Are We Listening?
by Laura Swan, OSB

Ours is a polarized society. The public realm is violated with vitriolic character assassinations and with plain rude and nasty behavior. This polarization and ugliness in public discourse is tearing at the fiber of our collective cultures. We have been behaving as a people bitterly angry and self-righteous. Our anger is nurtured by fear and distrust. Are we hearing intelligent honest conversation around possible solutions to our woes? We yearn for something better, something more hopeful, a path that honors our humanity. We are in a time of significant change, a new season of reformation. Our diverse faith communities are being challenged to find and walk a new path, one that is authentically good news.

We live in a liminal time. The “what has been” that no longer works is being shed but the “yet to be” has not been made evident. This is impasse. We wait. We wait on the Holy One, always present in our midst, to reveal the path that faith tells us is before us. This waiting during liminal time demands an inner strength—to wait in the unknown and resist trying to “fix” what we do not yet understand.

The inner strength demanded of us during impasse calls us to cultivate a rich silence and a strong yet quiet spirit. From this silence we are called to listen to others, especially the other who seems so different from ourselves. Faith during impasse impels me to hear many sides and to discover the good intent of the other person.

Faith calls me to invite honest dialogue, trusting that the path through impasse and our new future will emerge, albeit in small pieces and in many honest conversations.

We at the Priory host many such conversations. Most of these conversations are informal; some occur within our spiritual formation opportunities. We seek to provide a safe place of listening and fostering dialogue. We recognize that the need is urgent for moderate speech and civil discourse which comes from that inner sacred well of our own listening. This listening is a contemplative practice.

We are being called to embrace the differences among us with respect and healthy curiosity for what the other is saying. To engage what the other is saying reveals that we are listening. Dialogue requires that we move beyond stereotypes and labels that “excuse” us from hearing and knowing the other. The greatest gift we can offer is to authentically listen, especially when we are stretched in that dialogue.

And where might this sacred conversation lead us? The sensus fideli, the “sense of the faithful,” is a long tradition which acknowledges that the Holy Spirit shares her wisdom among a large and diverse people—a consensus of people. Is our present call the asceticism of strong patience? Of listening to others when it disturbs our world view?

Faith community is not about being comfortable, rather we exist to foster the spiritual journey into new terrain and new depths. A holy risk-taking. In this present age faith communities are called to cultivate safe, respectful and authentic encounter between people who perceive differences rather than similarities. The late Joseph Cardinal Bernardin was standing on the prophetic cutting edge when he challenged us with his Common Ground Initiative. We need his vision as never before.

I have often pondered the radical and comfort-disrupting early Christian creed—there is neither Greek nor Jew, slave nor free, male nor female—which was a command and invitation to inclusion, respect and mutuality. Much of the chaos and disruption that I observe, especially within our faith communities, may well be a call—even a divine command—to take this early creed seriously. Are we listening?

May we choose prayerful attentiveness moment by moment...over and over again throughout the day. May we bring our whole self attentive to this moment, with the strength of our chosen inner peace (no matter how imperfect this may be), breathe a peaceful breath and sing a gentle song of new life and hope.
From the Priory

Our end of summer picnic fell on August 15 this year. We also blessed our cemetery that day following the extensive improvements made by Volunteers Jerry Haupt and Norm Bomkamp.

We hosted the meeting of the Serra Club August 18. After lunch, the Priory DVD “Ways of Being with St. Placid Priory” was shown to members. We appreciate all Serra does to encourage religious vocations.

On September 1, we joyfully welcomed Volunteer Megan Sinner of the Benedictine Women's Volunteer Corps. Megan, a new graduate of the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, MN, has committed to being a live-in volunteer at our monastery for nine months.

Sisters Laura Swan, Monika Ellis and Redempta Ndunguru, as well as Megan Sinner and Sherry Bupp, were participants in a prayer vigil on the Capitol steps, September 9, concerning the death penalty.

Our Associates retreat on September 12 was led by Sister Laura Swan, who facilitated reflections on “who we are as Benedictine persons.”

Sister Monika Ellis and other vocation directors staffed a Religious Sisters and Brothers of the Seattle Archdiocese table with vocation information at the Archdiocesan Schools’ Teacher Excellence Day on September 17.

The Priory Knitters & Spinners took their fiber art creations to the annual Schafer Meadows Fiber Festival October 8-10. The 2010 Festival was held at the Grays Harbor Fairgrounds at Elma.

Prioress Sister Maureen O'Larey attended the regional meeting of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious October 15-17, and the annual meeting of the Northwest Association of Bishops and Religious Superiors October 17-18. Both were held at the Palisades Retreat Center in Federal Way.

On October 23, Sisters Maureen O'Larey, Lucy Wynkoop and Therese Gonneville were present for the installation of Father Pat McDermott as Pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Lacey. The church and hall were packed with those who came to rejoice with Father Pat.

Sisters attended a concert by the bluegrass group Deadwood Revival at Urban Grace Baptists Church in Tacoma November 5, a fundraiser for Father Bill Birschel and others involved in acts of civil disobedience protesting nuclear weapons.

On November 13, Sister Laura and her fiction writing group, Puget Sound Writers Guild, hosted professional editor Elizabeth Lyon for a day of intense training. There were tired smiles all around at the end of a stimulating day.

Sisters Redempta Ndunguru and Maureen O'Larey attended the Mass of Thanksgiving for Archbishop Alex Brunett, who is retiring, at St. James Cathedral in Seattle on November 19.

The 27th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration on November 21 included music, poetry, teachings on unity from the perspective of various faith traditions, and the debut of the Olympia Peace Choir.

The Lacey Holiday Bazaar, November 26-27, found the Priory Knitters & Spinners staffing a holiday booth again, selling a variety of fiber creations to benefit the Priory. Small Santa ornaments were a big hit this year.

Sister Maureen O'Larey represented our Sisters at the installation of our new Archbishop Peter Sartain at St. James Cathedral in Seattle on December 1.

On December 4, Pacific Winds played for a Holiday Bazaar fund raising event held by POWER (Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights) at their new offices in downtown Olympia. Pacific Winds is a recorder group in which Sister Monika Ellis plays alto recorder.

An Advent Discernment Retreat, sponsored by the Religious Sisters and Brothers of the Seattle Archdiocese, was held on December 11 at the University of Washington Newman Center. Sister Monika Ellis, a member of the planning team, presented stories of people throughout history who answered a call from God, including Hildegard of Bingen, Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen and Molly Hightower (who served the poor in Haiti and died January, 2010 in an earthquake there). The day was interspersed with times of silence, sharing, prayer and reflection.
Sister Jarlath (Martina) Rademacher, born in Rosen, Minnesota, died at age 88 at Providence Mother Joseph Care Center, Olympia on December 10, 2010. Sister Jarlath made her Monastic Profession on July 11, 1942. She taught in Fairfax, Minnesota, then was sent to Washington State where she completed her Bachelor of Arts and teacher certification at Holy Names College in Spokane. She taught first and second grades at Visitation School, Tacoma, Washington. Sister Jarlath was a founding member of St. Placid Priory, and also taught at Holy Rosary School, Tacoma, and All Saints’ School in Puyallup. At times she also served as superior of the local community. Sister Jarlath was a well loved Director of Postulants and Novices. Over the years she also served as Treasurer, Sub-prioress and House Coordinator. She was our third prioress, 1978 to 1986. She also served as chaplain in several hospitals and and nursing homes, notably RooLan Care Center in Lacey. Sister Jarlath was gracious, gentle and compassionate, valuing simplicity in her life and in her surroundings. With her warm and gentle humor, her Sisters and the public found her an easy person with whom to speak. She is survived by her sister, Sister Evin Rademacher, OSB, and many nieces and nephews. Donations in memory of Sister Jarlath may be sent to St. Placid Priory, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, WA 98516.

Sister Jarlath's niece Karla Graham and nephew Neil Rademacher were able to be with us, representing her family, during our celebration of her life December 17 and 18. All the Sisters were grateful for their presence.

St. Placid Priory is happy to be hosting the first Viva! Discernment Retreat, July 9-10, 2011. Viva! is a vocation discernment retreat for women interested in religious life, sponsored by the Religious Sisters of the Seattle Archdiocese. Please tell all the women you know about this retreat; and ask them to tell others.

On January 15, Pacific Winds recorder ensemble opened for Cecilia, the headliner at Mt. Greens that evening. Pacific Winds members are Sister Monika Ellis, alto, Barbara Gibson, tenor, and on soprano—Katie Callahan, Karin Wallner-Bickham and Shannon Blood.

St. Placid Oblates

It is a very satisfying sight: the ever-growing circle of chairs at the monthly Oblate meeting. We welcomed new Oblate candidates Kathleen Hystad, Bonnie Westmark and Katy Suchland on October 10. Beginning our new year of meetings in September, we are experimenting with a new format. We break into smaller groups, choosing one that provides either more quiet reflection time or longer conversation with others. We are considering the question of what it means to live a monastic life of an Oblate in the world of jobs, families and other obligations. How do we, as an Oblate community, hold ourselves and each other accountable to the life we have chosen to live. These questions have led to a deepening of our discussions and a greater

Continued on page 4
opening of each of us to the community. Short excerpts of our discussions are included in our Oblate newsletter by Editor Jeanine Kavaunagh and Assistant Editor Anne Frichitl. The first two electronic issues included beautiful graphics, Lectio readings, poetry, calendar events, art work and prayer requests. —Camille Wooden, Obl. OSB

HIV/AIDS. Missionaries are often consumed with work and not noted for taking time for themselves or learning to be quiet with God. At the Priory, I began to value personal reflective and contemplative practices. In December I've reserved 10 days at a quiet place near the Indian Ocean in South Africa. I can't wait!

Grace & Peace to you—Susan

Listening with the Spirit, our spiritual director formation program, began its 2-year cycle with a robust 18 participants. The summer of 2011, as part of their training, participants will be seeking people to meet with in spiritual direction. If you'd be interested in experiencing a spiritual direction relationship, please contact Sister Laura: 360.438.1771 or lauraswansanosb@gmail.com

Cultivating Spirit in Daily Life with Jan Lawry, Ph.D. Many of us tend to withdraw during the short, dark days of winter, but as spring approaches, we feel moved to join nature's dance of renewal and reawakening. March through May is an excellent time to join us for 6 sessions of soul work in this series. We'll reacquaint ourselves with beauty, then take stock of our many parts of self as we prepare to explore new, creative, soulful ventures. We'll learn the benefits of sacred pauses to keep our intentions clear, and compare ideas on how to bring the sacred into all we do. In May we'll gather for a final sharing of newfound blessings. Please call to register for the entire series before February 18, or see www.stplacid.org/sched.html for more description to see which individual sessions might fill your needs —then call 360.438.2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org

Retreats Thanks for the reminder that the Priory continues to offer retreats as my time there has definitely borne fruit. One benefit is that making a personal retreat has become a regular practice, even after my move to Africa, where I serve people affected by

Ripples of Oasis Deep rest. Sometimes that looks like sleeping, praying, meditating, laughing or crying. Other times deep rest is playing solitaire—with real cards—in the communal kitchen. Still other times that deep rest comes in the form of one-on-one spiritual direction, being led through a group activity with other Oasis participants such as illuminated drawing or guided meditation, participating in the Liturgy of the Hours or eating hearty comfort food with the Sisters. All manifestations of this deep rest can be part of the monthly Oasis retreat. Each month, I claim my space in this warm, gentle cocoon. There are many layers of community to experience—the solitude of a guest room, the inviting ambience of the common lounge areas where conversations are spontaneous and often serendipitous, and the communal gatherings of worship and dining. Sometimes I walk the grounds, practicing being present on the trail meandering through the towering fir trees, the air punctuated by songbirds. Other times I wrap myself up in the soft cloud of a hand-knitted prayer shawl and absorb the stillness of a guest room. All these ripples of communion and community I take with me into the chaos of life. And every now and then, in a fleeting moment of stillness, I remember, breathe a “thank you”—and anticipate the gentle re-entry into next month's retreat.

—Suzanne Simons

Pastor Jude Rosenberg to his congregation, The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd: One of the gifts of living in South Puget Sound is ready access to the Spirituality Center at St. Placid Priory in Lacey. Nancy and I recently attended a workshop on the Enneagram, a marvelous tool for self-understanding. The Center offers retreats, programs, workshops, spiritual direction and more on the beautiful monastery grounds. The Priory's website at www.stplacid.org/spirit.html reflects the Center's invitation to welcome people of all faiths.

For Long Term Programs, please see brochures at www.stplacid.org/spirit.html—Oasis, Tending the Fire, and Practicing Creativity in Spiritual Life.
For This
We Give Thanks

Celtic knotwork reminds us that we are all connected on life's journey. In this New Year we honor our friends and family members who have faithfully searched for and entered the Divine Source, the Sacred Center, God.

We give thanks for the lives of:
+ Sister Margaret Ann Rohling's sister-in-law, Mary Rohling
+ our bookkeeper Karin Wallner-Bickham's father, Georg Wallner of Germany
+ Joanne Koenig's mother, Mary Bingle
+ Greg Firnstaff's father, Jerome Firnstaff
+ Sue Schneider's mother, Miriam Harris Haft
+ Denise Halloran's husband, Tom Quinn
+ Wilma Felix, mother of St. Placid High School graduates Josepha, Mary and Cecilia
+ Dinorah Capestany, mother of SPHS graduates Esther and Vivian
+ Mary Catherine Bader, mother of SPHS graduates Ann and Kate
+ Joe Ordos, father of SPHS graduates Janice, Patricia and Betty Lou
+ St. Placid Oblate Louise Honings
+ Sister Damaris Zander's sister-in-law, Veronica Zander
+ The life of our Sister Jarlath also makes visible the many people who have enriched the life of the Church in the Pacific Northwest. For our 35 Founding Sisters who came from Minnesota with the Mission to build up the Church community in the Pacific Northwest we send up a heartfelt “Alleluia!” For each of you who help us continue their mission of being coworkers with God, we give thanks!

How you can help!

♦ One of the principles which guides our Priory processing and the way we take action is to create more of what is going well, rather than focusing on various lacks in our monastic community living. With this in mind, we ask you to join us in continuing to deepen this appreciative intent individually and collectively.

♦ One way we work with the larger scheme of things is by creating space in our daily lives. Entering the silence of the surroundings here at St. Placid is one way to do that. Another way that would help both you and us is for you to take one of the workshops or retreats we offer.

♦ As we approach our 60th Anniversary as a Benedictine Monastery, we are sending out an appeal for pictures, photos, and memorabilia of these past years. Please contact Sister Laura Swan by phone at 360-438-1771, email her at LauraSwanOSB@gmail.com, or send materials to her at 500 College St NE, Lacey 98516.

♦ We are also looking for a volunteer to work in our Archives, converting our collection of slides into a digital collection.

♦ We draw great encouragement from your daily, prayerful support!
Candles are traditional symbols of warmth and light. They are a natural focus for prayerful meditation. This workshop is an opportunity to decorate a glass pillar candle with papers, charms, lace, glitter, images, and paint. Your candle can capture a theme or emotion that you’d like to express through your prayers.

Register by prior Tuesday $60  
(includes materials)  
Karen Barruetto

**Note: for the Cultivating Spirit series, you may take one class or the series.**

**Cultivating Spirit in Daily Life: Re-Entering the Garden**

March 2  
Wednesday 9:00AM-Noon

John Rushkin reminds us that “Nature is painting for us, day after day, pictures of infinite beauty if only we have the eyes to see them....” In this first session of a series, we will allow the pursuit of beauty to lead us back into the garden where we can see more clearly the wonders of creation and our roles in it.

Register by prior Wednesday $55  
Jan Lawry

**Self-Care for Caregivers**

March 5  
Saturday 9:15AM-3:00PM

It takes courage to slow down and say, "I need a break." Nowhere is this more prevalent than with care-givers such as pastors, counselors, chaplains, parents, teachers and friends. Come explore what self-care means for you while simultaneously entering a time of respite through experiential practices offered in this day retreat.

Register by prior Friday $60  
Bring a sack lunch, journal and pen Minimum 6, Maximum 20  
Kayce S. Hughlett

**Walking Through Lent**

March 11-13  
Friday 7:15PM-Sunday Noon

Take time to walk with Jesus into the wilderness for greater solitude, and in silence, deepen your spiritual journey. The opening session will include guided meditation and preparation for the retreat with reflection materials. The retreat will close with group prayer and sharing. A spiritual director will be available, for those who wish. You are welcome to join the Benedictine Sisters for Liturgy of the Hours and the Eucharist. Healing Touch is available by prior appointment on a limited basis for an additional fee.

Register by prior Friday $130  
with spiritual direction $165 Minimum 3, Maximum 10  
Therese Gonneville, OSB

**Soul Searching: The Journey of Thomas Merton**

March 12  
Saturday 9:15AM-3:00PM

In the film, “Soul Searching,” participants can expect to gain greater knowledge of Merton’s life and critical turning points in it. By growing in understanding of the whole Merton we can appreciate his spiritual path more fully and gain insights into our own.

Register by February 26 $60  
Bring a sack lunch Minimum 10, Maximum 60  
Morgan Atkinson

**Cultivating Spirit in Daily Life: Spring-Cleaning the House of Self**

March 16  
Wednesday 9:00AM-Noon

Each of us has many parts of self, some of which may become too dominant while others suffer from neglect. Through guided meditation, you will visit the many rooms of self to rediscover your passions, deep longings, and wild imaginings. You’ll also encounter your creative muse and make peace with your inner critic.

Register by prior Wednesday $55  
Jan Lawry

**The Celtic Pilgrimage: A Daily Journey to the Sacred**

March 19  
Saturday 9:15AM-3:00PM

Perhaps we are all pilgrims yearning for mountaintop experiences, whether...
Continued from page 6

ey occur in a distant land or in our
own backyards. We'll weave harp
music, Celtic wisdom, poetry, and
story, nature connection practices, and
spacious time for solitude and
discernment to nourish our spirits and
open our hearts to a sacred intimacy
that can be found in 'ordinary time'—
the everyday. We will then create daily
rituals for finding and conversing with
this inherent holiness in our own lives.

Register by prior Friday $60
Bring a sack lunch, journal, pen,
comfortable clothes and shoes for
walking.
Minimum 8
Carol Spangler
Jane Valencia

Celebrating the Gift of Years

March 26
Saturday 9:15AM-3:00PM

In The Gift of Years, Joan Chittister
laments that often in later years we are
"so unaware of what we are gaining." In
this workshop, we will challenge
ageism, complete positive inventories
such as Blessed with Abilities and
explore "seasoned human" applica-
tions of strengths-based spirituality.

Register by prior Friday $55
Bring a sack lunch
Minimum 5
Jim and Linda Henry

Gregorian Chant as
Spiritual Practice

April 2
Saturday 9:45AM-3:30PM

Learn to sing and pray in the tradition
of Gregorian chant. Joseph Anderson,
founder of the Perigrine Medieval
Vocal Ensemble and an engaging
teacher, makes chant simple and ac-
cessible. In this Saturday workshop
you will learn to sing the Psalms,
hymns and other melodies of a tradi-
tional Gregorian Vespers service.

Register by prior Friday $65
(includes music and binder)
Minimum 15, Maximum 30
Joseph Anderson

Cultivating Spirit in Daily Life:
Make It Manifest

April 6
Wednesday 9:00AM-Noon

Whether you like to make bread, write
in a journal, knit, draw, or make sand
castles, the very act of imagining
something then creating it can lead us
back to the source of all creation. On
this day we will explore several joyful
ways of giving voice to our creative
souls using the method of seeing/drawing
of Frederick Franck, writing
haiku, and making a collage that
reflects where you are at this moment.

Register by prior Wednesday $55
Jan Lawry

New Life Through
Personal Prayer

April 9
Saturday 9:15AM-3:00PM

Personal prayer leads to new life in
Christ. But how can we pray in ways
that best suit our personality? How can we experience God's presence?
This retreat will answer these ques-
tions. We will pray with music and
listen to the song that God sings to each
of us. We will experience two types of
Scripture meditation. All this and
more....

Register by prior Friday $50
Bring a sack lunch and Bible
Minimum 5
Jan Alkire

Practicing Creativity in Spiritual Life:
Shrine-Making for Healing and Wholeness

April 16
Saturday 9:15AM-3:00PM

Shrine-making is a way to celebrate
something wonderful or work through
something difficult in the presence of
God. We will look at the many ways
that people all over the world have used
shrines and rituals to deepen their
spiritual journey. Using meditations
and journal writing you will have time
to reflect on the personal and spiritual
symbols that arise out of your life story.
This will become the foundation of
your shrine-making journey.

Register by prior Friday $65
(includes materials)
Karen Barrueto

Tai Chi
and Contemplative Prayer

April 16
Saturday 9:15AM-3:30PM

We will draw upon the gentle, graceful
movements of Sun-style Tai Chi
(standing or sitting), the words of
Jesus, and the prayer-poetry of George
MacDonald to be holistically present to
God. No Tai Chi experience is
necessary. All are welcome.

Register by prior Friday $50
Bring a sack lunch: wear loose-fitting
comfortable clothes and flat-soled shoes
Minimum 6, Maximum 12
Reverend Steve Reiland

Cultivating Spirit in Daily Life:
Welcoming Solitude and Silence

April 20, 2011
Wednesday 9:00AM-Noon

A student of Kathleen Norris once
wrote, “Silence reminds me to take my
soul with me wherever I go.” We all
benefit from such a reminder when our
busy lives and the constant demands of
others numb us to our own feelings and
inner needs. Today we’ll explore how
creating times of solitude and silence
provides us with an opportunity to
reconnect with our selves in a way that
replenish our spirits and clarify our
priorities.

Register by prior Wednesday $55
Jan Lawry

One with Jesus: Triduum Retreat

April 21-24
Thursday 3:00PM to Sunday Noon

Travel with Jesus on the road to
Calvary. Take time with the silence
of this retreat to let yourself be fully
present to this holy time. Begin by
joining the Benedictine Sisters for a
special meal on Holy Thursday. Be
with us as we let the liturgies of each
day lead us deeper into the journey of
Easter. We will celebrate new life with
9:00 AM Eucharist on Easter Sunday
followed by a simple breakfast with the

Please see our website www.stplacid.org/sched.html
for presenter & program info.
Sisters and Mass participants. Spiritual Direction is available on Thursday before 3:00 PM.

Register by prior Friday $180 with spiritual direction $215
Minimum 3, Maximum 10
Therese Gonville, OSB

Cultivating Spirit in Daily Life: Finding Spirit in All We Do

May 4
Wednesday 9AM-noon

We’ll spend a joyful morning with the works of Sue Bender and Gunilla Norris. Their writings serve to show how everything we do in the course of a day, a week, and even across the seasons may serve as mirrors and pathways to the Divine Mystery of creation. With Gunilla Norris’ words as inspiration, we’ll create prayer poems and meditations about our own routine activities that serve to deepen our awareness and make us more responsive to the sacred in our daily lives.

Register by prior Wednesday $55
Jan Lawry

The Paschal Mystery: A Model for Healing and Forgiveness

May 7
Saturday 9:15AM-3:00PM

A day-long workshop discussing the healing journey: its stages, starting steps, moving beyond being stuck, and identifying the support needed for the journey, from anguish to acceptance and forgiveness. The format will be part teaching, and part individual journaling and reflection. We will take a closer look at the Paschal Mystery of Jesus, as a model for healing and acceptance/forgiveness. This retreat is for those suffering from physical, emotional and/or spiritual wounds.

Register by prior Friday $50
Bring a sack lunch
Minimum 8
Lisa Gosiaco

Practicing Creativity in Spiritual Life: Playful Painting, Winsome Words

May 10
Tuesday 9:00AM-Noon

We will combine our watercolor backgrounds and Spirit writings into our "masterpieces." There are times when things appear that we would never expect. This process builds lessons in spontaneity, courage, confidence, willingness, patience and persistence. Calligraphic knowledge is NOT a prerequisite.

Register by prior Tuesday $60
(includes materials)
Jo Uhlman

Deepening the Enneagram Journey

May 14
Saturday 9:15AM-4:00PM

The Enneagram is a powerful tool for letting go of fixations that bar our full acceptance of God’s grace. This class will provide practices for working with the Enneagram beyond discovery of type. Awareness, acceptance, action and adherence become the pathway that reveals the movement of grace for each of the nine types.

Register by prior Friday $60
Bring a sack lunch
Minimum 6; Maximum 12
Debra Janison

Cultivating Spirit in Daily Life: Harvesting Wisdom from Our Journey

May 18
Wednesday 9:00AM-Noon

In this final session, we’ll reflect on what growth has taken place in the gardens of our spirits, and we’ll take time to voice our intentions for the future. Using John O’Donohue’s wise words from To Bless the Space Between Us as a guide, we will write blessing poems to prepare us for moving into the next season of our life journeys.

You may register if you have taken at least two prior sessions.

Register by prior Wednesday $55
Jan Lawry

Silent Centering Prayer Retreat

May 20-22
Friday 7:15PM-Sunday 2:00PM

In silence we come to know and live from the Divine mystery within us. Up to three Centering Prayer periods at a time with meditative walks; observing silence throughout the retreat, including meals and free time; and minimizing distractions such as reading. Intended for those with at least six months of daily practice of Centering Prayer.

Register by prior Friday $170
Minimum 6, Maximum 9
Kay Kukowski and Mary Solberg

Making and Walking the Spiral Labyrinth

June 11
Saturday 9:15AM-3:00PM

Learn to make a simple, easily portable spiral labyrinth out of rope, then use poetic verses on the themes of Creation and the Path as inspiration while walking this mantra-like path. The session closes in a gathering of quiet prayer.

Register by prior Friday $55
(includes materials)
Bring a sack lunch and a journal
Minimum 5, Maximum 20
Margaret D. McGee

Coming Soon...
Call 360.438.2595 for more information or to register.

June 25: A Creative, Christ-Centered Look at Chronic Conditions

July 23 &/or August 13: God the Artist: We the Co-Creators

August 6: Painting the Beloved’s World

August 20: Making a Journal for our Lives

For information on our presenters, and for some descriptions which are longer, see our website at www.stplacid.org/sched.html
As a monastic community, we the Benedictine Sisters of St. Placid Priory cultivate a contemplative spirit that leads to hospitality and works of justice. 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.

Defiant Daughters: Christian Women of Conscience by Marcy Heidish, Liguori Press, 2010. This is a wonderful collection of well-told stories of women who responded to the call of the Holy Spirit in difficult and sinful situations. Organized as Daughters of Daring; Daughters of Determination; and Daughters of Dedication, each story ends with reflection questions. This is a good source for private reflection or a faith-sharing group.

Enter the Story: Biblical Metaphors for Our Times by Fran Ferder, Orbis Books, 2010. S. Fran offers a source that invites us to look again with fresh eyes and new perspective at the Christian feasts that mark our own spiritual journey through life: Annunciation, Visitation, Nativity, Baptism, Temptation, Transfiguration, Suffering, Easter and Pentecost. Mary, Jesus and the first followers resonate with us because their journey is our journey.

David Steindl-Rast: Essential Writings edited by Clare Hallward, Orbis Books, 2010. Steindl-Rast has been a valued and popular writer among our circle of friends. I like this entire Modern Spiritual Masters series, and those looking to meet a new author on spirituality or to visit an old friend will appreciate this newest volume. Gratefulness, gratitude, awareness and a down-to-earth embracing of the sacred are among the themes explored.

Adult Faith: Growing in Wisdom and Understanding by Diarmuid O’Murchu, Orbis Books, 2010. At some point in time we must revisit the religion of our childhood and young adulthood, reassessing and reclaiming a more mature and wise faith tradition. Reading this book is a wonderful opportunity to take the gospel more seriously. O’Murchu integrates the best of psychology, the new science and theology to provide a good launching point for someone wanting to deepen and expand their faith.

Ancient Paths: Discover Christian Formation the Benedictine Way by David Robinson, Paraclete Press, 2010. Focused attention to spiritual formation—of ourselves and of others God has sent our way—may well be the most enduring gift Benedictines have given the Body of Christ. As an oblate, Robinson contributes to this tradition with Ancient Paths. Not quite a workbook and certainly no theological treatise, this is a spiritually practical exploration of the ways we can participate in our spiritual growth, Benedictine-style.

I really like this!
What's New at the Priory Store –
by Sharon McDonald, OSB

Growing up, I often spent fun time with a neighbor. Once while at her house I set my book on her Bible. She immediately told me, “I do not put anything on my Bible because I have great respect for the Word of God.” Whoa! In my home we had a family Bible too, and in it we recorded our family history, special dates and sacramental moments. However, I did not treasure the Bible the way my friend did.

Since that time, I have come to understand that reading Sacred Scripture is similar to plucking one string on a violin or a guitar. The vibration of that one tone causes the string of a nearby but separate instrument to vibrate in the same way, with the same tone. In this way, by reading Scripture, we tune our heart and soul to the sound of God's Word.

At the Priory Store, we have a variety of Bibles available for purchase. We have Bibles with white leather covers, which make them particularly beautiful gifts. Most of our Bibles have footnotes and cross references to follow a theme or topic. We sell concordances to the Bible which help the reader find Biblical passages on a specific word. We also sell tabs which can be used to mark each book of the Bible. And we sell books about understanding the Scriptures. If you call ahead of time, we can meet to discuss and order a Bible that will enhance your study and prayer.

To me, what is most important is that we have a daily practice of reading Sacred Scripture prayerfully and humbly, knowing that God promises: “Turn to Me and I will turn to you.” —Zechariah 1:3

Spirituality Center Staff
Carolyn Galloway – Center Administrator
Lucy Wynkoop, OSB – Program Coordinator
Mary Giles Mailhot, OSB – Staff
Monika Ellis, OSB – Staff
Therese Gonneville, OSB – Staff
Laura Swan, OSB – Staff
Megan Sinner – Weekend Hospitality

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.