



BENEDICTINE OBLATES

ST. WALBURG MONASTERY

NEWSLETTER



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OBLATES ENJOY THE FIRST OBLATE RETREAT WEEKEND

Reflection by Oblate Margie Hardebeck

It's funny how life works. In the Fall of 2017 I received a mailing for a silent retreat directed by Sister Dorothy Schuette at the Guest House at St. Walburg Monastery. I had to think about it for a while, and by the time I sent in my application the retreat was full. Sister Dorothy graciously offered to me the opportunity to come to the Guest House another weekend and with Sister Mary Carol's help that was arranged to begin on December 8. While the silence of that weekend challenged me at times, my overwhelming experience was one of peace and of being warmly welcomed by the sisters as I joined them for Eucharist and Liturgy of the Hours. As I returned to the Guest House on the evening of December 10, I came across (or more accurately the Holy Spirit placed in my way) a brochure about the Benedictine Oblates. The next morning, I spoke with Sister Mary Tewes, and my journey started.

I was delighted then, to find out that the Coordinating Committee had decided to arrange a retreat at the Guest House for the weekend of Oblate Renewal, October 18-20, 2019, which for me would be my much anticipated first oblation. This time I signed up right away, as I knew I did not want to miss this one. On the first evening I was a bit rushed as my work day ran late and I had to stop at home to pick up my bags and tend to my little poodle, Lola, before I could check in. But the second I entered the chapel for evening prayer my soul felt the familiar peace born of a loving God and manifest in Benedictine hospitality. While there were eight of us staying at the Guest House, a good many more oblates and inquirers attended the group sessions. Sister Dorothy Schuette convened our first meeting during which the "ground rules" were set - we would be silent in the house, but conversation would be OK outside and at meals. For me that turned out to be a perfect arrangement allowing for spiritual time alone with God, as well as the opportunity to get to know some of my fellow oblates better.



The theme for the weekend was "Conversion/Conversatio." This is one of the three promises that Benedictines profess: Stability, Conversion to the Monastic way of life, and Obedience. There was much wisdom in what Sister Dorothy shared. For me a significant take-away was the concept of "conversation" as a constant turning and being turned. A daily, hourly, in the moment returning to God and to our baptismal call. No small task!

God blessed us with an incredibly beautiful three days and what better place to spend them than at the Monastery. One of my joys was to get up early on both Saturday and Sunday and sit on the front porch of the guest house wrapped in a blanket listening to the birds welcome the sunrise. I was also visited by a family of three deer having their breakfast (until the bustle of the day chased them away.) As I walked the grounds I went past the house where I had met dear Sister Justina for spiritual direction and thought of her wise words and most of all her beautiful smile. I passed the cemetery and remembered Sister Wendolyn who always reminded me that she had taught my "daddy" in the first grade at St. Ben, and who, when I met her in her 80's, was still one of the most dynamic and Spirit-filled women I have ever known.



Our Saturday evening meeting was another special experience as each person there shared a prayer or reflection that held special meaning to them. I shared a journal entry from my retreat 2 years prior. Other contributions included reflections on Thomas Merton, "Laudato Si," a dear friend and mentor, a beautiful sunrise and many more.



Finally, Sunday arrived. I met my fellow candidate, Miriam Perkins who was delightful, and together we happily made our oblation to God with this community. Prior to the ritual Sr. Dorothy closed the retreat experience with a reflection time on the call to Holiness, the living out of our Baptismal promises as proclaimed in the Vatican II documents, by reaching out and serving others with our gifts.



Following that, all the Oblates posed for the annual group photo and we all moved to Chapel for Noon-Day prayer and the Oblation and Oblate Renewal Ritual.





At the end of the Prayer/Ritual Miriam and I signed our Oblation form in the presence of Sr. Aileen Bankemper, Prioress, and she signed it as well. Then we posed for this group photo to include the new Oblates, their prayer partners as well as Sr. Mary Tewes, Oblate Director and the Prioress.



As my prayer partner, Sister Colleen placed my pin, I again was aware of how so many of the sisters have touched my life, and I was honored and proud to now be an oblate of the Benedictine Community of St. Walburg. Sr. Dorothy pinned Miriam as well. Afterwards we joined all the Oblates and Sisters for Dinner in the Refectory.
ALLELUIA!



Sr. Colleen pins Margie

Sr. Dorothy pins Miriam

ABOUT OUR NEW OBLATES:

Margie Hardebeck is from Covington, KY, a parishioner at St. Benedict's. She has been a Physician, then a, Medical Illustrator, and now a Chaplain at Mercy West Hospital in Cincinnati, OH. She has been participating in Oblate Gatherings since March of 2018.

Miriam Perkins is from Johnson City, TN, a Theology Professor at the Emmanuel Baptist Seminary in East TN. When she visits with her mother in Lexington, she periodically would come and spend some quiet time at the Guest House over the last 8 years, and gradually got acquainted with the community and the oblates. In June she married Michael Woods, also a Theology Professor from PA.

In response to the question, "What does it mean to you to be a Benedictine Oblate with the Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery?"

Margie responded: "There is a wonderful sense of welcoming and peacefulness at St. Walburg which drew me in first. I am also aware of a sense of identity and purpose (Benedictine Spirituality) present within this community which I want to be a part of and continue to learn more about. Finally, as a Catholic woman I find the role models of the women religious an invaluable touchstone on my faith journey."

Miriam responded: "The Walburg Monastery and community has surrounded me with love, hospitality, and prayer for more than 8 years. The Benedictine way has deepened my faith, love for God and patterns of prayer. I also rely on the "sisterhood" power of Spirit embodied in this community to live an ongoing life of faith, justice and courage."



THE YEAR'S EVENTS:

On Saturday, **December 8**, The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, there was Mass at 8:30 a.m. following 8:00 Morning Prayer in Chapel, which many Oblates attended. Then we began the **Advent Gathering** at 9:30 in the Lower Level. We continued our book study of How to Live: What the Rule of St. Benedict Teachers Us about Happiness, Meaning and Community, **by Judith Valente**, Chapters 7, 8 and 9. **Louise Jewett** lead the reflections. Everyone brought food for the delicious pot-luck luncheon, which is becoming a tradition.

At 1:30 p.m. **Vickie Cimprich** entertained sisters and oblates with a Poetry reading from her book, Contrary-wise in the Infirmary Lounge.



On December 28 Sr. Helen Hergott (82) died.



February 9, Oblate Gathering, Jessie Lamantia lead the reflections on Chapters 10, 11, & 12 of the book.



On March 4 Sr. Justina Franxman (90) died.

March 9, Oblate Gathering, Sr. Sharon lead the reflections on Chapters 13, 14 & 15 of the book.

March 23: Sr. Alice Gerdeman, CDP was the presenter for the **Lenten Center of Spirituality Day** reflecting on "**Lent: A Justice and Peace Journey Toward New Life**". She

shared her favorite art piece of Veronica wiping the face of

Jesus. Sister was Provincial Superior of the Sisters of Divine Providence, Melbourne, KY. She gave us much to reflect on through Lent.



April 13, Oblate Gathering, Margie Hardebeck lead the book discussion for chapters 16,17 & 18. page 5

During Easter Week, April 26-27, Friday – Saturday, The Tri-State Associate Leadership sponsored a Retreat for the Associate/Oblate Directors. Debbie Dillow and Sr. Susan, SP welcomed us for **“The Spirituality of Saving our Planet”** at the Sisters of Providence Mother House, St. Mary of the Woods,



Terra Haute, IN. **Sisters Mary Tewes and Sharon Portwood** attended, along with Directors from 7 other Communities. Two of their Sisters lead the reflection on “Laudate Si” and other writings in Ecco Spirituality. One of

their drawing cards for new associates is their White Violet Ecology Center, which we got to visit. We also toured their demonstration booths for their Earth Day Celebration, which thousands attend from throughout their county. We came away invigorated.

May 11, Oblate Gathering, Tom Scally lead the reflections on the final chapters of the book, 19 – 23.

June 22, Formation/Information Session was held for new Inquirers by Sr. Mary and the Coordinating Team. Three Inquirers participated. **Margie** had been participating in Oblate Gathering for more than a year and will now be preparing to make her first Oblation in October this year. **Cindy** and **Jody** are new Inquirers and would be continuing to join us in Gatherings and other ways of getting to know the other oblates and the sisters. We are happy to introduce them to the community. Afterwards they had lunch and joined in the Annual Ice Cream Social in the Refectory.



Margie Hardebeck, Cindy Smith and Jody Bohman



The other Candidate for Oblation in October was **Miriam Perkins**. I heard from her about this time that she was eager to be here for the October 20th date, but had gotten distracted. She had gotten married on June 15 to **Michael Woods**, also a Theology Professor from PA. and they are now living in Johnson City, TN, near where she also is Theology Professor at Emmanuel Baptist Seminary. She included their picture.

Her mother, **Linda Perkins**, rode up with her for Oblation Day from Lexington, KY, proud to witness her commitment.



June 22: The Oblates hosted the Annual Ice Cream Social for the Sisters



**THANK YOU
OBLATES!**



**MUSIC, DRINKS
ICE CREAM,
BINGO+ PRIZES**



**A GREAT - FUN TIME
WAS HAD BY ALL!**



July 5-10, 2019: NAABOD Conference was held at St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, NE. The page 7
Theme was "***Continuing the Sacred Tradition: Benedictine Spirituality Today and Tomorrow.***"
We were not able to attend, but the presentations are available on YouTube for use in the Fall.

July 23, The Community Welcomed Eileen O'Connell to join our Community at Evening Prayer.

Sr. Mary Catherine will be her Director for this process. Eileen is head of the Religion Department at Villa Madonna High School.



July 28- Aug. 3 - Community Retreat: Sr. Aileen welcomed Sr. Kathy Huber, OSB from the Ferdinand, KY Community, one of our daughter houses, to give our Retreat.



"Expanding Our Hearts in Christ: Being the Presence of Christ Today." Sister prepared complete handouts for each conference, including: Some quotes, A brief outline, Reflections points, and Resources from Scripture & the Rule.

Her Topics:

1. Being Attentive to the Divine Presence.
2. Listening for the Sacred Presence in *All of Life*.
3. Listen...Attend with the Ear of Your Heart...Faithfully Put into Practice.
4. Jesus' Relationship with God is Our Model
5. Experiencing the Presence of Christ within Our Monastic Profession.
6. Experiencing the Presence of Christ within Community.
7. Listening for the Sacred Presence in Work. What is Our Monastic Work?
8. Acedia: "The Noon Day Devil" for the Monastic.
9. Receiving and Giving Mercy.
10. Gospel of the Transfiguration, Transformed into Christ.



Sister Kathy also shared with us Abbot Jerome Kodell, OSB's God Mantra:
"I am with you. I love you. Trust me."

A wonderful compliment was **Fr. Ken Overberg, S.J.'s** presiding at Mass each day.



Some Oblates participated in liturgies and presentations and took care of phone-duty during the retreat.

The Retreat closed with Friday Evening Prayer, the Community Renewal of Promises, and the Celebration of the 60th Jubilee for **Sisters Mary Catherine Wenstrup** and **Joan Fraenzle**. **Sister Charles Wolking** celebrates her 70th Jubilee this year as well.





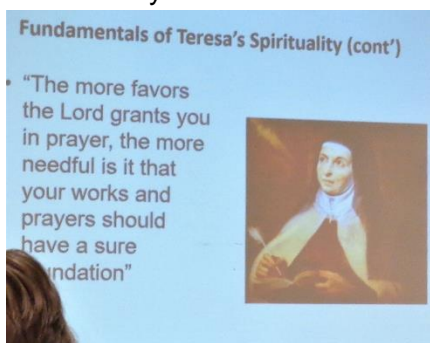
On Sunday, **August 4, Oblate Pat Scott (89) died** in our Infirmary where she had been for a few months.
On Wednesday, **August 7, Oblate John (Jack) Alexander (78) died** at St. Elizabeth in Edgewood.
On Saturday, **September 7, Fr. Jim Ryan (76) died.** (See their stories on page 13)

September 14 Oblate Gathering: Oblate Tom Scally had purchased copies for the group to read ahead of our discussion: Letter to a Suffering Church by Bishop Robert Barron.

Following lunch, a small group met with Sr Dorothy Schuette to plan the first ever Oblate Retreat in preparation for Oblate Renewal Day: Louise Jewett, Jessie Lamantia, Margie Hardebeck, & Sr. Mary. Registration Forms were prepared and emailed to all, and the Guest House reserved.

October 18-20, Fri. pm – Sun. am, Oblate Retreat in preparation for Oblation & Oblate Renewal Day, October 20. (See pages 1-3.)

October 26 - Fall Center of Spirituality Day, Sr. Deborah Harmeling presented, “*Meeting Teresa of Avila,*” The First Woman Doctor of the Church – Doctor of Prayer.



November 9, Oblate Gathering: We viewed and discussed a presentation from the July, 2019 NAABOD Conference, by Fr. Joel, OSB, “*Continuing the Sacred Tradition: Benedictine Spirituality Today and Tomorrow.*” The next two from that series we plan to view on December 7.

Selfless Service

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I learned about selfless service at a young age. I grew up on a dairy farm and the workload was constant – cows milked twice a day, crops to be planted and tended, and gardens to be raised. The spring was an especially busy time. In the spring of 1958, when I was 10 years old, my dad, the backbone of our family, had a heart attack (he went and milked the cows before he told my mom). In those days a heart attack meant quite a stay in the hospital and then 6 weeks at home in a hospital bed. One outstanding memory from that time is how the neighbors pitched in to help. One particular neighbor, Mr. Kenny, always made sure our work was done, sometimes at the expense of getting his own work done. Years later, I recounted this story to his daughter. Her response: “Mary Jo, my dad would have given everything he had to help your family.” Wow, what a witness.

I am confident that each of you does service for others. My hope is that through our witness to others, we will encourage them to be servants also. I particularly hope that we are passing this on to our children and other family members. I love inviting my grandchildren to do service with me. I hope you do too. - **Oblate Mary Jo Rechten**



Oblates Assist with VMA 8th Grade Service Day

Sr. Cathy Bauer called for Oblates to assist the 8th graders on their Service Day, Friday, November 8. **Jessie Lamantia, Joan McAlonan and Gayle Underdown** responded and were here at the Monastery by 9 a.m. as were the 8th graders. They got right to cleaning out cabinets, washing chairs in Refectory, Lounge and Lower Level meeting room, and scrubbing the tables as well. Their teacher assisted them as well. They were all witnesses of generous service that helped us a great deal—doing what we can no longer do. Then they all sat and shared with each other in the Refectory: sisters, oblates and students.



My New Ministry of Volunteering

When I was a Hospital Chaplain I would take my dulcimer into the Rehabilitation Unit and at that time the Hospice Unit was at St. Elizabeth, Covington. I enjoyed playing for the patients in these two units as well as playing at the Good Friday service. I retired in 2010 as I wanted to watch our two Grand-girls full time.

A year ago, I decided I wanted to continue a form of ministry and went through the Volunteer training that the Hospice Volunteer Coordinator held. It was a lengthy process of an on-line program, an all-day seminar, a full day on the unit, a background check and a few required shots. It was a good review of Hospital procedures and updating on material.



I volunteer once a week at the new Hospice Center, checking in on the computer and then going to the nursing station. I check in with the nursing staff and they direct me to patients they feel would like to have some music. I visit the room and introduce myself and ask if they would like some soft dulcimer music. I am surprised to find out that many people have not seen or heard the dulcimer. After some sharing I ask what type of music they may like. Usually, the family will let me know what the patient might like. I prepare a song list each week but I am flexible as to what I gain from talking to the family. I generally play four for five songs. Sometimes the family will sing along and request some songs. If I have them I'll play them. I have found several songs they really like are "Amazing Grace" and "My Old Kentucky Home."

I have had some memorable visits that seem to reassure me that I am sharing a special time. One day in the conversation with a family I found out the patient liked Elvis Presley's music. So, I played "Aura Lee" and "I'll Fly Away." The patient's husband and son were on either side of the patient's bed, and they sang all the verses to the woman who had tears running down her cheeks. Sometimes the patient will be there for several weeks and having heard me before they will ask for songs and are so appreciative for my return.

Over ten years ago Dick and I began playing our dulcimers for the annual sisters Ice Cream Social which the Oblates give the community in June. Sr. Victoria joined us for a few years until she gave up playing. We then asked members of the Hills of Kentucky Dulcimer Club of which we are members to join us. We have had around ten members join us each year, and the people who play look forward to returning to play. Several members have worked with some sisters in the school and are happy to give back some time through our music. Music brings us and others much joy and has led to the saying, "Make a joyful noise to the Lord."



It has been a little over two years since I began volunteering in the Monastery Infirmary at the Monday noon meal time. Once again, I am rewarded by the sharing of the sisters and bringing an outside presence to the lunch time meal. (At Christmas time, Dick and I gave a gift of a Christmas concert to the sister in the Infirmary, which they enjoyed.) I enjoy the staff and the other volunteer when she can make it and feel closer to the sisters because of this activity. Being there has developed into a bit of a "mending ministry" as some of the sisters need their slacks shortened or other minor repairs that I can do. The joy I feel going and coming to the Monastery is a meeting of the Lord's presence every time I visit. These activities of serving the Lord have enriched my faith as I see God in all, and I am grateful I can give my time and talents.

- Oblate Gail Michalack

Love at the Library

Love is at the heart of a life rooted in Benedictine service. The life of a Benedictine Oblate, like that of all Christians, is first and foremost a response to God's astonishing love for humankind. That love can be expressed in many ways. I have found a way to express and receive God's love in my work at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

I am **The Teen Librarian** at the Bond Hill branch of the library. Bond Hill is a primarily African American area of Cincinnati near Norwood and Roselawn. It is a poor and crime ridden neighborhood. The unemployment rate is 36% higher than the US average. The chance of being a victim of violent crime is 1 in 14 or 173% higher than the national average. Test scores for school age children in the neighborhood are 27% lower than the national average (areavibes.com).



The teens that come into the library often come to use the computers as most do not have a computer, phone or the internet at home. Having use of the computers allows them to feel like normal teens, the ones they see on tv, using social media, checking out YouTube videos and playing computer games. The library also provides a snack every school day after school. For many children this is their dinner. Breakfast and lunch are at school through the free and reduced meal programs. If they have a snack between meals it's from a vending machine.

One of my responsibilities as a Teen Librarian is to provide programming activities during the week for the teens. I try to create an atmosphere of comradery and safety and fun. The teens love that the library is a space to explore the activities that they haven't been exposed to or that seem out of reach because of cost. We have made microwave cakes in a mug, taken apart old computers, and learned how to hip hop in the past year.

My experiences with the teens and all the patrons at the library enrich me beyond measure. Interacting with the very poor, the poorly educated, the addicted, the angry, the abused, the marginalized, and the oppressed help me to fully engage in reality, its joys and its suffering. There is no hiding my head in the sand about the problems many people face every day. Can I solve the problems? No. I can offer my smile, my time, my understanding and my patience. I rely on the lessons I have learned as an oblate, to welcome all and serve all, to listen, to love my neighbor and to allow these experiences to change me. It is a gift to have found a job that gives me fulfills me and provides such rich opportunities to practice love. **- Oblate Judy Ten Eyck**

Oblate Resource Room: Be sure to take advantage of all the resources we have for you to borrow in our own Monastery. Here are some great books to become familiar with – though not all in the Resource Room:

Chittister, Joan, OSB, Radical Spirit: 12 Ways to Live a Free & Authentic Life

Chittister, Joan, OSB, The Time is Now: A Call to Uncommon Courage

Johnson, Elizabeth, CSJ, Creation and the Cross: The Mercy of God for a Planet in Peril

Johnson, Elizabeth, CSJ, Abounding in Kindness: Writing for the People of God

Rolheiser, Ron, OMI, Wrestling with God: Finding Hope & Meaning in our Daily Struggles to be Human

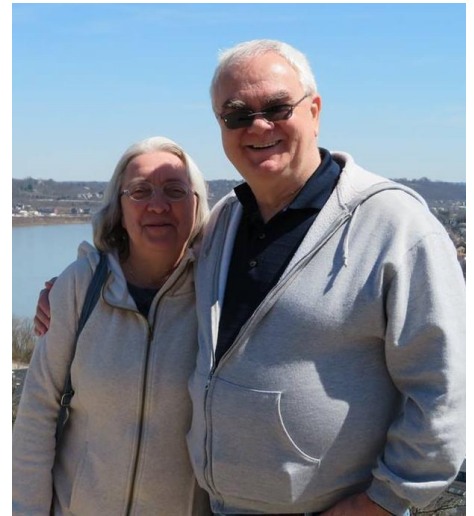
Glenn, Genevieve, OSB, Sauntering Through Scripture: A Book of Reflections

Kodell, Jerome, OSB, Is God on My Top Ten? Meditations for a Deeper Life

Prodigal Son – in Prison

Several years ago, I decided to check in with the Corporal Works of Mercy to see how I was doing. The one most lacking was “visiting the imprisoned.” Little did I realize then that I would have ample opportunity to work on this one!

In October of 2018, we were stunned and saddened when our recovering addict son was sentenced harshly to forty-two months in prison. My usual stoicism crumbled and I teared up as he was taken from the courtroom to the black hole of the Butler County Jail. We were also angry, not understanding the tough sentence for a clean, working, first-time felon, living with us, attending a rehab program and already helping others in the program and other meetings. However, like with his addiction, we had no control over the sentence, only how to help him through it.



About a week later, our son was finally allowed to call us from the ODRC Correctional Reception Center where all newly convicted persons go to be interviewed and evaluated for prison placement. There are 28 (!) state prisons in Ohio, ranging from Level 1 (minimum security) to Level 4 (maximum security). While at CRC, Stephen had to learn to accept his fate, choose an attitude, and hope for a good placement. As his mom, I feared for his safety. Also, he was offered drugs more than once, but refused. Certainly, it is not a great idea to put a recovering addict in a confined space with drugs available, but that's the inmate's problem. Would he survive prison without relapsing? With this question in mind, he applied for a prison rehab program – only offered at certain facilities. Because of his application and non-violent felonies, Stephen was sent to Madison Correctional Institution, a Level 1 facility less than two hours from home. Some relief there!

In early November, Stephen was transferred to his new home, which, he says, is ‘not really a prison’ because it is more like a big dorm with ‘streets’ of bunk beds and a common lounge with access to the outdoors (in good weather), exercise facilities and a small library. Half of the building houses ‘alums’ of the rehab program and those waiting to get in. The other side is for those currently in the program.

Stephen lived in the “waiting” half for about five months before starting the rehab program. Drugs were rampant and his bunkie was selling, but Stephen never “bought” any with his commissary items. Eventually, a middle of the night drug test resulted in several inmates being shipped out to other facilities. The CO's (corrections officers) are, for the most part decent and fair, though it is no surprise that a few enjoy the power trip and are best avoided.

So, how does one survive and even thrive? Stephen started out by keeping a low profile, mostly reading and watching TV in his bunk, avoiding infractions and being pleasant to other inmates and the CO's. Now that he has been at Madison a year and in the program about seven months, he does have a few buddies with whom he exercises and ‘cooks’ meals (concoctions of commissary items and a microwave). He can make calls and loves visitors, mostly his lovely parents and girlfriend. We have numerous books, fiction and non-fiction, sent to him and he is becoming quite knowledgeable in addiction theories, psychology, neurobiology, etc. Sometimes, other inmates ask him about his books and he willingly loans them. His participation in groups, topic speeches and obvious knowledge have earned him the respect of inmates and counselors. However, he has had to walk the fine line between sharing information and appearing to be a know-it-all. Of course, the prison experience is pretty good at fostering humility.

What has helped him most is his attitude. As he says, “I spent thirteen years screwing up my life so I can spend a few years fixing it.” So, while prison life can be challenging – bad food, cold in winter, hot in summer (no AC), sometimes lonely and sometimes tricky – one can choose to make the best of it – or not. Stephen is trying to get his life in order now. He continues to read voraciously, is signed up for college classes in January and is moving up quickly in his program's “hierarchy.” Soon, he will be allowed to start his own recovery group, a science-based alternative to 12-step.

Best of all, as parents, we see our prodigal son turning into a kind, responsible, honest adult whose life goal is to help people. We never thought we would see the day. Alleluia!

- Oblate Louise Jewett



Oblate Patricia "Pat" Ann Scott (former Sr. Herbert, OSB) (89) of Ft. Mitchell, KY, died Sunday, August 4, 2019 at St. Walburg Monastery Infirmary, where she had been being cared for in her last illness. Pat was born March 16, 1930, the sixth child of Shirley and Al Scott. Pat was a Supervisor for the Diocese of Covington along with being a Principal for many schools within this Diocese and Our Lady of the Visitation in Western Hills, and St. Thomas More East of Cincinnati, OH. Her first teaching assignment was with Blessed Sacrament School from 1950-1956. Sr. Henrietta Seiler and she remained good friends since their entrance into the community.



Pat became a **Benedictine Oblate** in 1989, 30 years ago. She loved being a Benedictine in every way she could. Pat is survived by her dear friend, Martha Arlinghaus, also an Oblate. Numerous nieces and nephews visited her in her last months, enjoying her and each other with many stories.

She was preceded in death by her 9 brothers and sisters. Visitation was held on Friday, August 9, from 9-10 a.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church in Ft. Mitchell, with the Mass of Christian Burial following at 10:00 a.m.

PROUD TO BE A BENEDICTINE OBLATE AND A DEACON



John "Jack" Nicholas Alexander (78) of Erlanger, KY passed away Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Edgewood, KY. Jack was born December 25, 1940 in Covington, KY to the late Robert "Hayden" and Blanch Alexander. Jack was a supervisor at White Castle and worked there for 40 years. Jack was a member at St. Henry Church, and he was very proud to be a Deacon in the Dioceses of Covington. He was a Kentucky Colonel, and a Master Gardener and enjoyed spending his days working in the yard. He loved to travel with his wife, and was an amateur Artist. He loved exploring museums all over the world, and making beautiful pieces of art. He enjoyed reading biographies and mysteries.

Jack was also a **Benedictine Oblate** for over 30 years. Jack was the one who encouraged Sr. Justina, then Prioress, to begin the Oblate Program. He and Donna were in the first Group, who made their commitment on March 21, 1987, and were among the remaining 8 members from that first group who celebrated 30 Years, in 2017. Jack always looked forward to joining in the annual Oblate Renewal days, since he was too busy at St. Henry on all other weekends, "just doing" whatever was needed. He was a dedicated Servant of God.

His brother, Donald Alexander preceded him in death. Jack is survived by his loving wife of 45 years: Donna Alexander, his brothers: Robert (Karen) Alexander, and James (Kathy) Alexander, and many loving nieces, nephews, and friends. A visitation was held for Jack on Tuesday, August 13, 2019 from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. at St. Henry Catholic Church, Elsmere, KY. Mass of Christian Burial followed the visitation at 7 p.m. where all the brother deacons joined in with the Bishop presiding.



Fr. Jim Ryan (76), Part-Time Chaplain at the Monastery,

died on September 7, 2019. He had been serving us weekly since Fr. Cahill died in November of 2017. We were surprised to find out the needed shoulder surgery became cancer in various organs. He died peacefully. The Mass of Christian Burial was at the Cathedral with Bishop Roger Foyes presiding on September 17, 2019.

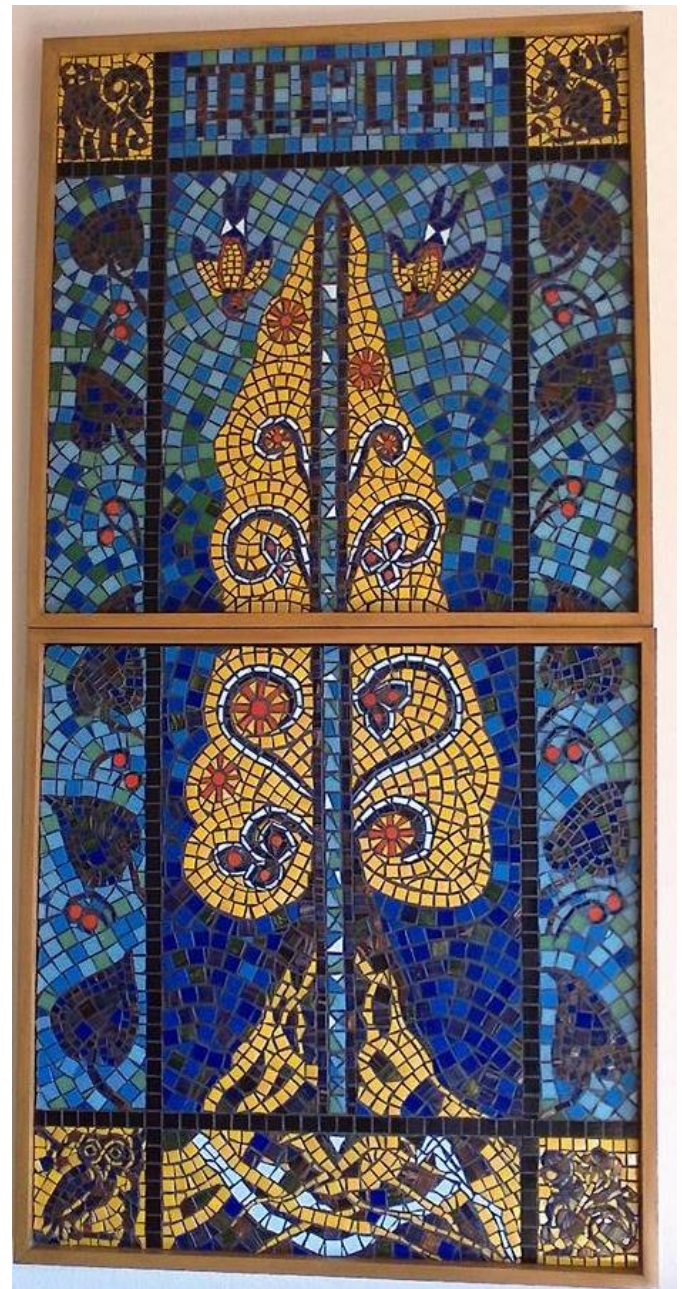
PRAYER CORNER

Our Sick: Sisters: Andrea, Ann M., Colleen, Charles, David, Deborah, Estelle, Henrietta, Joan Gripshover, Mary Peter, Rita Bilz, & Rose.

Oblates: Gerry Lockhart, Mary Bach-Loreaux, Jo Ann Moeller, Joan Moser, Sue & Mike Page, Liz O'Halloran, Amy Steioff, Mary Kay Wenstrup.

Deaths:

Oblate Pam Neal (60), Nov. 1, 2018.
Richard Hayes Zinn (96), father of Oblate Mary Bach-Loreaux, Nov. 12.
Sr. Hellen Hergott (82) Dec. 27.
Tom Collopy (80), Sr. Andrea's brother, Jan. 8, 2019.
Bill Gough (86), brother of Sisters, Margaret Mary, Denise and Stella Gough, Feb. 6.
Lynda Poole (48), nephew's wife of Oblate Mary Jo Poole Hall, Feb. 6.
Mark Poole (62), nephew of Oblate Mary Jo Poole Hall, Feb. 11.
Sr. Justina Franxman (90), March 4.
Leo Arlinghaus (95), brother of Oblate Martha Arlinghaus, May 20.
Aunt Hope (91), aunt of Oblate Jessie Lamantia, May 24.
Eusong Rabe (64), sister-in-law of Sr. Mary Rabe, May 25.
Lynne Marie Schmidt Noll (69), aunt of Oblate Dan Schmidt, May 27.
Matt Combs (25), grandson of Oblates Jim & Gerry Lockhart, June 1.
Martha Jane Bates (68), former Oblate, June 15.
Helena Blades (96), aunt of Sr. Sharon, July 1.
Joyce Mary Brink Callery (72), sister of Sr. Rita Brink, July 6.
Oblate Pat Scott, (89) August 4.
Oblate Jack Alexander (79), husband of Oblate Donna Alexander, August 7.
Fr. Jim Ryan (76) one of our Monastery Chaplains, Sept. 7.
Tess Humpert (92), sister of Sr. David Rueschman, Sept. 30.
David Gerner (59), brother-in-law of Eileen O'Connell, Oct. 8.
Phil Saia, brother-in-law of Oblate Louise Jewett, Oct. 9.
Jim Herringer, brother-in-law of Sr. Andrea Collopy, Oct. 20.
Mrs. Jacob (89), mother of Oblate Lora Jacob of PA, Nov. 14.



**"TREE OF LIFE MOSAIC"
AT ST. SCHOLASTIC MONASTERY,
DULUTH, MN**

NEWS OF OBLATES

from November 2018 to November 2019

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December 25,

Oblates Joan Moser and Daryl Theis along with others enjoy the music ministry at Blessed Sacrament Church.



Oblate Laura Flippen-Tenzel family gathered for Christmas this year at her son Fred's home in Iowa.



Oblate Deborah Lueke celebrated with husband and her son the baseball player and his wife.

January 17, Oblate Betty Bradbury invited Oblates and others to the Madonna Manor for **Oblate Vickie Cimprich's** Poetry Reading from her book: Contrary-wise.

January, 19, Our Savior Parish in Covington, hosted a Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast and panel discussion of their personal encounters of racism, "**Hospitality & Inclusiveness.**" Oblates **Vickie Cimprich** and **Joan McAlonan** attended and invited **Owen Lewis** to our March Gathering to share the key points of various panelists.

Oblate Aubrey Schmidt completed her Nursing Degree this past year, and is now employed at Madonna Manor as needed. **She and Dan** have also adopted a new child, whom they fostered for his first months, **James**. They now have five growing children on their small farm in Falmouth, KY

January, Oblate Dottie Due and David enjoy their winter vacation.



June 10: The eight sturdy **Pin Oak Trees** in front of the Monastery were taken down, because of age and danger to many. It was a sad sight.

Before



After

A grove of new trees will be planted soon.

Oblate Jo Ann Moeller is continuing Chemo treatment for Lymphoma. She moved from Madonna Manor in October to the Taylor Nursing Home in Versailles, KY for continued recuperation. **Sisters Mary Rabe & Victoria** visit her regularly.

November 1, On the First Anniversary of **Oblate Pam Neal's** death, her son **Joe**, and **Madeline** brought **baby Roderick (Rod)** to the Hospice Center to pick up a quilt.



SIGNS OF THE SEASON



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