



St. Placid Priory

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

Spring - Summer

January 2020

We Are Already One

By Novice Camille Wooden

“My dear brothers and sisters we are already one. But we imagine that we are not. So what we have to recover is our original unity. “ These words are Thomas Merton’s, from his Asian Journal. It can take a while to really understand what those words mean and then learn how to live out their truth. In St. Gregory’s life of St. Benedict he told of the timeless moment when St. Benedict saw the whole of creation in a single ray of light. In this oneness there is no judgment, no rejection, no them and us. It moves beyond charity to a place where the boundaries between giver and receiver dissolve and we live in gratitude to the Creator of all things.

The following pieces share this sense of oneness and gratitude—giving that is receiving, receiving that is giving. No doubt they will rekindle your own memories of experiencing oneness and of the hope we have that *this* becomes the place where we abide at every moment.

Our Connection with Benedictine Sisters of St. Agnes Convent, Chipole, Tanzania

By Sister Maureen O’Leary

It’s hard to believe that about 20 years have passed since we began our connection with the Benedictine Sisters of St. Agnes Convent in Chipole, Tanzania. The Sisters contacted us and inquired if we could help two of their Sisters obtain a college degree. Working in collaboration with St. Martin’s Abbey and University, a total of four

Benedictine Sisters from Chipole came to Lacey to study. A fifth sister came to improve her English at the Priory, later attending a university in another state.

While these Sisters were at the Priory, they participated in our communal life. It soon became evident to all of us that these Sisters were a *part* of our community. When they spoke about St. Placid, they used the word “our.” When we spoke about our Sisters, they were included. Yes, they belonged to the Benedictine Sisters in Chipole but in a special way they also belonged to us. They even said that they had two communities.



During past 20 years, six members of our community have been blessed to visit the Sisters in Chipole, Tanzania. We were always encouraged to feel at home. And, indeed, we did feel at home. We may be an ocean apart but we are all Benedictine Sisters seeking God through the monastic way.

Last fall, Sister Redemista came here for what she, and we, called “a home visit.” The Chipole Sisters who had been here purchased for each of our Sisters a *kitenge*, a colorful cloth that is used by Tanzanian women for a variety of things. It was an expression of their gratitude for the education which they had received and for their connection to us, their second home.

Working at the Interfaith Shelter

By Alicia Boulet

At the Interfaith Emergency Overnight Shelter, I have found a community of people who have made a beautiful space where all are truly welcome, where hatred is not tolerated and where I am embraced by the guests. I leave each time feeling as if together we have put something positive out into the world. I have learned what it means to be truly grateful for the abundance of blessings all around me, because each guest shows me what it means to appreciate each moment and to be grateful for the little things in life that the majority of us take for granted. I see them choose love and kindness every day over cynicism and fear.

The guests have shown me that being open and genuine is all that is required of me, and that my years of fear over my offers of help being rejected that prevented me from helping for so long, are surely behind me. Because, the truth is, this isn’t about me or what I do as an individual, this is about a bigger issue that our Nation needs to address and that must be faced. Only when we become One Community, with Compassion as our compass, will we find an answer to ending the suffering we see all around us.

Centering Prayer and the 12 Steps

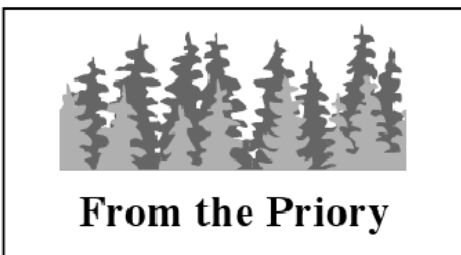
By Novice Camille Wooden

In any 12 Step recovery program, if you do your work, you eventually reach the 11th step, which is a commitment you make to grow closer

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to God (however you conceive of God) and to do it with intention. We have an 11th step group that meets here at the Priory once a week that practices Centering Prayer as one of the ways to grow our relationship with God. We pray together alone (or alone together) as we close our eyes and in silence give our assent for God to work in us. The silence that still contains the connection with the others praying around us has a power that reaches deeply. In those moments I think I know, really know, what Thomas Merton meant. There simply is no separation. God holds us all.

We are already one. And if we have forgotten this, the good news is that it is waiting for us to rediscover whenever we are ready.



On August 21, **Benedictine Sister Paula Hagen**, recent prioress of **St. Paul Monastery**, St. Paul, MN, arrived to spend part of her sabbatical with us.

Sister Maureen O'Larey attended a "Called to Serve as Christ" dinner on August 26 at **St. Charles Borromeo** parish in Tacoma. She spoke at **St. Madeleine Sophie** Parish on November 9 and 10, and she and **Sister Julian Cleary** spoke at **St. Anthony Parish** on November 16 and 17.

Sister Laura Swan left for **Taiwan** on August 29. She led a retreat for the Sisters of **St. Benedict Monastery** there and also led their Visitation. She returned September 19.

Sister Redemista Ngonyani arrived from **Tanzania** to spend six weeks with us. We enjoyed seeing her again. In early September, **Sister Maureen O'Larey** drove **Sister Redemista** and

Sister Paula Hagen to the ocean where they enjoyed lovely weather.



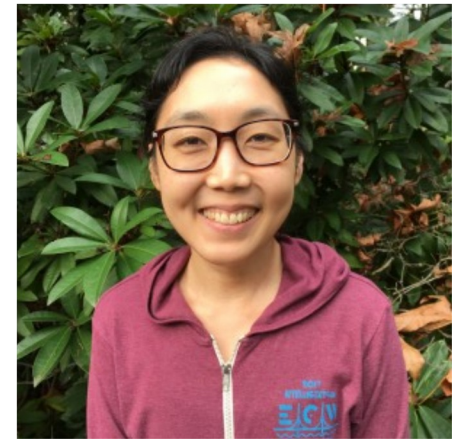
Sisters Redemista Ngonyani, OSB and Paula Hagen, OSB at Westport

Sister Julian Cleary traveled to Chicago, IL September 8-11 for a meeting of the Member Area Coordinators of the **National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC)**. **Sister Christine Still, OSF** and **Sister Julian Cleary, OSB** are the Member Co- Coordinators representing the Pacific Northwest Region, which includes the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho and Wyoming. At the meeting, the member area coordinators discussed organizational issues with the NRVC Board. In addition, they reviewed guide and evaluation updates and reorganization of the NRVC executive team and staff.

On September 21, **Interfaith Works** and **Concerned Clergy of Olympia** facilitated a **Peace Day Festival and Vigil** at Sylvester Park in Olympia. This was a day to remember the wisdom and practice the ways of peace, with booths and activities beginning at 1:30 pm, and an Interfaith Vigil at 3:00 pm. **St. Placid Priory** was represented by **Oblate Ann Cacciari** and **Candidate Alicia Boulet**.

Sister Mariangela Yator, OSB, Abbess of **San Giuseppe** in Assisi, Italy, stopped in for Evening Praise, dinner and a visit on September 29.

Susie Heo arrived on September 29. She is working as a live-in volunteer at **St. Placid Priory**. A live-in volunteer lives, works, prays and plays with the community for varying periods of time.



Volunteer Susie Heo

October 7 was a memorable day for us. In the wee hours a noise alerted us to a flood that was in progress. Shortly after, we discovered that a water intake hose in a 3rd floor bathroom had broken loose and was geysering all over the small bathroom. The water, following a downward path, had flooded the sacristy and silent dining room on the main floor, and below that the Archives workroom on the lower floor. **Sister Raphaela Cady** turned off the water in the bathroom, and community members were roused and bravely spent the rest of the night rescuing things from Archives. Help was summoned and action taken to save archival papers and to dry out the flooded areas. At one point, we had 39 fans and 6 dehumidifiers plus a huge generator. Now we are finding other places for Archives storage and a room where our archive assistants can work. We give thanks to God that **Sister Lucy Wynkoop** investigated that noise! And for all the hands that helped to interrupt the flood and reduce the extent of its consequences.

October 12, we said farewell to **Zoila Roberts**, who has been managing our Priory Store for some time. Zoila had lunch with us to celebrate her time

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Zoila Roberts

here. Before she left, she spent time showing our new volunteer, **Susie Heo**, the ins and outs of the store, which will now be part of Susie's volunteer responsibilities. Zoila's work with Lacey parishoners and our Spanish-speaking friends has been a great blessing.

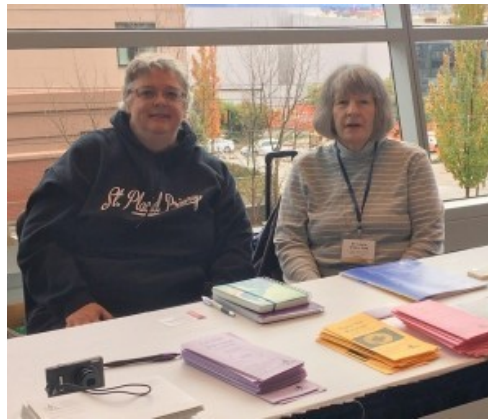
Oblate News

The new oblate year began at Evening Praise on September 7. **Jessika Satori** made her oblation and **Laura Tenisci** became an oblate candidate. We took great joy in welcoming them into the oblate community. The first meeting was on September 8 as the oblates continued their study of the Rule of Benedict.

On September 10-14, **Novice Camille Wooden**, **Sister Raphaela Cady** and **Oblate Kathy Androes-Downes** went to Cottonwood, Idaho for a four day symposium on Oblate Formation at **St. Gertrude's Monastery**. Oblates and Sister Directors from around the country (and Australia!) were there to plan for the future of oblates as we grow and change along with our monastic communities.

"Writing icons is a central part of my contemplative Christian spiritual practice. It is a visual, sacramental form of color and calligraphic prayer, to create these 'windows into Heaven.' I love experiencing the faces begin to look back at me as I work on the icons."

—Julie Barrett, Images of Peace artist



Sisters Julian Cleary & Laura Swan

Sister Laura Swan and **Sister Julian Cleary** attended the **Catholic Cornerstone Conference** in Tacoma October 18-19, representing **St. Placid Priory** and **The Priory Spirituality Center**. Sister Julian also helped represent the **Archdiocese of Seattle Religious Vocations Committee**, of which she is a member.



Chris Still, OSF, Ana Orellana, SP, Margarita Hernandez, SP, and Julian Cleary, OSB at the Catholic Cornerstone Conference in Seattle

Advent is a special time for us. On December 10 at Evening Praise we participated in a reconciliation ritual, and on the 11th there was anointing at Mass. Our Novena for all our families and friends began on December 16 and culminated on Christmas Eve.

In the new year, we celebrated **Epiphany** with a gathering of many friends on January 5, a beautiful way to begin 2020.



Sister Sharon McDonald watches as new Oblate Jessika Satori signs her oblation document on the altar



Oblate Candidate Laura Tenisci receives the Rule of Benedict from Prioress Sharon McDonald, OSB

We would be honored to have you join us at our **4th Annual Images of Peace Art Show and Sale!**



Gala
Friday, May 1, 2020
7:30pm-9:00pm
\$25 per person

Open House
Saturday, May 2, 2020
10:00am-3:00pm
Free

GOINGS ON AT THE CENTER

Good Grief for Widows

Join Suzy Petty and other widows in a safe space with a faith-centered approach to loss to find comfort, strength, peace and purpose. The group will meet weekly from 9:30-11:30am March 3, 10, 17, 24,31; April 14, 21, 2; and May 5, 12.

Oasis

Each session one of the Sisters or selected speaker leads a group program that has been structured from a selected book. These sessions with the other Oasis journeyers have inspired me to step back and view something from a different perspective as a result of shared wisdom from other group members. I am a returning Oasis participant as I have yearned for this quiet and slowing down for a day. These days of quiet time, reflection, and learning opportunities, provide me with a safe space to be in stillness and open to the quiet nudgings of God.”

—Judy Bilos-Graham

Listening with the Spirit 2019-21

"But I'm wiggly, energetic and talkative...not the type that would make a good spiritual director!" This was my protest whenever the subject arose in the last few years. It wasn't until I experienced a profound loss a few years ago that I had an overwhelming need and desire to go deeper. With the help of a soul care group, I've come to see that my deepest longing is to keep on this contemplative spiritual journey and to come along side others who desire this as well. When I applied to take Listening with the Spirit, I confessed all this to Sr. Lucy, and she only smiled and said that all kinds of spiritual directors are needed. Seeing the diversity in our cohort has reassured me that she is quite right! I'm so grateful to be among them.

—Sheila Mischke

Clergy Retreats

For a number of years now I have been attending Clergy Retreats at St. Placid Priory. Each time I go there is a little tug of, “Shouldn’t you be doing something else? Like, this task, this task, and this task?” As soon as I arrive in the forested parking lot I begin to be surrounded by reminders to relax and release this voice and welcome the gentle invitation toward rest and being restored. I walk in the woods, I enjoy time reading and writing in my journal in a room without a computer. The time with clergy in the morning is always rich, and the Sisters provide caring guidance that brings forth depth and connection. In the fray of modern religious leadership, it is a bold claim to say to one’s self, “I am worthy of this restful time.” Yet each time I am able to make that claim and come to a place of retreat (be it even for a day!), I find that there is yet more room within me for the Spirit and renewed strength to be of good help to those I serve.”

—Corey Passons

Spiritual Direction

“As our lives and faith progress, the heart expands . . .” Sister Lucy shared these words of St. Benedict at our most recent spiritual direction session. We begin and close each session with a prayer, and every month my closing prayer is one of thanksgiving for the keen listening, humility, and wisdom that Sister offers me. I bring her deep questions I have carried throughout my adult life, immediate questions regarding choices I face, persistent questions about readings. She discerns my needs and recommends resources that “boost” my spiritual growth. Her insights have nudged me out of swirling places of recurring confusion or even resistance and led me to practice what she calls “the monastic pause.” My work with Sister Lucy has expanded my heart, strengthened my faith, and awakened me to the Benedictine way of surrender to Divine Love.”

—Susan Johnson

Discerning Transitions For Clergy: Listening Together in Group Spiritual Direction 2019-2020

Participants from all different traditions and different kinds of life or professional transitions gather monthly for mutual support and exploration. Life is full of seasons, change and transitions. During one session they used the theme “brave” and listened to the song *Brave* by musical artist Sara Bareilles as if it were a love song from God telling us, “I want to see you be brave!” They read an *Invitation to Brave Space* by spiritual activist Mickey Scott Bey Jones and explored the question, “What if our lives were brave space? What could that look like?” May our lives be Brave Space.”

—Tandi Rogers

Cinema Divina

Open your mystical heart in communion with others during restorative evenings of contemplative practice, working with short films created by **Oblate Marilyn Freeman** for this purpose. Upcoming sessions will be February 8, March 7, and April 18, 2020.

Additional information about these programs and more can be found at stplacid.org. Online registration is now available.

Scholarship Fund

Are you in need of retreat time? Is there a particular program you’d like to attend to benefit your spiritual life? If you have one of these needs but can’t afford to pay at this time, The Priory Spirituality Center has scholarship funds available and may be able to help you. To inquire, please contact Janice Ariza at 360.438.2595 or spiritualityctr@stplacid.org. She’ll be happy to discuss your needs and help find a solution.

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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: stplacid.org and look under Spirituality Center, Programs and Retreats.

Cloud Devotion: Through the Year with the Cloud of Unknowing

January 25
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm



What can we learn about contemplative practice from an anonymous 14th century monk? This classic of Christian mysticism offers a simple, teachable process to the ordinary person who longs to experience loving union with God. In this practical workshop, we will explore the monk's radiant vision for spiritual deepening. Recommended text: *The Cloud of Unknowing*, translated by William Johnston.

Register by prior Friday: \$65
Bring a sack lunch.
David Robinson

Silent Retreat With Art

Friday, Jan. 31, 7:30pm-Sunday, Feb. 2, 1:00pm



During this time of silence we will meet on Friday for an introduction to the weekend and to get the first art assignment. We will meet again on Saturday morning and Saturday late afternoon for two more assignments of some type of creative art. We will finish up the silent retreat on Sunday with sharing our art and reflecting on the process and the prayer. No prior experience or training required.

Materials and resources provided. Feel free to bring your own art project and materials if you desire.
Register by Prior Friday: \$230
Sister Monika Ellis

Drawing and Moving with Psalm 139

February 8
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm



"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful." In this workshop, we will body-pray the wonderful Psalm 139 with gentle movements based on Roy's book, *Praying with the Body, Bringing the Psalms to Life*. We will create a self-portrait to honor and praise our Creator. Drawing paper will be provided.

Register by prior Friday: \$65
Bring a sack lunch, a ruler, your favorite drawing materials and an 8x10 print of a selfie.
Roy DeLeon

Spirituality in the Workplace

February 15
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm



How do we cultivate practices for self-care while adapting to stressful situations and seasons at work? The day will focus on creating strategies and spiritual practices that can sustain us in times of stress and resistance and work for us in whatever season of life we find ourselves in.

Register by prior Friday: \$60
Bring a sack lunch, journal or notebook and one small item or photo that represents your sense of your vocation.
Angie Wolle

Celtic Healing Ways

February 22
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm



In myth and Saints lives, in medieval Gaelic manuscripts and in folk tradition, herbal and other healing practices of Ireland, Scotland, and

Wales were often accompanied by prayer and ritual. We'll explore specific remedies and wellness ways, and craft blessings and ceremony to use with them, bringing Celtic healing wisdom into our everyday lives.

Register by prior Friday: \$65
Bring a sack lunch, journal and pen.
Jane Valencia

Benedictine Vocation Discernment Retreat

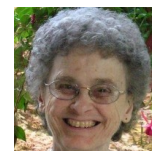
February 22 – 23
Saturday 8:30 am-Sunday 12:30 pm

The Community of St. Placid welcomes you to experience the Benedictine way of life. Newer members will share their vocational journeys and formation stages to become Benedictines. Community members will share their insights on Benedictine values. Are you called to Benedictine life? Come see us.

Register by January 12 No fee
Benedictine Sisters- Contact Sister Lucy Wynkoop at lucywynkoop@gmail.com or call 360-438-1771—before registering online.

Lenten Silent Retreat: Ask, Seek, and Knock

February 28-March 1
Fri 7:30pm-Sun 11:00am



What do you seek during this silent Lenten Retreat? Through guided imagery, handouts and reflective times you will be invited to knock on the door of prayer and to be open to some mountain-top experiences. Spiritual direction is also available upon request.
Register by February 16: \$175
with Spiritual Direction \$215
Therese Gonneville, OSB

Seeking Christ through Friendship

February 29
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm

To have the fullness of life that Jesus longs for us to have, we need sacred companions. We need friends to walk with us as part of our relationship with God. This retreat will explore how to

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find companions and share your spiritual life with them. Come and see!
Register by prior Friday: \$60
Bring a sack lunch and journal
Jan Alkire

A Lenten Journey with Scripture

March 6-8
 Fri 7:30pm-Sun 12:00pm



As disciples of Christ, we are encouraged to make connections between the Scriptures and our lived experience of faith. We will read Scripture, contemplate meanings, discuss how words inspire us and discern to what we are called. Time and space will be provided for individual prayer, faith sharing and fellowship.

Register by prior Friday: \$230
Please bring a Bible
Postulant Tricia Burns

Joseph Campbell: Utilizing the Transformational Properties of Myth

March 7
 Saturday, 9:00am-3:00pm



This workshop will delve into Joseph Campbell's pioneering studies and teachings on the mythology of different cultures, religions and spiritual systems. Our intention will be to move past the conditioned societal thoughts regarding these myths to reflect on their vital and transformational properties which can be used to deepen our daily lives.

Register by prior Friday: \$65
Please bring a sack lunch.
Paul W. Jacob (Jake)

Pilgrimage: Making Travel Sacred

March 14
 Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm



Whether a seasoned traveler or planning your very first journey, if you have heard the pilgrim's call, this class will encourage you with fresh, imaginative and heartfelt practices for enriching your journey. You may be called to greater personal confidence, education, or

spiritual rejuvenation; whatever your intention, this class will inspire your vision!

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

Unlikely Spiritual Directors

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



We will explore how a prostitute, Rahab; a scheming manipulator, Jezebel; and an adulterous Woman at the Well each have something to offer us as unlikely Spiritual Directors. With personal reflection and journaling, we will examine how we might use their examples of Faith, Courage, Obedience, Wisdom and Humility to grow our spiritual lives.

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

Silent Centering Prayer Retreat

March 27-29
 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 Wednesday: \$225
Bob Delastrada.
Charlotte Thompson

The Art of Heart and Soul

March 28
 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

Prosopeon Iconography Workshop Retreat



April 3-8
 Fri, 9:00am-Wed, 4:00pm

The Priory Spirituality Center is excited to expand its offerings in iconography by hosting a Prosopeon Iconography Workshop Retreat for both beginning and intermediate students. Students will be invited to paint a simple icon in the Russian-Byzantine tradition following step-by-step technical instructions. Each of the six days of this intensive icon workshop will begin with a prayer experience and presentation of the theology which is the foundation of this unique art and prayer form.

Register online as soon as possible:
commuter rate \$850
lodging guest rate \$1,270

Dmitri Andreyev

Triduum Retreat: Discipleship

April 9-13
 Thursday, 3:00pm-Sunday, 12:00pm

Come and spend time in quiet with Jesus as he invites you as disciples into the 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

Making a Journal for Our Lives

April 18
 Saturday 9:15am-3:00pm



Here is an opportunity to make every aspect of your practice of journaling be something that comes from your life. In this one day workshop you'll make the book

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that will become your journal. You'll be guided step by step from the creation of the hard-bound covers to the sewing together of the book.

Register by Prior Friday: \$75 including materials

With marbled cover \$80

Bring a sack lunch, an apron, some of your doodling, practice pages for art work, letters, lists or other scraps of your life with you, and wear old clothes.

Pamela Hunter

Making Art as a Spiritual Practice

April 25
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm

We will spend the day *making* art in a variety of media, *reflecting* on the process, and *becoming* aware of our connection to God Creator. No prior experience or training required.

Materials and resources provided.
Register by prior Friday: \$ 65 (includes materials)

Bring a sack lunch.
Sister Monika Ellis

Images of Peace Retreat

May 1-2
Friday, 7:30pm-Saturday, 3:00pm

Kick off the Images of Peace Art Show with us at our Friday night Gala! Then, with the help of a couple featured artists, we will delve into prayerful exploration of the different art pieces using *Visio Divina*. We hope this retreat will help you experience Images of Peace more fully.



Register by prior Friday: \$130 includes gala ticket

Janice Ariza

Christian Mysticism and the Bhagavad Gita

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

This workshop will utilize the Gospels, writings from various Christian mystics, and passages from the Hindu holy book the *Bhagavad Gita* to increase our understanding of how, according to these cherished spiritual wellsprings, *kenosis* and love can form

the way of union between God and the soul.

Register by prior Friday: \$65
Please bring a sack lunch
Paul W. Jacob (Jake)

Healing for Traumatic Brain Injury

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



This workshop is specifically designed to work with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Survivors and assist in expanding personal awareness of self, living with brain injury, and creating a relationship with the process of recovery. Through an exploration of the face in the mirror, participants will experience new avenues of self discovery.

Register by prior Friday: \$55
Bring a sack lunch and two photographs, one before and one after the injury
Darcie Richardson

The Urban Mystic: Psychospiritual Possibilities

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



Exploring the idea of the Urban Mystic, exemplified in the work of Ignatius Loyola, we will work with spiritual exercises understood as a psychology of optimal functioning. We'll experience reflective practices of the Examen, clarifying practices of Discernment and the deepening practices of imaginative participation.

Register by prior Friday: \$60
Bring a sack lunch
Jerry DeVore

God the Artist: We the Co-Creators

July 18
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 will meet at The Priory Spirituality Center and drive to

Walter and Renata Siegl's clay studio in Shelton. They will 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 fired.

Register by prior Friday: \$80 (\$65 + \$15 glazing)

Please bring a sack lunch.
Lucy Wynkoop, OSB
Renata Siegl
Walter Siegl

Mystical Traditions of World Religions: An Introduction

July 24-26
Friday 7:30pm-Sunday 10:30am

This retreat will introduce seekers to the foundational concepts and tenets of the mystical traditions of several world religions including Christianity, Hinduism (Vedanta), Islam (Sufism) and Taoism. We will utilize passages from various holy books as well as wisdom from revered mystics and celebrated poets of these faith traditions to inform our study.

Register by prior Wednesday: \$260
Paul W. Jacob (Jake)

Iconography Workshop and Retreat

August 23-27
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 in 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, August 4: \$800 includes all materials, lodging and meals
Fr. Damian

More information about our presenters at stplacid.org

For This We Give Thanks

In 1950, Albert Einstein wrote a beautiful letter of consolation to a grieving father whose young son had just died of polio. Einstein said: “A human being is a part of the whole called by us the ‘Universe,’ a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings, as something separated from the rest—a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. **Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circles of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty....**”

Creativity: Sister Monika Ellis and the **Priory Fiber Arts** group have been making lovely Santas and Angels, Gnomes & Crones, jewelry, mugs, decorated boxes, magnets, and Christmas tree ornaments that included peace doves and small Santas. These products were sold at the Olympia High School **Bearzaar** on November 23rd. The group made their largest sale ever!

Communion—Friends: We very much enjoyed a visit from Sister **Redemista Ngonyani** of the **Chipole Benedictine community in Tanzania** for a few weeks last Fall. While here, she spoke of a possible altar bread ministry that her sisters in Tanzania might engage in. Sister **Maureen O’Larey** worked with Sister **Redemista** and the **Chipole Connection** and found an altar bread making machine in Germany. It was shipped to Italy and then on to East Africa. We are truly one with the Bread of Christ.

Connections: On November 10, during the monthly Oblate meeting, new connections were made! Thanks

to the research and hard work of **Sister Raphaela Cady, Novice Camille Wooden** and **Sister Lucy Wynkoop**, the technology of **Zoom** was used to include Oblates who were unable to attend the meeting in person. Our Oblate **Suzanne Johnson** was able to join in the meeting from China through the use of Zoom! Connections far and wide are now possible, connecting hearts and souls.

More Connecting: Sister **Paula Hagen, OSB**, joined us for 3 months this past Fall from **St. Paul’s Monastery** in Minnesota. Sister Paula is enjoying a much deserved sabbatical following her years of service as Prioress of St Paul’s. We enjoyed Sister Paula’s enthusiasm for community life, especially playing games with community members, taking walks, and extending her helping hands in every way she could.

And Still More Connections: A couple has begun to join us for Saturday Evening Praise each week. They have shared with us how very important it is for them to be with us. And we in turn respond how very important it is for us to be with them. Communion. Connections.

Creation: Several Sisters have spotted a barred owl in a tree near the east wing of the monastery. Sometimes at sunrise, other times at sunset, the owl made its appearance known with its unique call. The owl’s eyes and the Sisters’ eyes remain fixed, each on the other. What spectacular creatures God has made!

Compassion: A homeless man who came to the monastery told this story. He approached a local bus and told the bus driver, “I am hungry and do not have any money to go downtown to the soup kitchen.” The bus driver gestured compassionately, “Yes, come on board.”

Communion—the saints: We are grateful for our participation in the

communion of the saints—the People of God, both living and deceased. Our friends and relatives who recently passed on:

† Jim Johnson
 † Terri Swan
 † Jim Wynkoop
 † Michael Aaron McKinney
 † Don Hoffman
 † Fr. John Renggli
 † Janice Meile
 † Ione Raden
 † Dan Shaw

For all this evidence of **Communion, Connection** and **Creation** we give thanks!



From the Archives

Archives contain articles large and small. One of the largest items in the St. Placid Priory Archives is a desk that was used by **Sister Placidia Haehn**, St. Placid’s first prioress. It is a small desk: only 35 inches long, 20 inches deep and 30 inches tall. Despite its size a lot of important business, decisions and prayers were made at that desk. And the archives hold the memories.



Save the date!

Feb. 22-23, 2020
Benedictine
Discernment Retreat
 More info at
www.stplacid.org

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

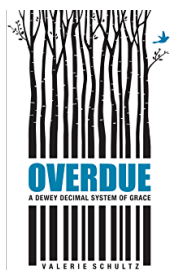
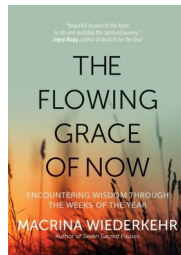
is an ecumenical Christian ministry that encourages people of all faiths to seek and discern the voice of God in their lives and in the world. We offer a peaceful and contemplative setting for personal reflection. We encourage and challenge people to know the presence of God in their lives through classes,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



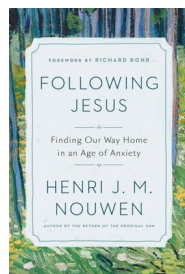
Sister Laura's Scriptorium:
Books that Merit Attention

The Flowing Grace of Now. Encountering Wisdom Through the Weeks of the Year by Macrina Wiederkehr, Ave Maria Press, 2019. Her first book in over a decade, Macrina's earthy wisdom again shows through, inviting us to see the many unexpected teachers and wisdom characters already present to us. Our attentiveness to these teaching moments, one per week for 52 weeks, deepens our awareness of the flow of grace already in our lives.



Overdue. A Dewey Decimal System of Grace by Valerie Schultz, Liturgical Press, 2019. Schultz worked as a chaplain and then as librarian at a men's prison. She shares endearing stories and spiritual lessons from her time there, organized by the themes of the Dewey Decimal system. Insightful.

Following Jesus. Finding Our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety by Henri Nouwen, Convergent Books, 2019. Based on a series of never-published lectures given during one of the lowest points in his life, he spoke eloquently about calling and purpose, fear and hope. He again reminds us of the power of compassion and vulnerability.



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

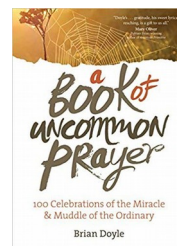
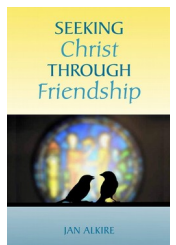
We request half the registration fee as a non-refundable deposit for a program or retreat at the time of registration to confirm space. Any donation you make above program costs will be used for scholarships.

Full Payment enclosed \$ _____

Deposit enclosed \$ _____

Scholarship Donation enclosed \$ _____

Seeking Christ through Friendship, by Jan Alkire, Paulist Press, 2019. Want to share your spiritual journey with other members of your parish? Want to help others, but you're uncertain how to helpfully listen to and support others? Gleaned from her years in parish ministry, this is a very useful resource on building your confidence in connecting with others.



A Book of Uncommon Prayer. 100 Celebrations of the Miracle & Muddle of the Ordinary by Brian Doyle, Sorin Books, 2014. Expect the unexpected (such as, Prayer for the Dads Enduring the Epic Winter Rains Along the Muddy Sidelines at Pee Wee Soccer Games). A smile will emerge. And you'll stop to think about what you just read. Brian's writings are never out of date.





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

Spring - Summer
January 2020

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- Please add my name
- Please remove my name
- Receiving more than one copy

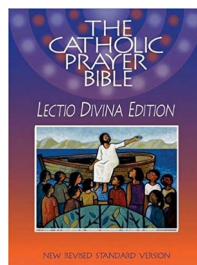
What's New at the Priory Store –

—by Sister Maureen O’Larey

I have always loved books. When I was in elementary school, my parents gave me a book for my birthday. Our school library had dozens of biographies of famous people. I’m sure that I read most of them. Today a real treat for me is to go to a bookstore and find a new treasure. We invite you to come and treat yourself to a treasure at the Priory Store.

The Priory Store has a wonderful collection of Bibles for sale. We have both large and giant print Bibles. We offer a favorite of mine, the **Little Rock Catholic Study Bible**, which has extensive notes, articles, and graphics. It also has prayer starters. **The Great Adventure Bible** is another great study Bible which “makes the complexity of reading the Bible simple...The color-coded tools make it easy to read and easy to remember.” The **Catholic Prayer Bible: Lectio Divina Edition** is “an ideal Bible for anyone who desires to reflect on the individual stories and chapters of just one, or even all, of the biblical books, while being led to prayer through meditation on that biblical passage.”

We stock books by the late Abbot Thomas Keating, Father Ronald Rolheiser, Sister Joyce Rupp, the late Father Henri Nouwen, and Father Richard Rohr. And we have books written by our Sisters Laura Swan and Lucy Wynkoop and by our Oblates Roy DeLeon, Christine Valters Paintner, and Kenneth Peterson.



Spirituality Center Staff

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

Weekend Hospitality Staff

Kathy Androes-Downes Liz Langeland
P. Mary Franklin P. Tricia Burns

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.