



Oblate Letter

First Monastic Profession

Sr. Marie Therese Long, OSB
Formation Director, St. Joseph Monastery

If after due reflection she promises to observe everything and to obey every command given her, let her then be received into the community. (RB 58:14)

What is it you seek, Sr. Maria Paula?

When Sr. Maria Paula was presented to the community on July 26 at vespers, she was asked this question by Sr. Christine, the prioress of the community. Recalling to mind the words of St. Benedict in the prologue to his Rule, the novice remembers that the primary “work” of one joining the Benedictine community is to seek God.

Sr. Maria Paula answered:

I seek to follow Christ faithfully in the monastic life with its active and contemplative dimensions. I seek to make a commitment to this monastic community to live out what I have learned in the Novitiate.”

Her response summed up her intentions as she began a new stage in her formation in the Benedictine monastic way of life at St. Joseph Monastery, the intention of her heart that has been forming over the last 12 months of intensive prayer and study, discerning God’s drawing her into this way of life.

“Religious profession is considered to be

a special and fruitful deepening of one’s baptismal consecration. By religious profession a person, responding to God’s call, freely hands over her life to the following of Christ according to the way of life of a particular community. Profession brings together the action of God and the response of the person.” *(from the New Commentary on the Code of Canon Law, pg 820)*

First monastic profession is the next step after a person completes the 12 month novitiate year required by canon law. The commitment is temporary, three years in length, with the intention that after three years, perpetual (life-long) profession could be made. The novice, completing the necessary prayer and study required by canon law and the Constitutions of the Federation of St. Scholastica, makes a commitment to live out what she has learned, to live out the promise of stability in a particular community, fidelity to the monastic way of life which includes a commitment of celibacy and common ownership of goods and obedience through listening and responding to God’s call through the prioress and community.

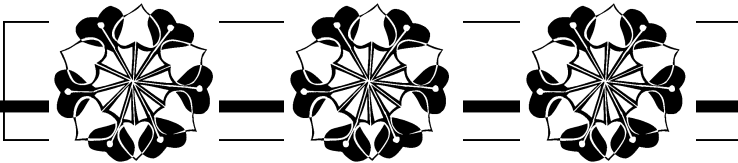
After her profession, the novice becomes a scholastic, further emphasizing growth in community living, study and active ministry either within or outside the community. The scholastic begins a time of transition, further instruction and learning. The first six months allow for

transition into active ministry, with part-time work as discerned with the formation director and prioress. Theological reflection and lectio are used to integrate ministry experience, prayer and community life. The scholastic continues formation following a definite program. Classes include community history, monastic studies, Church documents, Scripture, liturgy and theology of religious life. Monastic practices are emphasized along with time for lectio, private prayer and leisure. She may serve on committees in the community as appointed by the prioress.

During this time of formation, the scholastic continues to discern, with the help of the prioress, director and community, her vocation to St. Joseph Monastery and the monastic way of seeking God in prayer, community and ministry/work. The scholastic prepares for perpetual profession during this time and has a deeper involvement in community life.

We are filled with joy that Sr. Maria Paula has made this important step in her discernment. The life and gifts she brings expands the heart of each of us. New life, a new “yes” to life in our midst brings us hope and new possibilities for our community. Thank you for your prayer and support to her in her journey. Continue to pray for me as I have the privilege to journey with her and guide her program of formation.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 10th

Feast of St. Lawrence,
Martyr

Feast Day of

Abbot Lawrence Stasyszen

August 11th

Feast of St. Clare

Feast Day of

Sr. Mary Clare Buthod

August 19th

Feast of

St. Bernard Tolomei,
Abbot



*Please keep all of the Sisters
in your prayers
as they do for you.*



OBLATE MEETING

August 9, 2009

- 10:30 A.M. Mass in the Oratory—everyone is welcome
- 12:15 p.m. Study Group will meet in the Monastery Library. Please bring your book.
- 12:15 p.m. Novice Study Group will meet in the Conference Room
- 1:15 p.m. Vespers in the Marian Chapel
Program: Potluck

New Inquirers

Anyone who is interested in becoming a Benedictine Oblate is welcome to join us for one of our monthly meetings including Vespers and the study group.

A new Oblate Novice class will be starting after the first of the year.

To qualify for entering the Novice class you must attend 3 Oblate Meetings prior to the start of the class. Please let us know if you would like an application for the next Oblate class.

Please contact:

Marta Segura at

918-744-8363

Or

Vicky O'Neil at

918-746-4223

for more information.



At our August meeting, instead of our usual program, we will have a **potluck for Oblates and Sisters**. Please join us for fellowship and bring your favorite dish or dessert on August 9th following Vespers at 1:15 pm.



Saturday, September 12th, Sr. Irene Nowell, OSB, a Benedictine of Mount St. Scholastica Monastery in Atchison, Kansas will give a presentation on Saint John's Bible. Oblates are invited to attend. Sr. Irene is on the editorial board of The Bible Today and Worship and also writes regularly for other biblical and liturgical periodicals. She is a member of the Committee on Illuminations and Texts for the Saint John's Bible. (*more info in next newsletter*) Since this presentation will take place on the day before our regular monthly meeting, there will be **no Oblate meeting in September**.





Prayer Intentions:

We pray for the repose of the soul of:

Gary Joseph Denker,
baby grandson of Alice Fagan,
Inquirer

We pray for abundant healing of:

Donna Montgomery, Oblate



O God, our Father, help us all through this day so to live that we may bring help to others, credit to ourselves and to the name we bear, and joy to those that love us and to you. Cheerful when things go

wrong:

persevering when things are difficult, serene when things are irritating.

Enable us to be:

helpful to those in difficulties, kind to those in need, sympathetic to those whose hearts are sore and sad.

Grant that:

nothing may make us lose our tempers, nothing may take away our joy, nothing may ruffle our peace, nothing may make us bitter towards anyone.

So grant that through all this day all with whom we work, and all those whom we meet, may see in us the reflection of the master, whose we are, and whom we seek to serve. This we ask for your love's sake.

William Barclay

AROUND THE HOUSE

Sister Christine Ereiser will attend the national assembly for members of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in New Orleans the second week in August.

Sister Catherine Martinez participated in the National Religious Vocation Conference in Chicago last week. The Conference is an orientation for new Vocation Directors.

The Sisters enjoyed a vacation week at home planned and executed by the Administrative Staff. Bowling, Monastic Olympics, breakfast and picnics on the lake filled the fun-filled week.

Eight sisters attended Neighbor for Neighbor's annual fund-raising dinner for support of the diagnostic medical department of Neighbor for Neighbor. Sister Eugenia Brown is a weekly volunteer there and helped to design the mosaic bird feeders that decorated the tables.

Sister Maria Paula Muraki will spend most of August in Japan visiting her family. When she returns she will begin a new ministry in Monte Cassino School.

Sister Eugenia Brown will exhibit some of her watercolors at the annual show sponsored by the Green Country Watercolor Society at Tulsa Community College. One of sister's works, "Melody of Leaves," on consignment at the Maybee-Gerrer Museum in Shawnee, sold recently.

Sisters Catherine Martinez and Eugenia Brown will attend the vocation camp for high school girls July 31-August 2 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Camp near Oklahoma City. The event is sponsored by the Sisters of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.



BENEDICTINE OBLATES OF
SAINT JOSEPH MONASTERY

CONGREGATION OF BENEDICTINE SISTERS
OF THE SACRED HEARTS INC.
2200 SOUTH LEWIS AVENUE
TULSA, OK 74114-3117

Monastery Schedule 2009—2010 *Begins on Sunday, August 16th*

*Oblates & Friends of the Benedictine Sisters are invited to join them in
praying the Divine Office at St. Joseph Monastery*

Morning Prayer:	Monday & Wednesday—6:15AM / Eucharist at 6:40AM Tuesday & Thursday—6:45AM / Eucharist at 8:15AM with School Friday—6:45AM / Eucharist at 5:00PM Saturday—11:00AM / Eucharist at 11:30AM Sunday—8:15AM / Eucharist at 10:30AM
Midday Prayer:	Monday thru Friday—11:45AM, followed by lunch
Vespers:	Monday—Thursday & Saturday—5:00PM Friday—4:30PM Recollection Sunday—Adoration ends at 3:30PM followed by Vespers Oblate Sunday—2nd Sunday—1:15PM followed by an Oblate Meeting—all are welcome Sunday—3rd, 4th, 5th—4:00PM

*****be sure to call to verify schedule for the day you plan to come,
because at times it does change.*****



Watch the new website grow: www.stjosephmonastery.org