



# St. Placid Priory

Welcome to the forest where monastic life thrives, and you will thrive.

The Priory Spirituality Center

◆ The Conference Center

◆ The Priory Store

◆ [www.stplacid.org](http://www.stplacid.org)

Winter-Spring

## The Call to Go Deeper

By Postulant Camille Wooden

In the last book of CS Lewis' Narnia series, the great lion Aslan invites those who follow him to go "deeper in" as he leads them into Paradise. It is an invitation to know him more completely; in Christian terms to have more of God and the joy and delight of those who believe. St. Placid Priory has a similar invitation. Come deeper in—encounter the God we all love and be a part of the community that serves God. Benedictine spirituality aims to bring balance and simplicity to life, to make more room for God. In that spaciousness, peace is born—for the individual and for the world.

The journey deeper in often begins with attending daily and Sunday Mass or joining the Sisters in the Liturgy of the Hours. Some begin, as I did, with a workshop or retreat. The variety of workshops offered through The Priory Spirituality Center truly provide something for everyone. Retreats are another way to go deeper. Some retreatants come for just a few hours, others for weeks. To settle in for an extended quiet time dedicated to prayer and relationship with God can send us back into the world with a renewed sense of God's presence in our lives. Retreatants often become "regulars," returning at intervals throughout the year. More than one has made the comment, "as soon as I turn into the driveway and come down the hill, I can feel the peace of this place. I can feel myself already relaxing."

One way to experience "more" is to volunteer at the Priory. The Sisters always welcome volunteers; there is a

place and need for people of all talents and interests. Some volunteers live locally and have committed certain hours a week, other volunteers come from farther away and spend time as live-in volunteers. This period of time can be weeks, months, even a year. Volunteering is a good way of beginning to understand and live a Benedictine life.



If a person continues to feel a call for "more," they may decide to explore becoming an Associate or Oblate. Associates meet once a month, currently under the direction of Sr. Monika Ellis. They read books and articles on Benedictine spirituality and discuss their own lives of faith. There is not a formal commitment but some of the Associates have been part of the group for over a decade. Oblates also meet once a month under the co-direction of Postulant Camille and Sister Lucy, but have made a more formal commitment. The process involves moving through the stages of Guest, Candidate and, finally, Oblate. Becoming an Oblate means making a declaration and commitment to living out Benedictine values as much as you are able in your life in the world among

family, friends, work, and church. It is a lifelong commitment.

But there is still more. Some Associates and Oblates are able, and desire to commit more time to being at the monastery. They go on to become Affiliates, and in addition to attending meetings with other Associates and Oblates they spend time each month at the Priory, joining in the prayer and worship life of the Sisters and volunteering their time to work on projects that range from gardening to liturgy. They stay in the monastery and so are able to become even more steeped in the Benedictine way of life.

And still the invitation to go deeper is extended. The community has established a program to allow for Claustral Oblates. This medieval practice allowed lay people who had become Oblates to live in the monastery itself. This requires the Oblate to live the life of a Sister in the community, without taking formal religious vows. Again, it is a lifetime commitment. A person interested in becoming a Claustral Oblate makes an application. If accepted they move through stages as anyone does who wishes to join the community as a Sister.

The community of St. Placid Priory is committed to sharing the message of Benedictine spirituality with everyone who might feel its call. We can never have too much of God and our lives as people of faith become a search for ever more ways to find and experience this God through whom we live and move and have our being.

Being a part of the Benedictine community at St. Placid Priory, in whatever way fits for you, is one way to continue to "go deeper."

February 2018



## From the Priory



**Sister Donatha Gunda**

In August **Sr. Donatha Gunda, OSB**, joined us from Tanzania to continue studies for her Master's in Business Administration at **Saint Martin's University**.



**Fr. Damian blesses the icons at a retreat closing ritual in our chapel**

Twelve retreatants attended an **Iconography** retreat from August 20-24. The retreat was facilitated by **Fr. Damian Higgins**, and each retreatant left with a finished (or mostly finished) icon of St. Mary Magdalene.

On August 31, **Linda Soler, OSB** of St. Paul Monastery, **Ramona Varela, OSB** of the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, and Federation of St. Benedict President **Kerry O'Reilly, OSB** began our Visitation. This is one step in the preparation for our 2018 discernment and election of prioress. December 15-17, we

continued this preparation with a series of direction setting meetings facilitated by **Cecilia Dwyer, OSB** of the Benedictine Sisters of Bristow, Virginia.



**Cecilia Dwyer, OSB**



**Visitators: Sisters Ramona Varela, Kerry O'Reilly, and Linda Soler**

The Priory Knitters and Spinners' name changed this year to **Priory Fiber Arts**. The new name encompasses the many techniques the group uses for creating with fibers. Included are needle-felting, kumihimo (braiding), and weaving, among others.

On Saturday, October 14, **Johanna Mitchell** sold **Priory Fiber Arts** creations at Olympia's **Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd** during their women's convention. We appreciate her representing us among other vendors and educators for this annual event.



And November 18, **Priory Fiber Arts** creations sold well at the **Olympia High School Bearzaar**. Thanks to staff **Frauke, Johanna, Heather, Melissa and Sr. Maureen**, and to our patrons.

We have sold more than 140 walking sticks! **Volunteer Jerry Haupt** collects wood from the Priory grounds and then polishes them up into beautiful walking sticks for sale in the Priory lobby.

From October 27-November 13, our cook, **Keith Underwood** and his wife **Michelle** went on pilgrimage to Europe with a **St. Michael's Church** group.

In October, **Mary Franklin** set up a beautiful table to display some crystal and cut glass pieces that were donated to the Priory. Much of the glassware was sold. Then toward the end of November, she arranged the **Christmas Table Sale** in our lobby—carrying on one of **Sister Damaris'** traditions of offering gently used gift items for sale.

**Sr. Maureen O'Larey** has been attending multiple seminars held by the Archdiocese of Seattle Capital Campaigns for Retirement Funds for Religious Women and Priests.

**Melanie Jenner** joined us on October 20 as a new employee in **The Priory Store**. She works with the manager, **Zoila Roberts**, to sell our cornucopia of Catholic books and religious gift items.



**Melanie Jenner**



In November and December, two groups of students from **Saint Martin's University** volunteered to rake leaves around our property. They worked with **Jerry Haupt, Liz Langeland, Rie Roark, Melissa Wright, Sister Julian Cleary and Sister Sharon McDonald**, and were rewarded with volunteer service hours, lunch, hot chocolate, Benedictine medals—and our gratitude!



*Continued on page 3...*

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**Postulant Camille Wooden**

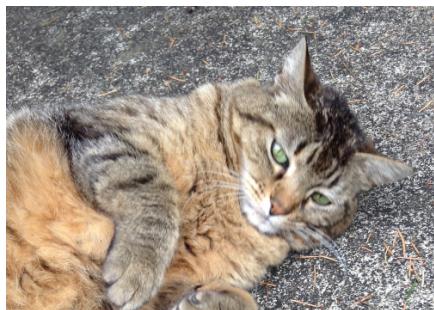
At a ritual during Evening Praise on November 16, Oblate Camille Wooden became Postulant Camille. This is a first step in becoming a full member of the community. After the ritual, we celebrated in our dining room.



**The Priory Cat**

St. Placid Priory has accepted another new member: a lovely brown mackerel Tabby called Pretty Girl, Scholasticat, Abbey Cat, Kiki, Abbess or Tica—depending on who's calling her.

This feline member responds to all names, particularly those accompanied by food. Our monastery cat has brought us joy with her particular little habits and her unmatched beauty. We hope for a long and beautiful life together.



**Sister Damaris Zander, OSB**  
**June 23, 1926 – Nov 28, 2017**

Sister Damaris (Monica Magdalen) Zander, age 91, of St. Placid Priory, Lacey, Washington, died at Manor Care in Lacey on November 28, 2017. She was born June 23, 1926 in Bismarck, North Dakota to Franz and Monika (Kautzman) Zander.

Sister Damaris joined St. Benedict's Convent in St. Joseph, Minnesota, making her monastic profession on July 11, 1945 and was assigned to St. Raphael's home in St. Cloud, MN.

Sister Damaris was a founding member of St. Placid Priory, established as an autonomous monastery in 1952. She continued to serve the church and her monastic community in the Pacific Northwest at Holy Rosary and Visitation convents (Tacoma) as a cook. She also made altar breads. In 1963 she attended a cooking school in Omaha, Nebraska, and also became an expert cake decorator. In 1970-71 she completed a Licensed Practical Nurse program and in 1971 she began her nursing ministry at St. Peter's Hospital in Olympia, WA. She cared for the community's older members. In 1986 she left St. Peter's Hospital to care for the frail members of our community and to begin her work as Procurator and maintenance supervisor.

Sister Damaris was a moving force at the Priory, caring for the grounds and the interior; flower arranging and decorating; and extending hospitality to guests. She served on the Monastic Council, the Benedictine Development Corporation and the Advisory Board for the Priory

Spirituality Center. She decorated the Priory in ways that honored festive days, liturgical moments, celebrations, often simply bringing in beauty from the out-of-doors. Sister had quite the green thumb and our porch overflowed with gorgeous flowers. However she did have major issues with squirrels!

Sister was faithful in her support for the Mariners and the Seahawks, cheering on her teams until the last days of her life here on earth. She stayed in contact with her extended family and enjoyed their visits and hers to them. She and Sister Mary Walczewski ventured to Maine to visit her niece and family, delighting in God's creation there.

Sister Damaris was a founding member of The Priory Knitters and Spinners (now Priory Fiber Arts). As a gifted fiber artist, she crafted over 500 sheep, was part of the needle felting team, knit or crocheted plenteous prayer shawls and baby layettes. Her annual rummage sale and "Christmas table" became famous, attracting people who otherwise rarely visited the monastery.

Sister Damaris' spirituality was expressed in her faithfulness to the Liturgy of the Hours and Eucharist, and in her daily faithfulness to *lectio divina*. Hers was a liturgical spirituality expressed in many different ways. She credited her involvement in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal with deepening her contemplative prayer life. She lived with a deep gratitude for life and all that came her way. She loved music, especially Neil Diamond. Sister Damaris celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of Monastic Profession in 2015.

Sister Damaris was the last surviving founding member of St. Placid Priory. Her parents, eighteen of her siblings, and numerous nieces and nephews preceded her in death. Surviving are her brother, Harry and sister Betty Leingang, and many loving nieces, nephews and grandnieces and nephews. The Zanders have always been a close-knit family. She is also survived by her Sisters at St. Placid Priory.

Donations in memory of Sister Damaris may be sent to St. Placid Priory, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, WA 98516.



## GOINGS ON AT THE CENTER

### Deepening Women's Spirituality 2017-2018

After only a few sessions, we are already going deep into our own stories and sharing them in the sacred space that our facilitator, Amelia Carroll, has created. We have investigated our births, families and even our ancestors, given thanks for our lives as they are, and will soon be descending into the dark silence of winter and discovering any epiphanies of the new year. Previously strangers, we are learning to connect in trust. This brings both peace and the strength to return to our separate worlds until we meet again to meditate, journal, express ourselves artistically, and continue our shared spiritual journey. —*Rosemarie Oliver*

### Listening with the Spirit 2017-2019

Even though my spiritual direction formation program is only weekly, I didn't expect to be in deep water so soon. I'm not just looking from the shore; I feel like it's up to my knees already. Being with someone in spiritual direction is about providing understanding, deep knowing, and relating. It's waiting, not fussing for an immediate answer. It's being with someone, not fixing someone's life. It's prayerfulness not necessarily in the most conventional manner but rather allowing God to work through me. I will not be the same person who started this journey at its end and I expectantly await what will develop within my heart space over these two years.

—*Nancee Gordana*

### Oasis 2017-2018

Oasis is having a transformative influence in my life. The spiritual readings, gatherings/discussions, spiritual direction, invitation to Mass and the prayers with the Sisters of St. Placid, and sharing of meals all beckon me to a place of gentle contemplation

where I am learning to listen to the Spirit and to be kind to myself and others. Life is often lived in a frenzied pace where it is easy to lose our true spiritual identities. Oasis helps me to slow down, to be still, and to know that I am exactly where I am supposed to be and that God is there with me. Moreover, many people relate with themselves with a certain harshness/hostility, and I am learning through Oasis to not pass judgment on myself but to practice inner hospitality, to really love myself as God does. I am especially grateful for Sister Lucy Wynkoop for sharing her life-affirming, spiritual wisdom and for Sister Therese Gonville (my spiritual director) for listening with compassion and praying for me. Life is full of hardships, challenges, and pains; yet, Oasis reminds me that there always is water in the desert for those who are willing to be still and trust in the goodness of the Creator. —*Monch Kim*

### Spiritual Practices of Aging 2017-2018

I am grateful to be one of the 14 participants in the monthly gathering at the Spirituality Center to explore with other women this adventure of aging, moving into the second half, or third act, of life. Mary Pandiani is our facilitator in creating sacred space and offering various spiritual practices for

us to try out. We have a whole month between sessions to flesh out our own personal practice before we come together again for more inspiration and spiritual practice in community. I think of aging as a pilgrimage and was blessed to walk part of the Camino to Santiago in Spain last year. The Spiritual Practices of Aging, for me, is an intentional continuation of pilgrimage in community.

—*Donna Vande Kieft*

### Spiritual Direction

Last spring I decided to take a mini silent retreat. Having been connected as an oblate with a Benedictine community many years ago, I decided to travel the 2 ½ hours from my home in the Columbia Gorge to The Priory Spirituality Center. Though I was only going for a three day retreat and had not planned to meet with a director, I made a last minute decision to meet with Sr. Lucy. We met for an hour and I immediately knew that I had "come home" to the Benedictine spirituality that fed my soul for many years. When I mentioned to her that I did not have a director (living in a more rural area does not offer much in the way of spiritual directors), she extended her ministry to me via Skype. So began my journey back to the Benedictines. It has been a rich gift and blessing and I am most grateful for this online opportunity.

—*Denise Anderson*



Listening with the Spirit, Class of 2017-18

## Program Information Pages 5 - 7

+ Our retreats include the opportunity to join the Sisters for Eucharist, meals, and the Liturgy of the Hours.

+ Spiritual Direction may be available on retreat for an additional fee. Please request an appointment when you register.

+ For information on our presenters, go to our website: [www.stplacid.org](http://www.stplacid.org) and look under **Program Calendar** for program and presenter descriptions.

### The Power of Forgiveness: Writing to Heal

February 3  
Saturday 9:00am-4:00pm



Do you long to heal a piercing life wound that begs forgiveness? Join in this spiritually-based, interactive workshop where you will learn how to incorporate a writing/hearing/bearing-witness component, as a means of forgiveness. Writing becomes a powerful outlet for expressing feelings about emotionally challenging experiences.

**Register by Prior Friday:** \$60  
**Bring a sack lunch, pen, and notebook or journal.**  
Minimum: 5, Maximum: 10

**Kathleen P. Perkins, PhD**

### The Art of Self-Compassion: Mindfully Caring for Your Spirit

February 10  
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm



The art of self-compassion promotes compassion to oneself and hence, compassion for all living beings in the world we share. Discover how this practice, through reflection and meditation, can help you honor and accept your humanness, enhance interpersonal relationships and promote care of the spirit.

**Register by Prior Friday:** \$60  
**Bring a sack lunch, journal, walking shoes, and raincoat.**  
Minimum: 8, Maximum: 14

**Jane Fleming, MPM**

### Lenten Retreat

February 16-18  
Friday 7:15pm-  
Sunday 12:00pm



During this silent retreat you will experience a guided meditation time, receive handouts to use during retreat, and have reflective times to prepare your heart and yourself to receive the blessings this Lent will offer to you. As you spend time with Jesus and what you may be called to live out from this retreat, Spiritual Direction will be available to help guide you.

**Register by Prior Friday:** \$160  
**with Spiritual Direction** \$200  
**Bring a sack lunch.**  
Minimum: 3, Maximum: 10

**Therese Gonville, OSB**

### At the Garden Gate: Women in Midlife

February 24  
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm



We will invite the wisdom of Joyce Rupp and Sue Monk Kidd into our authentic circle of life review, integration and curious inquiry for the path yet to be explored. Journaling, simple collage, poem-making and 'heart-full' sharing will enliven and celebrate this ripening season of our lives.

**Register by Prior Friday:** \$50  
**Bring a sack lunch and journal.**  
Minimum: 6, Maximum: 15

**Melissa Layer, M.A.**

### Developing Your Spiritual Autobiography

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



Using photos from birth through adulthood, we will use the lens of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to look over our life to see what Fruits we have been able to harvest and share with others—so as to intentionally create a life that radiates the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to others.

**Register by Prior Friday:** \$55  
**Bring a sack lunch, journal, and photos of yourself from birth to present (especially significant events).**  
Minimum: 5, Maximum: 12

**Nickie Lynn**

### Ten Resources for Healing

March 10  
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm



Do you need some sort of healing---physical, emotional, spiritual, and/or relational? This retreat looks at ten possible resources for experiencing more fullness of life, more healing, than you currently have. The day will include time for prayer and reflection. Come and see.

**Register by Prior Friday:** \$50

**Bring a sack lunch and journal.**

Minimum: 6, Maximum: 20

**Presenter: Jan Alkire**

### Pilgrimage: A Path of Peace and Unity

March 24  
Saturday 10:00am-3:00pm



You may be a seasoned traveler or planning your very first journey. If you have heard the call to travel for spiritual rejuvenation, this workshop will feed your soul. Join a circle of fellow travelers in a spirit of deep gratitude and share in the stories, insights, and wisdom.

**Register by Prior Friday:** \$60

**Bring a sack lunch.**

Minimum: 5, Maximum: 25

**Anatha Attar, M.A.C.**

### Silent Centering Prayer Retreat

March 23-25, 2018  
Friday 7:15pm - Sunday 1:30pm

This silent retreat is a rare opportunity to be with others committed to the contemplative path. Sustained by multiple periods of Centering Prayer and tapping into chant, lectio divina, and meditative walking, we intentionally create an environment that supports our continuing Centering Prayer practice.

**Register by Prior Friday:** \$200  
**Bring a sack lunch.**

Minimum: 8, Maximum: 10

**Kay Kukowski and Mary Solberg**



*...Continued from page 5***Triduum Retreat**

March 29 – April 1

Thursday 3:00pm – Sunday 12:00pm

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

**Register by Prior Friday:** \$200  
with Spiritual Direction \$250

Minimum: 3, Maximum: 10

**Therese Gonnevile, OSB****In Conversation  
with Our Deepest Selves**April 7  
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm

Our truest voices are often obscured in these demanding times of rapid change and uncertainty. Through stories and poetry, we'll begin to re-engage our deepest selves in conversation and creative expression so as to awaken us more fully to the great mystery of creation and our role in it.

**Register by Prior Friday:** \$60  
Bring a sack lunch, a notebook, and a small favorite object.

Minimum: 6, Maximum: 15

**Janice Lawry****Creating a Home Worship Center**April 14  
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm

We will explore creating sacred spaces in the home.

These may include an icon corner, crosses, incense, sacred objects and bibles, prayer books, hymnals, or other sacred books. We will also create a portable sacred space for travel. Ideas presented can also be used with prayer groups or Bible studies.

**Register by Prior Friday:** \$60  
Bring a sack lunch and items you wish to include (i.e. icons or sacred images, cross, other 3D items, etc.)

Minimum: 5, Maximum: 10

**Bee Jay Mar****Leaving a Legacy  
for Those You Love**April 21  
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm

A Last Will and Testament tells family and friends what is to become of our property. But what about the spiritual gifts and memories we want to leave the people we love? Come spend a day reflecting on leaving a spiritual legacy.

**Register by Prior Friday:** \$60  
**Bring a sack lunch and journal.**  
Minimum: 8, Maximum: 24  
**Amelia Carroll**

**Finding the Extraordinary in the Ordinary**April 28  
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm

Each day is a multitude of moments that shimmer and beckon —a universe in a raindrop; the liquid notes of the hidden thrush; the fragrant evergreen. Through guided imagery, lectio divina with poetry, guided journal reflections and experiential exercises, we will increase our appreciative capacity for mindful presence, clear seeing, and deep listening.

**Register by Prior Friday:** \$50  
**Bring a sack lunch and journal.**  
Minimum: 6, Maximum: 15  
**Melissa Layer, M.A.**

**Evidence-Based meditation for Health, Vitality, & Spiritual Growth**May 12  
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm

This workshop will review theory, principles and scientific data to organize and understand the sometimes bewildering world of meditation. We will experience several meditation practices that have been scientifically documented to foster health, vitality and spiritual growth. We will explore how to integrate meditation practice into our ordinary life.

**Register by Prior Friday:** \$50  
**Bring a sack lunch, pen and paper.**  
Minimum: 5, Maximum: 30  
**Jerry DeVore**

**Crafting a Personal Rule of Life**May 19  
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm

Are you shaping your Schedule and life according to your deepest priorities? Using St. Benedict's Rule and other resources, participants will be invited to examine their own lives and will leave with the beginnings of a personal rule and tools to further flesh that out.

**Register by Prior Friday:** \$65  
**Bring a sack lunch and journal or notebook.**  
Minimum: 6, Maximum: 25  
**Kimberly Crispeno**

**At Home in God**May 26  
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm

*"Make yourselves at home in my love."* John 15:4

Explore this extraordinary invitation: to be at home within God. Using poetry, song, writing, visual arts, and contemplation, we will begin to make ourselves at home in Love, imagining how that heals our lives and moves us in the world.

**Register by Prior Friday:** \$50  
Bring a sack lunch, journal, and clothing suitable for an outdoor walk.  
Minimum: 5, Maximum: 30  
**Beth Amsbary and Tamara Roberts**

**God the Artist:  
We the Co-Creators**July 7  
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

*Continued on page 7...*

St. Placid Priory 360-438-1771

Walter and Renata, and you may pick them up at The Priory Spirituality Center after they are glazed.

**Register by prior Friday:** \$75  
(includes \$15 for glazing)

Bring a sack lunch.

Minimum 5, Maximum 10

**Lucy Wynkoop, OSB**  
**Renata and Walter Siegl**



The Priory Spirituality Center 360-438-2595

### Iconography Workshop and Retreat

August 26-30  
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-tempura method, using all natural pigments and 23K Gold leafing. While no previous art experience is

The Priory Store 360-438-1771



necessary, more accomplished iconographers are welcome.

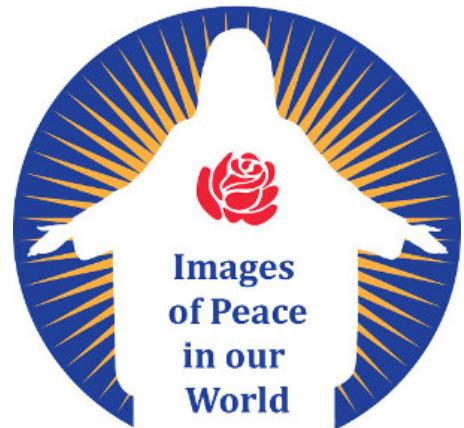
**Register by Friday, August 4:** \$700  
includes all materials, lodging and meals  
Minimum: 8, Maximum: 12

**Fr. Damian Higgins**



### From the Archives: Keeping Our History Alive

The doll in the picture at left is wearing a pre-Vatican II habit. The dress and scapular would have been made of wool serge. The coif and band (white head pieces) were made of starched linen, and the veil was silk.



### Images of Peace in our World:

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Art Show and Sale  
St. Placid Priory, Lacey

**Fri, May 4 Gala:**  
7:00 PM to 9:30 PM  
and also

**Sat, May 5 Show & Sale:**  
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Our world, always in need of peace, still contains places, people and situations that are at peace now. We want to share the beauty and hope that these images by local artists bring.

Come as an artist to see what it's all about. Come as a lover of art and a lover of peace. Proceeds will be shared with the Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center (IPJC) in Seattle.

**Tickets - May 4:** \$15 or 2 for \$25, available at The Priory, the Spirituality Center, or at the door.

**May 5:** Free Admission

**DISCERNING YOUR CALL RETREAT**

**APRIL 21-22, 2018**

At St. Placid Priory, Lacey WA

**Single Catholic Women** (20-40 years) are invited to a "Discerning Your Call Retreat" **April 21-22, 2018** at St. Placid Priory in Lacey. Women Religious from various communities in the Archdiocese are sponsoring an opportunity to explore a call to Religious Life. The program includes overnight accommodations, all meals, prayers, Sisters' vocation stories, Mass, quiet time, nature walks, and fun activities. Please pay a **\$10 registration fee before April 13**. Contact Sister Lucy at **360-438-2595** or **lucywynkoop@gmail.com**

# For This We Give Thanks

*"I have come so that they may have life and have it more abundantly."*  
--John 10:10

**We give thanks** for the lives of friends whom God has recently called home:

+James Burford  
+Patty Regan (formerly Sr Ruth)  
+John Munson  
+Charlene Hunt  
+Helmut and Theresa Stegmeier  
+Father Clement Pangratz, OSB  
+Bob Mallon  
+Priscilla McDonnell  
+Amy Langeland

+Steve Kirsch  
+Jill Shearer  
+Fred Martinsen  
+Ethel Petty  
+Gerald Bergford  
+Sister Bertha Karels, OSB  
+Joe Capron  
+Monica Roller  
+Jean Robertson

Please see our website to read a letter sent to us by Kitty and Roger Shultz. They recently returned from visiting Tanzania. We give thanks for the creative ways they have brought life and love to many children and young people of Tanzania, providing opportunities they would not otherwise have.

One of the recommendations of our recent Visitation is for us to update

our use of technology. We are happy to report that with a gift of seed money this project is going forward. Be sure to check out our website later on this spring!

Our Sister Damaris had a wonderful annual Rummage Sale. This year instead we are going to have an Annual Christmas Table Sale to benefit the homeless who come to us for help. You are invited to bring Christmas gifts to us that you have received but do not intend to use or to bring items to us that you have acquired that would be fine for someone else to purchase and give as gifts. Just bring them to the Priory now after the Christmas Season—or anytime before Advent of 2018. Sister Damaris is smiling!

## Oblate News

Oblates have been studying the Rule of Benedict and commentary by Sister Joan Chittister this year. Each month an Oblate plans and leads activities related to the month's reading.

The regional North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors conference will be held June 29-July 1, 2018 at Saint Martin's University. Oblates from St. Placid will join those from Saint Martin's Abbey in planning and hosting this biennial event. The region includes Oregon, Idaho, Nevada and British Columbia as well as Washington.

### Report on a Pilgrimage to Rome

by Oblate Anna Peterson

"Listen carefully, my child, to the master's instructions, and attend to them with the ear of your heart."

This first line in the Prologue of the *Rule of St. Benedict* enticed four oblates from St Placid Priory to join a Benedictine pilgrimage to Italy in November. Oblates Alexa Johnson, Cheryl Gudger, and Brian Peterson and myself joined Fr. Peter Tynan from St. Martin's Abbey and twenty-one other pilgrims to visit the holy places of Francis of Assisi and Clare, as well as Benedict and Scholastica.

Subiaco held special meaning for us as the place where Benedict first listened to God's call with the ear of his heart. We toured the chapel and altars in the cave where a young Benedict spent three years discerning his life's calling. The occasion was an opportunity for us to reflect on our own call as monastics in our own lives.



Cheryl Gudger, Brian Peterson, Anna Peterson, Alexa Johnson and Fr. Peter Tynan at Montecassino

Praying at the sepulcher of Benedict and Scholastica was for us a profound experience of connection with the Communion of Saints, and the reminder that these icons support us through their intercessory prayers. Montecassino was another highlight of the trip, especially after a long bus ride on a narrow road to the mountaintop. The rich art, imposing architecture, and the expansive view from its heights make this Abbey a memorable visit on the pilgrimage.

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.

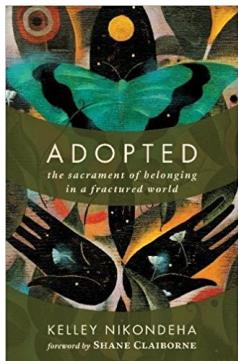
### The Priory Spirituality Center

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.

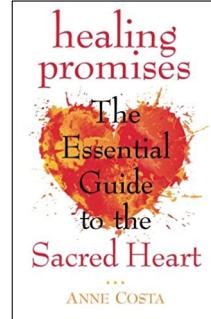


## Sister Laura's Scriptorium: Books that Merit Attention

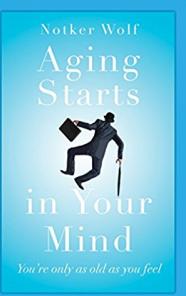


*Adopted. The Sacrament of Belonging in a Fractured World* by Kelley Nikondeha, Eerdmans, 2016. I found this to be an engaging read. Kelly Nikondeha weaves vignettes from her own experience of adoption with stories from scripture and contemporary religious thinkers, offering a redemptive vision of adoption. I hope she inspires more couples to consider welcoming our too many children trapped in the foster care system into their lives.

*Healing Promises. The Essential Guide to the Sacred Heart* by Anne Costa, Servant, 2017. This is a helpful resource for those familiar with or new to this ancient devotion, made most famous by St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, and those who want to deepen their experience of the Sacred Heart. Lots of resources also included.



*Aging Starts in Your Mind. You're Only as Old as You Feel* by Notker Wolf, Paraclete, 2017. Benedictine Notker Wolf is a vivacious 75 years young. He shares anecdotes from his wide connections with older people whose lives are satisfying and fulfilled, those who model aging well. As the author states: the soul doesn't age!



**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](mailto:spiritualityctr@stplacid.org) Please make checks payable to: **The Priory Spirituality Center**, located at 500 College St NE, Lacey WA 98516.

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*

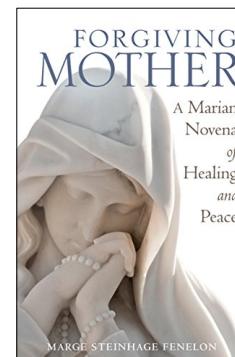
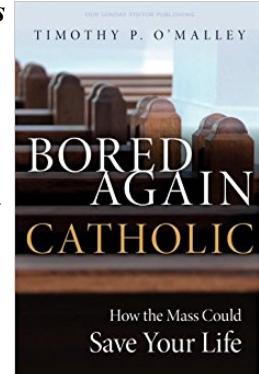
We request half the registration fee as a non-refundable deposit for a program or retreat at the time of registration to confirm space. Any donation you make above program costs will be used for scholarships.

Full Payment enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship Donation enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Bored Again Catholic. How the Mass Could Save Your Life* by Timothy O'Malley, Our Sunday Visitor, 2017. This is a deceptively simple (re)introduction to the elements of the Mass, tying each aspect to our daily lives. My liturgy professor referred to "holy monotony" as that place where contemplation begins. This is a good resource for parents of adult children who have slipped away from the Church.



*Forgiving Mother. A Marian Novena of Healing and Peace* by Marge Steinhage Fenelon, Franciscan Media, 2017. Through her own journey, scripture and other sources, Fenelon explores the journey of forgiveness and then provides a meaningful nine-day novena. Many will find this helpful.



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

Winter-Spring  
February 2018

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## What's New at the Priory Store – By Zoila Roberts

This year we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima, who appeared for the first time on May 13, 1917 to Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta at Cova da Ira, parish of Fatima. The Lady told the little children that it was “necessary to pray much.” She asked them to return for five consecutive months on the same day and hour. She spoke to them in June, July, September, and October. In August the children were taken to Valinhos, so she appeared to them there. At the last apparition in October, she told them she was the “Lady of the Rosary.” These three children were chosen to deliver the good news of Fatima to a world without love, without hope, and without peace.



Today, 100 years later, our prayer remains the same. We still pray for hope, love, and peace with every rosary.

Visit our store for a prayer book or booklet. We have an assortment of rosaries and devotional books.

Wishing you and your family a blessed and happy 2018!

**HAPPY★NEW★YEAR**

### **Spirituality Center Staff**

Janice Ariza – Center Coordinator  
Lucy Wynkoop, OSB – Program Director  
Melissa Wright – Program Assistant  
Mary Giles Mailhot, OSB – Staff  
Monika Ellis, OSB – Staff  
Therese Gonville, OSB – Staff

### **Weekend Hospitality Staff**

Camille Wooden, Postulant  
Kathy Androes-Downes, Obl. OSB  
Eva Hayward-George, Obl. OSB  
Jolene Russell, Obl. OSB

### **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.