera method, using all natural pigments and 23K Gold leafing. While no previous art experience is necessary, more accomplished iconographers are welcome.



Register by Friday, Aug. 4: \$750
(includes all materials, lodging and meals)
Fr. Damian

God's Light...So much Light

On November 9 & 10, **John Paul II High School** staged a production of "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." The theme for the evening was to Reflect the Light. The inspiration came from **Cecily Markham's** painting, "God's Light...So much Light," which was purchased from our Images of Peace Art Show in 2017 by Principal Ron Edwards for the campus. The artwork has been such an energizing visual for the students and faculty that the director, Robert McKenzie Sullivan, decided to do a dramatization of what the painting symbolizes to encourage and enlighten those attending the play. The performance of the five young actors who were shining with bright enthusiasm was impressive. The twelve scenes depicting a variety of life circumstances each ended with a thoughtful and positive solution. An illuminated time for all. —Janice Ariza



Cecily Markham with her painting

From the Archives

The St. Placid archives are really a combination **archive** (papers and pictures), **library** (lots of old prayer books and missals) and **museum** (objects large and small). Here is a shelf with some items from the past two Priory buildings, waiting to be catalogued.



Please see our website for more information on our presenters, then experience how easy it is to register online!

www.stplacid.org

For This We Give Thanks

The Psalmist prays: "You have put gladness in my heart."--Psalm 4:7 We want to share the following glimpses of well-being, knowing they will bless you, too.

Wonder. Candidate **Alicia Boulet** was outside on one of her many wonder walks. As she approached the gate on the north side of our property, she was amazed to see two ravens sitting on the branch of a Douglas fir. They were sitting with an eagle perched on the same branch!

Jubilee. Postulant **Mary Franklin** attended the 25th Profession Jubilee of **Sister Donatha Gunda, OSB** in Ndanda, Tanzania on December 8. She was "inspired by the extensive circle of participants that included all ages of Religious, family, friends, villagers, tribal members and parishioners. The great value they placed on this event was evident from the many sacrifices they made to be able to participate. After the formal event in the chapel, festivities continued non-stop into the evening. I experienced a collective wellspring of Joy leaping from within the 200 plus individual attendees."

Eternal Life. With sadness and joy we remember our friends and family who have recently died:

+Monica Roller +Dianna Burford
+Mary Vanek +Betty Chips
+Jim Werle +Benedict Thiessen
+Julia Walker +Richard Wurz
+John Wojtanowicz
+Fr. James Cleary, OFM Capuchin

Precious. Two-year-old Spanish-speaking **Christian** visited the Sisters on his birthday. He was given a laminated holy card of Our Lady of Guadalupe. He took it and kissed the image of Mary twice and then held it near his heart.

Connections. Members of **North Star Church** in Tumwater spent all day working outside, trimming over-grown greens, taking away fallen leaves and sprucing up everything around the monastery building. No little task. A big-hearted gift to us from **Pastor Luke** and his crew!

Awe. This year an irrigation pipe was cracked by the root of a 100-foot tall Douglas fir. A portion of this lateral root was cut away so the pipe could be fixed. The width of the root was 14.5 x 17.5 inches!

Gladness. **Sister Monika Ellis** did the "Sister Damaris Christmas Table" this year. We are so grateful to those who brought Christmas gift items for us to sell. This event in loving memory

of **Sister Damaris Zander** was a great success and we have begun to collect gift items for next year. You can bring items anytime! Thank you.

For all these epiphanies of God's Presence among us, we give thanks!

Sister Redempta Ndunguru, OSB, lived with us for nearly 10 years while studying at St. Martin's University for her Bachelor's in Education and Masters in School Leadership and Administration. She is currently the principal at the English Medium Primary School at St. Agnes Convent, Chipole, Tanzania. An English medium school is one where all subjects are in English.

Each year the fourth grade students in Tanzania must take a national exam. If they pass, they may proceed to the fifth grade. If they fail, they repeat the fourth grade and re-take the test the following year.

In January, Sister Redempta reported that all twenty-seven of her fourth grade students passed the national exam at an "A" level! Their test scores ranked the school 26th out of 3,000 primary schools in Tanzania. We give thanks and congratulations for this huge achievement!

Oblate News

St. Placid Oblates started their new year of meetings in September. This year we have five Oblate candidates. During the course of this year they will meet with their Sister mentor and their Oblate mentor as they study the Rule of St. Benedict and monastic life.

In October, Oblate Liz Langeland and Postulant Camille Wooden traveled to St. Gertrude's Monastery in Cottonwood, Idaho, for a 5-day symposium entitled "Oblates for the Future." Oblates from around the country (and even one from Belgium!) came to talk about the history of Oblates, Oblate participation in monasteries and Oblate leadership, and to network and begin to form a vision for the future. It soon became clear we had many things in common, including the challenges facing Oblate communities and the commitment to living Benedictine values in the world. It was a fruitful time, generating specific ideas to begin moving into the future as well as plans for a follow-up symposium in September, 2019. It is an exciting and challenging time to be an Oblate, and we anticipate moving forward together with the Sisters and community of St. Placid.

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

Extraordinary Time. Spiritual Reflections from a Season with Cancer, Death, and Transition by Laura Dunham, Cascade Books, 2018. A Benedictine Oblate, Dunham ponders thoughtfully and prayerfully in the manner of *lectio divina* what she learned during a difficult year of cancer, the sudden death of her husband, and her son's emotional challenges. Laura's deep faith echoes through these pages. I recommend this for those confused by the depth of their emotional and spiritual pain.

Our Oblate Roy DeLeon has been busy illustrating "The Pope's Cat" series by Jon Sweeney. These include ***Margaret's Night in St. Peter's (A Christmas Story)*** (2018), ***Margaret's First Holy Week*** (2019), and ***Margaret and the Pope Go to Assisi*** (later 2019). Each has been delightful and endearing, for children and for the child in us. Enjoy!

Eternity is Now in Session. A Radical Rediscovery of What Jesus Really Taught About Salvation, Eternity, and Getting to the Good Place by John Ortberg, Tyndale, 2018. A positive perspective on common Christian beliefs that are too often misunderstood, and a call to illumination and transformation.

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.

Or register online!
www.stplacid.org

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 Book of Joy. Lasting Happiness in a Changing World by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Avery, 2016. If any of you have heard these two "very holy characters," I need not say more. These living saints share a conversation about joy, compassion, and living an authentic human life. Their words will touch you deep within your hearts.

It's Not Supposed to Be This Way. Finding Unexpected Strength When Disappointments Leave You Shattered by Lysa Terkeurst, Nelson Books, 2018. Lysa's story at times reads like the Book of Job, yet this is an uplifting journey of exploration—the deepening of our relationship with God that happens when we let go and let God lead and heal. The format is friendly for study. A good resource for all of us with inner wounds seeking hope and remembering the Spirit's strength within us.





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

Winter-Spring
January 2019

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What's New at the Priory Store —

—by Zoila Roberts and the Priory Store Team

We are excited to tell you about some of the Bibles that we have in stock at the Store.

Lectio Divina, also called Sacred Reading, is an ancient prayer practice that aids us in drawing closer to God. There are four movements to this practice. The first is a slow, reflective reading of a piece of Scripture. This is followed by a period of reflection on what the piece means to me, the reader. Then there is prayer to God about how this may affect my life. Finally there is discernment about how this will be incorporated in my life.

The Catholic Prayer Bible Lectio Divina Edition is a Bible that is an excellent aid to praying reflectively on Scripture. Within the Bible are prayer segments and reflection questions that lead us through the practice of Lectio Divina. This Bible increases our knowledge of Scripture and, through reflective prayer, leads us to a closer relationship with God.

Another Bible we have is The Little Rock Catholic Study Bible. This Bible not only increases our knowledge, but also builds our faith. Through introductions to each book, footnotes, and narrative, we become aware of the significance and background of each biblical verse.

We offer these Bibles and many other books for your spiritual journey and to encourage your loved ones on their spiritual journey. We also have many religious gift items. Come and bring a friend!

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

Postulant Mary Franklin
Postulant Tricia Burns
Candidate Alicia Boulet
Oblate Kathy Androes-Downes
Oblate Eva Hayward-George

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.