

ISSUE

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# Oblate Newsletter

## Benedictine Sisters of Virginia

Hello!

I would like to welcome you to the second edition of our online Oblate Newsletter. This is a newsletter for us, the Oblates, inspired by the Holy Spirit! This edition contains a lot of catch up articles, a few recent articles and some poetry. In future editions, I look forward to working with you and the Holy Spirit to make this a connecting force for all of us.

Our next edition will go out in September and the last edition for this year will be in December. What do I need from you to make this work-what it means to be a Benedictine Oblate and how that blooms in your life. That can come in many forms; articles about our deaneries, reflections on our readings, poetry, prose, reading recommendations and even photography! There really isn't a limit to what our calling and imagination can create. You may reach me and send submissions to: [oblatenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:oblatenewsletter@gmail.com)

In His Love,  
Sherri Given



this issue:

Work at the Monastery

Retreats

Reflections

Poetry

Next year's book

### Oblate Lenten Retreat with Judith Valente, ObISB

Annie McEntee, ObISB

The Richmond Deanery was delighted to participate in this year's Oblate retreat with Judith Valente. Fourteen Richmond Oblates, Novices, and friends registered for the March 13<sup>th</sup> retreat. At our most recent April Oblate gathering many who attended the event gave enthusiastic praise for the retreat and thoughtful feedback. One Oblate was deeply moved by Judith's session on Benedictine hospitality, confiding that she would like to find ways to welcome those fleeing for their lives at our southern border.

We also discussed Judith's enthusiasm for Benedictine service projects, discussion of our meeting formats, the Oblate vocation of being, and attracting new members, perhaps younger members.

- In discussing service projects, most of our attendees were interested in connecting and serving the Benedictine local community here at Saint Gertrude High School.
- Our meeting format of reflection and sharing seemed to be working well for our attendees.
- Some Oblates voiced enthusiasm for the idea that our Oblate vocation is one of living out Benedictine values daily, that there are no specific projects that make us Benedictine.
- Some shared ideas around having Oblates speaking at local churches to make our way of life visible and known to others.

The Richmond Deanery is grateful for the opportunity for enrichment during Lent and the time to reflect deeply on our calling as Oblates.

## Saturday in the Monastery Gardens

Saturday, May 8, an eager band of Oblates gathered at the Monastery to spend the day working in the gardens. Linda Gulden acted as the volunteer coordinator, supplying a list of tasks from which each oblate could choose. Joyce Andrew and her husband Tom cleaned the columbarium area, while Greg Evans filled the garden area near St. Joe with young plants. Meg Kermon, Carol Semon, Linda Gulden and husband Mike weeded and tidied the areas in front of the monastery chapel and elsewhere. Linda Malone weeded the Butterfly Garden in the Master Gardener area near the St. Benedict Shrine. Kathy Frick aided Sister Pat in seeding the raised flower beds at the St. Cecilia Guesthouse.

During their lunch break, everyone gathered at the picnic area to exchange progress reports and to catch up on family news after the long absence, due to the pandemic restrictions.

Linda Gulden is looking for more volunteers who can commit to a day or half day of work on a regular basis. As Linda noted, "The work is always there." With the Monastery planning to reopen in October, it is hoped that more Oblates will balance out their commitment to *Ora et Labora with a little more Labora!* Anyone wishing to help out can reach Linda at [linda2gulden@gmail.com](mailto:linda2gulden@gmail.com)



Linda Gulden, OblSB



Lunch Break



Linda Malone, OblSB

### *Salvation Balloon*

Ruth Bailey OblSB

Shiny and Red, bought with Your Blood  
I hold fast to my Salvation Balloon

Your Child at the fair that is rarely fair  
Patience holds the string, Silence firms the grip

Difficulties, Injustice, Cares of a temporal world  
Shift my focus, loosen my hold

Just before my hand unclenches...  
A flash of red, out of the corner of my eye

Reminds me of all Your Promises  
My hold tightens. It endures.

I return to patience.  
I await Your Divine Recompence.

## Richmond Oblate Profession and Dean Commissioning

Saturday, November 21 the Richmond Deanery celebrated the Oblation of two novices and commissioned their first dean. It was a beautiful day at Mary, Mother of the Church Abbey in rural Goochland west of Richmond. Joined by Directors, Kathy Frick and Sr. Andrea Westkamp, members gathered to celebrate and rejoice.



Thanks Lisa!

The day began with statio accompanied by a beautiful musical repertoire played on the Abbey organ by Lisa Fusco. The Richmond Oblates processed in, followed by our directors.

The hymn to St. Benedict followed. After praying Psalm 34 and the readings from the Rule of Benedict and Matthew's gospel, Annie McEntee shared her thoughts on her calling as a Benedictine, highlighting how she grew from life as a friend of the monastery to the vocation of Benedictine Oblate.

After the reflection, novices Erica and Linda made their Oblation. Next Annie McEntee was commissioned as Dean of the Richmond Deanery.



Congratulations to Erica and Linda!



Congratulations, Annie!

### *Humility in the Second Degree* Ruth Bailey OblSB

Will. Will I? Won't I? Will You?  
In a timeframe acceptable to me?

Isn't that the biggest obstacle to doing Your Will over mine?  
My impatience with your seemingly disregard for my timetable

You, Dear Lord, maybe outside of time, but I am not  
Tempus Fugit and all that rot

Ooo, what's that I hear, sneaking in there, a hint of arrogance?  
My timetable indeed!

So now I see where humility is called for in the Second Degree

# Something Old and Something New

Sherri Given, Novice

On Saturday, November 14, 2020, three amazing blessings occurred in the Bedford Benedictine Deanery at Holy Name of Mary Church in Bedford, VA; there was a Reception of Oblate Novices, a Profession of Oblates and the Commissioning of a Dean. These events may be common and take place every year (every five years for the commissioning of a dean) but this is not a common year and these were not common events.

What was new beyond Covid-19 and its many restrictions? To begin with, we gathered together as a community for these blessings where we gather for our monthly meeting, not at the monastery in Bristow. Sr. Andrea Westkamp OSB, subprioress, and Kathy Frick, ObISB, came to us as a representation of the monastery, instead of our deanery going to them. The procession was still done with partners, but each pairing had to space itself the mandatory six feet from others. We had to sit spread throughout the church with masks on and not facing each other in two choirs. One of our Novice inductees was not able to travel from her home state to Bedford and her induction occurred via Zoom. Our dean, Rita Zimmermann, had her first installation ceremony, even though she has been Dean for 13 years! All three of the blessed events were done together, not as separate ceremonies. Our celebration afterwards was centered around pre-packaged foods, not the homemade goodness we are used to.

What was old and remained the same? Our procession into the church, with the partners that bowed to the Divinity in each other, gave a sense of normalcy. There were three women, Sherri Given, Cindy Jenne, and Rebecca Porterfield, who followed the tradition of going beyond the inquirer to becoming novices. They were called forth by Sr. Andrea and asked to declare what it is that they are seeking. Matt Cundiff and Margo Manuel read their oblations aloud to the community as they were received as Benedictine Oblates. Rita Zimmermann remained the Dean of the Bedford Benedictine community. As each group stood before the community, Sr. Andrea called upon the community to raise their hands and pray a blessing. Each blessing brought peace to the unsettled nerves, as it has for many years. We processed out of the church with our partners and gathered in the hall for a celebration.

So many of the old traditions remained in place as they were acted out in this new way of living in a pandemic. The feel of the day was still one of joy and blessings as our community came together cautiously. Having Sr. Andrea and Kathy with us allowed our deanery to have its own personal celebration of its individuals. This blessed our new Oblates, Novices, and Dean with an intimate gathering that had not happened in previous years. The procession, that occurred with six feet of social distancing, gave us the opportunity to slowly recognize and love the Divinity that is in each of us. It was a beautiful gift to not be as quick, as if we had walked in one right after the other. Spreading throughout the church while wearing our masks clearly showed our love and concern for each other's welfare. We all made a conscious choice to put the welfare of each other before our own comfort. Our voices filled the whole church, not just a small part of it, as it would when we sat facing each other. We were blessed with the gifts of a friend who set up all of our technology. Those gifts made it possible for someone not physically present to reap the spiritual gifts that were in abundance. To rejoice with our Dean in a formal ceremony allowed us all to share in the love of this community. The pre-packaged food was not our usual "made from the heart" meals, but it was bought in love by sisters who wanted to celebrate in the safest way possible during this pandemic.

As Kathy Frick so aptly put it in the *Formation Exercises and Resources* book, "To truly be part of a community, the individual must adapt and change in ways that may sometimes be difficult." This year of the pandemic has been difficult and our adaptations have not been easy. But, we will continue to adapt so that we, as a community, can find the blessings in the new and difficult times we face. "The purpose of Benedictine spirituality is to gather equally committed adults for a journey through earthen darkness to the dazzling light that already flames in each of us." (Joan Chittister, *The Rule of Benedict*, pg. 36). The Light was bright that November 14<sup>th</sup> in Bedford, VA. We just had to look beyond the new to see it tucked within the old.



# Meet the Deaneries!

## Colleen Hernandez, ObISB

The **Bristow Oblate Deanery** meets on the second Saturday of the month (Sept.-May) at the home monastery of the Benedictine Sisters of Virginia, St. Benedict Monastery in Bristow (about 15 minutes from Manassas). Meetings are held in the Subiaco Room from 9:30-12 p.m., and all are welcome. The Oblates pray Morning and Midday Prayer with the Sisters in Immaculate Conception Chapel before and after the meetings, and many RSVP to join the Sisters for lunch in the monastery dining room, as well. (Unfortunately, all the in-person meetings and interactions with the Sisters are not possible right now during the pandemic. Our monthly meetings are online.) Formation Classes are held for candidates and novices after lunch. Contact Debby Fancher, Bristow Dean, at [debbyoblsb@gmail.com](mailto:debbyoblsb@gmail.com) if you have any questions or to let us know you'd like to join us so we can welcome you to our Benedictine home!

**Debby Fancher, Obl.SB – Bristow - [debbyoblsb@gmail.com](mailto:debbyoblsb@gmail.com).** Debby Fancher has been an Oblate for sixteen years, beginning her vol-



unteer work at the monastery as Sister Eileen's office assistant then working with Sisters Cecilia and Joanna as a liturgical musician. A native Hoosier, she graduated from Indiana University before moving to Virginia with her husband in 1990. After raising three children, she taught kindergarten for nine years before becoming the music teacher at Linton Hall School. Debby's hobbies include cooking, gardening, and piano. She lives in Warrenton with her son Ben and their Newfoundland Emmie.

The **Richmond Oblate Deanery** is a wonderful community of lay Benedictines who meet monthly to share their insights and lived experience of the Rule of Benedict. The group meets on the second Saturday of the month at Mary, Mother of the Church Abbey in Goochland on the outskirts of Richmond. We begin with morning prayer in the Abbey Chapel, followed by a period of faith sharing and prayerful reflection. Members participate in actively serving our Oblate community as God calls forth their gifts and talents. Some Oblates help inquirers and novices learn more about the Benedictine way of life, others prepare our space for a prayerful morning, still others serve as readers or leaders for morning and midday prayer, and some facilitate communications. If you live in the Richmond area and are interested in learning more about becoming a Benedictine Oblate please contact our Dean, Annie McEntee.

**Annie McEntee, Obl.SB – Richmond - [annie.mcentee.oblsb@gmail.com](mailto:annie.mcentee.oblsb@gmail.com).** I grew up smelling the sweet pine needles and playing in the



red clay of my native Richmond while experiencing God's presence for the first time in the sacred space of Saint Bridget Catholic Church. I began my college education with drama at the University of Richmond and then Catholic University, followed by studies in Theology at Loyola University and Saint John's Seminary and School of Theology. As I became engaged in ministry in the 90s God blessed me with the grace of meeting Sr. Anita Sherwood who became my informal mentor and link to the Benedictine Sisters of Virginia. Employed as a training manager at Verizon, and RCIA leader at Saint Michael Church, I longed for balance in my life which I discovered in the Benedictine way of life.

In 2010 I made promises as an Oblate of the Monastery of Saint Benedict in Bristow, Virginia. I continue to thrive in the RCIA ministry at Saint Michael as well as offer spiritual direction. I look forward to the blossoming of the Richmond Deanery as we answer God's calling to grow and develop as Oblates of Saint Benedict.

The sleepy town of Bedford, Virginia is nestled at the foot of the Blue Ridge mountains and is home to the **Bedford Oblate Deanery**. We are centrally located between Roanoke and Lynchburg. Lay Benedictines or Oblates, along with those seeking to learn more about the Benedictine way of life come together on the second Saturday of each month from September through April. We gather for Morning Prayer, Mid-Day Prayer, book study, faith sharing and to steep ourselves in the Rule of Benedict. We discern how God is calling us to live the Benedictine motto of Ora et Labora – Prayer and Work, in our faith communities, in our home towns and our monastery. All Christian faith traditions are welcome. We meet at Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church, 1307 Oakwood Street, Bedford, VA. If you are interested in learning more about a Benedictine way of life or becoming an Oblate, please contact our Dean, Rita Zimmermann.

**Rita C. Zimmermann, Obl.SB – Bedford - [rzimmermann.obl.sb@gmail.com](mailto:rzimmermann.obl.sb@gmail.com).** Rita grew up in the small town of Mason, WV where on a



good Sunday there were 60 people in attendance at the mission parish of St. Joseph. This small parish instilled in her a sense of community and deep faith. Turning fifty she felt a restlessness and began her search to go deeper in her spiritual life. This search led her to the Benedictine Sisters of Virginia where she made her Oblation in 2007 and has been a member of the Bedford Deanery since its conception in 2005. Retired as Faith Formation Coordinator she now devotes her time to her husband, five adult children and six grandchildren along with her Oblate responsibilities as Dean for the Bedford Oblates and chair of the Oblate Advisory Council. She also finds the time to serve as a Spiritual Director, Eucharistic Minister, Facebook coordinator and teaches an occasional session for RCIA at her parish. To maintain a Benedictine balance she hikes and backpacks; praying with her feet.

# A Reflection on the Oblate As a Gift

Sister Charlotte Lee O.S.B.

A few weeks ago Sister Andrea asked me if I would write an article for the Oblate Newsletter on Oblate as a Gift. I did not hesitate to say yes. It is a privilege and honor to write about our oblates on this topic, because the gratitude I feel in my heart for all of you and your dedication and commitment to the monastic way of life and to this Benedictine community has indeed been for me, and the community, a very special gift.

Fourteen years ago I was asked by our prioress at the time, Sister Cecilia, if I would be Oblate Director along with Kathy Frick, an oblate of our community. When Kathy and I said yes to sharing this position, I don't think either of us knew what was ahead of us and how God would lead us in our ministry.

We were asked at the beginning to form an oblate council to assist us with ideas and suggestions as to how we could begin to move forward and expand on what the Sisters who had served as Directors before us had accomplished. We immediately began to meet and invited Debby Fancher, an oblate, to join us in planning how to move forward. The three of us went to the Ridge to develop a plan. We had four deaneries; Bristow, Richmond, Bedford, VA and Nevada. As the council began to form we invited two people from each deanery to join us. At the time, the Dean in Bedford Va. was Suzanne Gallagher. She decided to retire as Dean and ask Kathy and me to consider asking Rita Zimmermann to replace her and to join us on the council. Rita said yes and she has been serving the Oblates and the Benedictine Sisters for 14 years. She is now the chairwoman of the council and I cannot say enough about her love and commitment to her role as Dean and also as Chair of the Oblate Council. She is and has been a precious gift to all of us. The Bedford deanery has grown under her leadership in so many ways Benedictine. Though they are many miles away, they have always been closely connected to the Sisters and always responded to the needs of the community. They are always present to the community and they carry the Benedictine message far and wide throughout the Roanoke area. They not only study the Rule, they live it out in their daily lives, in their Parishes, with their families, in their ministries and to the world. Recently Rita and John Kowalski planned a pilgrimage to Italy to explore and visit all the Benedictine places. Three of them have also attended the World Oblate Congress that takes place in Rome every four years. Their insights and ideas have helped us understand how the community can grow in the future of the Benedictine way of life. They are examples of what it means to be Benedictine, not only in word, but also in action and the way they live.

I also want to mention our other deaneries in Richmond, Bristow, and Nevada.

Our Bristow Oblates, because they live so close and can come to the Monastery more often, live and serve our community in many varied ways. Debby Fancher, who recently became the first Dean, has been an oblate for many years has served on the council. She has also been an administrative assistant for several oblate directors, teaches in our school and sings in our choir, assists our Sisters in providing music for our Liturgies on Sundays, Oblation Ceremonies and so many other ways she lives out her oblation promises. She also planned and presented a beautiful power point presentation for our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Another Bristow Oblate who is very dedicated to the community and his Benedictine vocation is Greg Evans. He has been a part of this community for many years and I would like to mention a few ways that he lives out his profession as an oblate of the Benedictine sisters. He operates our gift shop, facilitates our Holy Day/Holiday sale, helps prepare special meals for the Sisters, works in the garden, helps our older sisters with arts and crafts and so many other things. He is a blessing and gift to our community.

Rita Albright is also very active here at the monastery. She helps out at the front desk providing hospitality, has served on the board to help raise money for our new monastery, writes to our oblates, and Sisters and sends cards to those who are sick. Carol Semon is a Spiritual Director for our Pastoral Center.

Juanita and John Oliver, until the pandemic, were always here and willing to do whatever they could to help the sisters. John came early and made the coffee for all the oblate meetings and was always on hand for any needs we might have. Juanita, his loving wife, took care of our sunshine fund and made sure the money was used to help those in need. Every Lent she collected money to be sent to AIM to help Benedictine communities in other third world countries. Juanita also helped at the front desk and was always on hand to help in any way she could. Meg Kermon is the volunteer Coordinator for our BEACN program and helps with the technology for the Oblate web site. She also attended the International Congress in Rome.

I know I have not mentioned everybody by name, but every single oblate we have lives their commitment in many different ways not always visible to others. They live it in their homes and live their vows as best they can and as their daily life allows them. Benedictine Oblates are a bridge from the monastery to the world.

## Reflection Continued

Our Richmond oblates are also very active in carrying the message of Benedictine Spirituality to their communities. When our community celebrated 150 years of service and ministry in the Richmond diocese, they served as ushers and gave hospitality to our guests at the celebration. At the present time, Annie McIntee is serving as Dean and Linda Mingos is the Formation Director. Rose Durango is the coordinator of making sure everyone is aware of the meetings and keeps in contact with those who are not able to attend meetings. Our Richmond oblates also support our monastery with their many gifts, time and talents. We are grateful to all of them for their years of living Monastic life in the Richmond Diocese and their parishes. We are so grateful to all of our oblates for their dedication and service to our community and our way of life.

I also want to mention our deanery in Nevada which was begun in 2001, by a former member of our community, Rose Marie Fico. Their first oblation took place in 2003. The community grew by leaps and bounds under her leadership. The oblate directors traveled to Gardnerville once a year to receive the new novices and oblates. They too met on a monthly basis and carried the charism of our Benedictine life to their homes, workplaces and parishes. They offered hospitality to the oblate Directors and sisters who came to visit. When Rose Marie retired from her ministry as Dean, Almita, Bey Carrion followed her as Dean and served the community for many years. She and her husband Ruben left Nevada and moved to California to be near their children. Then Sharon Hennesey became the Dean. Under Sharon's leadership the oblates decided to transfer their oblation to a community closer to them so they could be more connected to a monastery. Many of the oblates transferred their oblation and some remained in our community and became inactive. Some still keep in touch and they are always in our prayers.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to say how I, as an oblate director, have been blessed by the partnership and friendship I have shared with Kathy Frick. We spent 14 years working together as Directors of our oblate community. Kathy and I shared so much as we walked with our Oblates together. We are as different as day and night, yet there has never been a time when we had a difference that we could not work through using our love for the Benedictine Rule, the Gospel, and one another. We have worked together, traveled together and played together. We have worked side by side to help our Oblates know their value and giftedness to our community. We have not always agreed, yet we have always respected one another and treated each other with love and commitment. I am truly grateful for her friendship and example of what it means to be Benedictine.

I have to tell you though there was one time when we just couldn't agree and that was the day we decided to drive to a restaurant in Kansas using the GPS to get there. We rode and rode following the directions of the GPS and ended up on a dirt road that took us to a vacant lot. On the road we met this little dog who looked lost and hungry and ran behind us yelping for someone to stop and pick him up. I wanted Kathy to stop and she said the company she rented the car from said no pets. I was so upset. She assured me the little pup lived nearby and would be ok. I disagreed and when we finally passed a house on the road, the little pup ran up the driveway and into the yard. She looked at me and said "I told you so" and I had to admit defeat.

We have had so many beautiful experiences as Oblate and Sister and we will remain friends forever. Thank you Kathy for all you are and all you have done for our oblates and for me. Kathy also serves our community as the Executive Director of the Benedictine Pastoral Center here at the Monastery.

I could go on and on about our Oblate Community about how they live and serve through their vocation as oblates. We value all of you and our community would not be complete without you.



# Richmond Oblate Retreat 2020

Annie McEntee, ObISB

The Richmond Oblates held our annual retreat on the Feast of Saint Benedict, Saturday, July 11, 2020. We originally planned to hold our retreat at the Monastery in Bristow but changed our plans to a virtual retreat due to COVID-19. The retreat was well attended with 17 registrants.

The retreat began with morning prayer for the Feast of St. Benedict. Two Oblates, Annie McEntee and Ellen Klingman, lead the antiphonal praying of the Psalms. Lisa Fusco, 28-year Oblate, played and sang the hymn to St. Benedict during prayer and novice Erica performed the role of reader.

Linda Mingos led the morning reflection on *Benedictine Promises and Gifts*. Prior to the retreat Linda mailed each participant the name of a Benedictine gift accompanied by a prayer, a scripture verse, and a card. She sent the instruction that the envelope we received should not be opened until the retreat. The gifts were: stability, obedience, conversion, silence, listening, prayer, humility, hospitality, and work. Each person took turns reading the gift they had received along with the prayer.

I received the gift of stability. I was moved by the accompanying prayer, written by Linda Mingos:

Lord, I have heard you calling, in the silence of my heart, in the faces of the faithful I have encountered in the past and in whom I encounter still. In the journey of my life I know you have always been with me as I know you are with me now. As I have searched for you, I realize you have been patiently waiting for me to recognize your constant presence with me and within me. Many times, I have been like a plant without roots, and have withered by the challenges placed before me. But now I feel your spiritual nourishment in this Benedictine way of praying, worshipping and living. This way of life is like water for my soul. Here, in this monastery, I have found a place to call my spiritual home. This monastic family is where I find the guidance, the love and the support I need to grow into the best version of myself, that you would have me become. I receive the gift of stability this monastery has to offer me. I give the gift of myself to you, that in this monastic way of life, I may take this charism of stability into the world and share it with others, as it has been so generously shared with me.

After reading our prayer, Linda asked us to place it on our home altar that we created for the occasion and take time to reflect on the scripture verse she sent. I received a verse from Psalm 119:116:

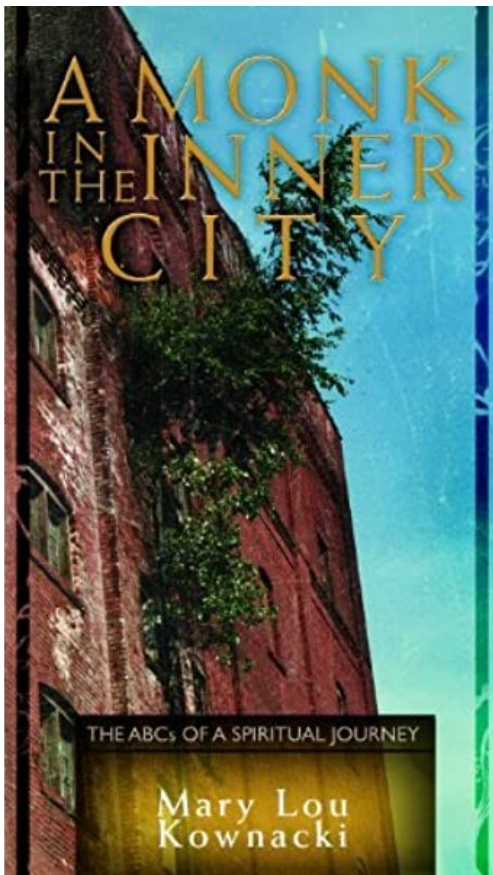
Lord receive me as you have promised, and I shall live. Do not disappoint me in my hope.

I was stunned when I saw the quote. Linda had arbitrarily assigned gifts to members, so even she did not know which gift we would receive. I turned to the *Rule Chapter 58: The Procedure for Receiving New Members*. These words from Psalm 119 are those spoken by sisters when they make solemn monastic profession. What was the Lord asking of me? I knew there was no mistake that God was inviting me into a more profound and unitive relationship by making a deeper commitment to the monastery of St. Benedict in Bristow, Virginia. God was asking me to live out my commitment in stability and faithfulness to the promise I made ten years ago. What a powerful moment of realization.

Each attendee shared their reactions to the charism and scripture that they had received. Many were surprised by their gift, others deeply moved. We practiced contemplative listening as we made space for each other to share.

Our retreat closed as it had begun, with prayer. Each Oblate took with them a gift to ponder and live out. The Spirit moved among us and we agreed that it was good to be back together again.

## Next Year's Book & Upcoming Events



*A Monk in the Inner City, The ABC's of a Spiritual Journey*

by Sister Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB

**M**any centuries ago the ancient Desert Fathers and Mothers moved into the wilderness, leaving behind the compulsions of the world in order to draw near to God. For Mary Lou Kownacki, a Benedictine nun and long-time peace-maker, her wilderness is the inner city of Erie, Pennsylvania, surrounded by poor families trying to survive and keep hope alive amidst drugs, violence, and despair. From this outpost on the margins, she observes the world in poetic meditations, written with the passion of a prophet and the heart of a mystic. "I write about days when spiritual security, not fear, was a neighborhood's gift to children. It is one way of trying to stretch my monks robe until it embraces the suffering world."

### Upcoming Events

**Richmond Deanery Summer Retreat July 10**

**Bedford Deanery Summer Retreat July 10**

**Novice Retreat in Bristow August 7**

**Oblate Ceremony in Bristow September 11**