Dowsing for Sweet Water

By Mary Vanek, Postulant

Coming from the Great American Desert—the High Plains of Texas—I am sometimes overwhelmed by the constant gift of rainfall here in the Pacific Northwest. Molly Cady, a native of Washington State, breathes the rain as easily as she breathes the fresh, green air it generates.

While talking with Molly, I told her the story of the Ogalala Aquifer that nourishes the dry and often parched land of my birth. In our conversation, Molly delighted in the notion of an aquifer being a river that runs underground, nourishing the land through the roots of all the hardworking plants that enrich that land.

In our seeking to live the religious life in community, Molly said we become raindrops that fall and seep through the ground to the underground river, whose sweet water guarantees even the desert will have the moisture to live through another year. We, Molly and I, have become those raindrops, the life-giving moisture, that God grants to enrich a community, enabling the Priory to continue its good work by putting more laborers into the field. And we go into those fields, directed by the community, faithful to our belief that the community will guide us to the right furrow, the right corner of the field they have long cultivated, and which continues to bear fruit.

Molly and I bring different gifts to St. Placid and the Sisters here. As a native of the state, Molly found her way to St. Placid while seeking to heal the emptiness her father's death left in her soul. While staying at the Spirituality Center, Molly read through a pamphlet describing how and why the community lives its life in God's service. Hearing “healthy risk-takers” echoing from the page, Molly read on. She felt her heart open on learning of the notion that everyone in the community seeks God by serving both one another and those God brings to the Priory's doorstep. Molly found herself relaxing in the trust that the community would help her to find her place on that right path.

With the community as a wellspring, as the aquifer of water sweetened by the Holy Spirit, Molly began her journey toward that life-giving water as a single raindrop. As she seeped into the thirsty ground by becoming an Oblate candidate, Molly found herself picking up nourishing minerals along her path, minerals necessary to sustain and strengthen her soul, manna for the journey. And like the ancient Israelites, Molly came to her own Meribah, the place of bitter waters. She found in the community the branch that sweetened the waters, speaking of the presence of the living God here in our world much as the gifts of manna and sweet water given to the Israelites reassured them that God was with them and would provide for them.

I find that in my own journey, I, too, was searching for sweet water. Living on the Cap Rock of the High Plains, any sweet water I might find could only be reached by drilling a deep, deep well, probing for the Ogalalla Aquifer below the arid plains. At the Priory, there was good water in abundance, sweetened by the Sisters' welcoming me into their home. Settling into the rhythm of daily prayer, I find myself letting go, looking for God's will first, for opportunities of service—doing small things such as helping a Sister make her bed or climb on a ladder to take Christmas decorations down. Like the woman at the well, I find myself being offered living water to quench my spiritual thirst.

In our arid times, it's good to know oasis still exists. St. Placid Priory, true to the water-bearer heritage of its patron saint, offers sweet water to all who come. If nothing else quenches your thirst for prayer, for spiritual knowledge, for deeply satisfying service to others, come and see. Take a deep drink and join the Sisters in tending the living waters.

The August 21 Serra Club meeting and luncheon was held at St. Placid Priory. Postulant Mary Vanek spoke about Vocation.

St. Placid Priory's September 5-8 Visitation was facilitated by Mary Benedict Pratt, OSB, of St. Martin...
Continued from page 1...

Monastery, Bahamas, and Ramona Varela, OSB of the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Clyde, Missouri. President Susan Hutchens, OSB of the Federation of St. Benedict was also present.

“Kindling Yearning for the Benedictine Way of Life” was the theme of the National Benedictine Vocation Directors Conference, held October 3-7, 2013 at Queen of Angels Monastery, Mt. Angel, Oregon. Sister Lucy, St. Placid Priory's New Membership Director, was among twenty-three people who attended the conference.

Suzanne Simons and Ann Storey teach a class in religious art and mysticism at The Evergreen State College. They invited Sister Laura Swan, who has written a book called The Forgotten Desert Mothers, to speak to the class on October 15, 2013. Sister Laura enjoys sharing the wisdom of the Desert Ammas. (Right: Amma Syncletica)

Sacred Heart Parish celebrated its 90th anniversary on October 20, 2013. Blessings to all our friends at Sacred Heart!

Sister Lucy speaks at the National Benedictine Vocation Conference

On November 1, Postulant Mary and Sisters Therese and Laura enjoyed renewing friendships at The Fourth Annual Benefit Dinner for Drexel House at Sacred Heart Church.

On November 16, Jack Levison came to St. Placid with twenty-one students from Seattle Pacific University for a silent day of retreat, with lectio divina facilitated by Sister Lucy Wynkoop.

The Priory Knitters & Spinners made lots of beautiful fiber art in 2013 and sold it first at the Schafer Meadows Fiberfest at the fairgrounds in Elma October 11-13, and then at Gig Harbor High School's December 7-8 TideFest bazaar—which helps support the school's activities and athletics programs, including the Speech & Debate Team and the school newspaper. We are glad to be a part of this lively holiday bazaar! Below are a few of the handmade things that were on offer from the Knitters & Spinners.

Please note that needle felted art is usually available in the Priory lobby.

St. Placid Priory held its annual Epiphany Party on Sunday, January 5 after Mass. Lots of friends gathered with the Sisters in the Multipurpose Room for refreshments and fun, and Pacific Winds, a recorder group in which Sister Monika Ellis is a member, provided music for us.

The Priory Spirituality Center has had a Facebook page for quite a while, and now St. Placid Priory has one too. Look us up on Facebook and like our pages, as well as telling your friends about us face to face. We have a lot of good things to share! If reading online, see links: The Priory on Facebook... The Spirituality Center on Facebook

Continued on page 3...
On Writing Prayer as Night Falls: Experiencing Compline

By Kenneth Peterson, Obl. OSB

Prayer as Night Falls was my first effort at writing a book, and I discovered that the journey from idea to published work took many unexpected twists and turns from the ideas I had at the beginning. I started with the motivation to communicate the passion I felt about the subject, and the desire to make sense of my own journey through spiritual autobiography.

But in the process of showing and describing my writing to others, I became aware of my limitations as a communicator. It was that passion, however, which gave me the persistence to see the project through.

There was much more rewriting and revision to do than I had ever conceived. The size of the book went from eight chapters to twenty, then back to eleven. I found it very beneficial to hire a writing coach, which resulted in even more revision of the order and manner of presentation, as well as the text.

By this time a proposal had been accepted by the publisher, a contract signed, and then, after two extensions of the deadline, I submitted the manuscript. Was I done at last? No! A seasoned editor, himself a writer of many books, made valuable suggestions that resulted in a new chapter being written, and other chapters extensively revised and re-ordered. Finally the book was ready to be placed under a project editor and given a thorough scrubbing by a copy editor.

After a week of accepting or rejecting the changes, the book was typeset, and I did final handwritten corrections on the printed file.

From then until publication was like the final months of a pregnancy, with details such as getting endorsements, approving the cover, and planning marketing, equivalent to preparations for a newborn child. Would I do it again? Probably yes, but maybe after a rest...

Retreat

Today was my first experience of a silent retreat, as well as a first-hand experience of the monastic life. It was a rich time. As a student at Seattle Pacific University the pace of life is quick, and it was so sweet to slow down. I was able to have an extensive time of Lectio Divina, to really grow in the text. I was also able to wander about the various, mildly over grown trails, and it was a powerful drink of solitude. This day retreat has left me filled and satisfied. Thank you to the Sisters for allowing us to share in community with them, and Sister Lucy for leading us in Lectio Divina. It was GOOD. I certainly hope to return again as an extended pause from the rigor of academic life, and drink in the presence of our good and gracious Lord. —Blake Quakenbush

Oasis

What do I value most about Oasis? Coming away from the noise of activity and family demands to be quiet and listen, particularly with the ear of the heart. Being committed to a monthly spiritual program that also provides on-going spiritual direction. The opportunity to engage in the rhythm of religious life—praying and eating with the Sisters. Walking in the Priory forest at all seasons, thanking God for new spring growth, summer blooms, changing fall leaves and winter frost. Learning how to “Become Who You Already Are” from the insights of Thomas Merton in six afternoon sessions. Penetrating the depths of God’s mercy and emerging with holy Hope in two retreats. The first space I was assigned to in Oasis was the Gertrude room. On the wall was Gertrude’s revelation from God: “I require nothing from you but to come to me empty, that I may fill you.” Oasis provides me with a place of replenishment. —Rosemarie Oliver

Opening In Presence, a monthly contemplation group, is one event I look forward to each month. Jamie Deering welcomes us with her warm smile, direction in breath movement, and words of encouragement to experience for three hours a sacred word, image, or sound. In deep silence and active sharing we experience opening in God. In our second session this month we were asked to walk outside and see what God brings to our attention in nature. The Priory grounds were drenched in old growth rain forest trees and shrubs and much to my amazement I found small white buttons of mushrooms poking up from the thick fall of maple leaves. Jamie asked us to notice the space around our object and that is what brought a smile to my face as I delighted in God’s presence in the spaces. I returned home refreshed and prompted to loving action in my daily activities.

—Rosanne Buckner

Continued from page 2...
Benedictine Vocation Discernment
January 25-26, 2014
Saturday 9:00AM—Sunday 12:30PM
Come join the Sisters to listen to your call from Scripture and the Prologue of the Rule of Benedict about Benedictine community. Experience being with the Benedictine Sisters for reflection time, prayer, dialogue, work and leisure. If you are a Catholic single woman discerning whether you have a vocation to a Benedictine way of life, this is a wonderful opportunity to share in community life with St. Placid Sisters.
Register by prior Friday: No fee
Benedictine Sisters
Call Sister Lucy Wynkoop at 360.438.2595 or email lucywynkoop@gmail.com

Beauty: Our Connection to the Infinite
February 1
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM
In his book Beauty: The Invisible Embrace, John O'Donohue suggests that beauty connects us with the infinite and calls us to our highest selves. This is a day of “beauty immersion”—let the beauty of music, nature, art feed you. Find what rekindles your soul and connects you with the Infinite.
Register by prior Friday: $60
Bring a sack lunch and journal.
Minimum 6, Maximum 16
Carol Spangler
Jane Fleming

God is…I am…Affirmative Prayer
February 8
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM
We will study Jesus’ teachings to learn how to affirm God’s truth for us. Affirmative prayer helps us to turn to God, to lift our awareness of Spirit moving within us, to be open to accepting God’s gifts for us. We will practice developing personal affirmative prayers.
Register by prior Friday: $50
Bring a sack lunch and a Bible.
Minimum 5, Maximum 20
Janet Rhodes

Exploring the Mystery of Forgiveness
February 15
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM
In this class we will explore some of these questions: What is forgiveness and what isn’t? What areas, people, and situations in our lives call to us for forgiveness? What is expected of us and who expects it?
Register by prior Friday: $50
Bring a sack lunch
Minimum 8, Maximum 22
Cherry Haisten

Van Gogh’s Art and Spiritual Journey
February 15
Saturday 9:30AM-3:30PM
Accompany Vincent Van Gogh on his spiritual journey—from his early yearnings to serve as a preacher, to his experience of the divine through nature. We’ll look at many of his luminous paintings, exploring their meanings, contemplating his starry nights, and discovering how his art makes the transcendent tangible.
Register by prior Friday: $65
Bring a sack lunch & a yellow flower.
Minimum 10, Maximum 24
Victoria Scarlett

For more information on program registration & presenters, please see our website www.stplacid.org and click on Spirituality Center – Programs and Retreats.

Letting Your Creative Cycles Unfold Fully
February 22
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM
When new ideas are seeded, we are called to bring them into fruition so as to harvest and share their bounty. But there are fallow times when we need to rest and clear the ground for something new to take hold within us. We’ll explore how to work in harmony with our creative cycles so as to bring our best gifts forward into the world.
Register by prior Friday: $65
Bring a sack lunch, journal, sketch pad, and a small bowl, vase or cup.
Minimum 6, Maximum 14
Jan Lawry

Lenten Retreat: Desert Beginnings
March 7-9
Friday 7:15PM-Sunday Noon
Follow Jesus into the wilderness for greater solitude, taking time to deepen your spiritual journey in the silence of Lent. Opening session will include prayer, relaxation and preparation for the retreat, with some materials for possible use during the retreat. The retreat will close with group prayer and sharing.
Register by prior Friday: $140 with spiritual direction $175
Therese Gonneville, OSB

Body-Praying the Gospel Story
March 8
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM
With Yoga and Tai-Chi like movements adaptable to all, we will trace Jesus’ story from Nativity to Resurrection. Experience Jesus’ life in your body, heart, and soul. And perhaps we will be inspired to be Christ’s feet, hands, eyes, ears, and heart to the world. No experience necessary.
Register by prior Friday: $50
Bring a sack lunch, yoga/exercise mat, and journal.
Minimum 5
Roy DeLeon

Continued on page 6...
Continued from page 5...

**Listening as Personal Pilgrimage**

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

“Listening is merely the eyehole to the kaleidoscope: the shell we hold to our ear that reveals the music of the ocean.” (Mark Nepo).

Using Mark’s Seven Thousand Ways to Listen, we will embark on a gentle pilgrimage of quiet writing in response to Mark’s rich reflection prompts, and rest in the shared words of our fellow travelers.

Register by prior Friday $50
Bring a sack lunch, journal and pen.
Minimum 6, Maximum 12

Melissa Layer

**Tools for Teaching with Spirit**

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

Sunday school success depends on the teacher’s own spirit. Volunteer staff or parents who teach Sunday school will cultivate joy and strength as we explore the best practices for using story, song/music, prayer and poetry and arts and crafts to promote spiritual development in all age groups.

Register by prior Friday $65
Bring a sack lunch, journal, favorite prayers, songs, stories
Minimum 5, Maximum 14

Julie Shannon

**Silent Centering Prayer Retreat**

March 21-23
Friday 7:15PM-Sunday 1:30PM

Take your relationship with God and your Centering Prayer practice deeper on this weekend silent retreat. Retreat includes periods of Centering Prayer and time for solitude within the intentional silence observed throughout the entire retreat. Intended for those with at least 6 months of daily Centering Prayer practice.

Register by prior Friday $180
Minimum 8, Maximum 10

Kay Kukowski
Mary Solberg

**Visio Divina with St. John’s Illuminated Bible**

March 22
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

Using a few of St. John's Illuminated Bible images, we will begin with understanding the illumination and reading the scripture that pertains to it. We will do visio divina by gazing, reflecting, responding and intentionally being present with the holy in each illumination.

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

Lucy Wynkoop OSB

**Tai Chi for Energy**

March 29
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

This 16-movement flowing choreography combines two different tai chi styles, Chen and Sun. The combination brings a synergy, helping us achieve better health and wellness, mindful-ness, more internal energy, and an improved ability to manage stress.

Register by prior Friday $50
Bring a sack lunch; wear flat-soled shoes.
Minimum 10, Maximum 25

Steve Reiland

**World Chant**

April 5
Saturday 9:30AM-3:30PM

Immerse yourself in the great river of chant! We will sing Hindu and Buddhist mantras, Gregorian chants, Sufi songs, Jewish melodies, and contemporary music: heart-opening, call-and-response chants. We’ll also reflect on the diverse ways human cultures connect to God, and ways to bring chant practice into our daily lives.

Register by prior Friday $60
Bring a sack lunch.
Minimum 10, Maximum 30

Joseph Anderson

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**Journey to Easter: Triduum Retreat**

April 17-20
Thursday 3:00PM to Sunday noon

Travel the road to Calvary with Jesus, letting yourself be fully present to this holy time. Join the Benedictine Sisters for a special meal on Holy Thursday; be with us as we let the liturgies of each sacred day lead us deeper into the journey of Easter. We will celebrate new life with 9:00 a.m. Eucharist on Easter Sunday, followed by a simple breakfast with the Sisters and Mass participants. Spiritual Direction is available on Thursday before 3:00 p.m.

Register by prior Friday: $195
with spiritual direction $230
Minimum 3, Maximum 10

Therese Gonville OSB

**Waking Fully to Living and Dying**

April 26
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

Explore the “sacred art of living and dying.” Learn about the wisdom of our ancestors that teaches how to enhance our lives as we move through fear and denial around our own mortality. Wherever you are in life’s journey, you will relate to this work concerning relationships, forgiveness, meaning and hope.

Register by prior Friday $60
Bring a sack lunch, journal
Minimum 6, Maximum 16

Carol Spangler
Cheryl Ellsworth

**Contemplation in Motion**

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

Too many words? Seeking peace? Want a prayer practice that aims for joy? Let your contemplative practice become more embodied. This experiential workshop offers a soulful place to discover, discern, and invite the wisdom of the Divine through practices that develop ease in movement, voice, stillness, and sharing stories.

Register by prior Friday $50
Bring a sack lunch, water bottle, clothing to move in, journal.
Minimum 6, Maximum 20

Sharie Bowman

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For more information on program registration & presenters, please see our website www.stplacid.org and click on Spirituality Center – Programs and Retreats.
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The Poetry of Rumi
May 10
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

In the imagination of Rumi, “every being is a jar full of delight.” This Islamic mystic poet inspires people of all beliefs. We will connect his poems to spiritual practice with tools of reflection, embodiment, and creative response.

Register by prior Friday $60
Bring a sack lunch, journal, clothing comfortable for walking.
Minimum 5, Maximum 30
Beth Amsbary
Tamara Roberts

Getting to the Core of Your Matter
May 17
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

In this workshop series participants will be guided through creative and experiential methods using Archetypes to access the “parts” of ourselves that keep us surviving instead of thriving. We will move toward an integrative experience to facilitate internal “part’nership that will allow the Core-Self to be revealed in all its’ brilliance and beauty. (Group consensus will guide the selection of the archetypes used in this workshop.)

Register by prior Friday $60.
Bring a sack lunch, journal and writing utensil.
Minimum 6, Maximum 24
Loretta Crawford Kissel

St. Placid Rummage Sale
Our big, annual rummage sale is set for April 26, the first Saturday after Easter. We’ll have bargains galore for you, and every purchase directly supports the Benedictine Sisters and our ministries at St. Placid Priory. Please mark your calendar!

Welcoming Prayer
July 23-27
Wednesday 7:15pm –Sunday 1:30pm

This four-day retreat provides an in-depth introduction, review, and immersion into the Welcoming Prayer. Intensive practice of the prayer helps to establish it as a part of the rhythm of your day to complement your practice of Centering Prayer. The retreat alternates brief periods of silence with intensive study and practice of the Welcoming Prayer.

Register by July 10 $450
(Includes retreat, bedroom, meals)
Minimum 5, Maximum 10

Cherry Haisten

God the Artist:
We the Co-Creators
July 26
Saturday 9:00AM-3:30PM

God is the artist of our soul. This retreat will stimulate our creative souls, focusing on our Potter God, using clay materials. We’ll meet at The Priory Spirituality Center and drive to Walter and Renata Siegl’s clay studio in Shelton. They will help us with our creations. All of us are artists, so come to play and pray! Pieces to be fired by the Siegls and picked up by you at the Spirituality Center after firing.

Register by prior Friday $75
(Includes $15 for glazing)
Bring a sack lunch
Min. 5, Max. 10
Renata & Walter Siegl
Lucy Wynkoop OSB

Viva! is sponsored by the Sisters’ Vocation Committee of the Seattle Archdiocese and the Western Washington Serra Clubs. This vocation discernment retreat will be held at The Priory Spirituality Center, beginning July 19 at 9:30a.m. and ending at 3:00 p.m. on July 20.

The Viva! retreat is intended for single Catholic women who are exploring a call to become a Sister. The program will include vocation stories, sharing time, quiet time, Mass, prayer, nature walks, and fun activities.

The registration fee is $10. For more information contact Sister Lucy at 360-438-2595.

Consider Your Call!

Is God calling you to religious life? How can you know? Sisters experienced in discernment can help you. Come to the Benedictine Vocation Discernment retreat Jan. 25-26, or to the Viva! Retreat July 19-20—or to both. Come and see!
St. Placid Fundraiser:

**Ensemble Electra**

February 9, 2014

2 – 3:30 PM

*Vicki Boeckmann and Friends*, a recorder trio, performed for us in February, 2013. They were so well received that another group Vicki plays with will perform here at St. Placid Priory on February 9.

The Seattle-based trio, **Ensemble Electra**, performs with energy and passion a rich, varied repertoire for recorder, violin and harpsichord, specializing in music of the 17th and 18th centuries as well as newly-composed works. The trio's energetic, spontaneous style makes for playful and engaging concerts which appeal to audiences of all ages.

One of the benefits of living in the Pacific Northwest is the number of opportunities to enjoy good music. If you've been wanting more live music in your life, please put this concert on your calendar! Bring the children and teens you know along—free—for an afternoon of fun.

This musical afternoon will help to support the Sisters of St. Benedict of St. Placid Priory and our ministries. Thank you for participating!

More information about Ensemble Electra members at this website:


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**St. Placid Priory Fundraiser**

**Ticket Order Form**

Feb 9, 2014, 2-3:30 pm

**Ensemble Electra**

Vicki Boeckmann on Recorder
Tekla Cunningham on Violin
Jillon Stoppels Dupree on Harpsichord

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*Please fill in above the number of children / teens in your family who will attend.

Your check # here: ____________________________

Total enclosed: $________

Thanks for your support of the Benedictine Sisters of St. Placid Priory and our ministries!
For This We Give Thanks

May Jesus draw us all closer to Him as we pray and give thanks for the lives of our deceased family and friends:

+Gary Corcoran, husband of our Visitation grade school graduate Joanne Conner
+Ann Adele Mallon-Knapton, our Visitation Elementary School graduate
+Arnie Santa Cruz, long time friend from Holy Rosary parish, Tacoma
+Our St Placid chapel friend, Mary Jerabek
+Sister Damaris Zander's sister-in-law from North Dakota, Shirley Zander
+Sister Monika Ellis's brother from Seattle, Leonard (Lennie) Ellis, Jr.

We give thanks for detours! This year we were unable to secure visas from our American Embassy in Tanzania for Sister Judith Millinga and Sister Bertha Whero to study English here at St. Placid and prepare to be English-speaking teachers in their St. Agnes, Chipole Tanzanian Elementary School. The good news is that we and friends of the Chipole Connection are helping both Sisters to receive teacher training and English speaking skills closer to home in East Africa.

Many and special thanks to the students of John Paul II High School for collecting neosporin, ibuprofen, immodium and bandages for the students at St. Agnes Elementary School in Chipole.

While we give thanks for the Creative Spirit that moves through our community of writers, artists and musicians, we also give thanks for the creative expression that is found in embracing the ordinariness and the dailiness of our lives. We are reminded that as Benedictines we pray: That in ALL things God may be glorified!

Ken Peterson's newly published book, Prayer as Night Falls: Experiencing Compline, speaks of the resurgence of the contemplative spirit in our day. May we gratefully remember we are constantly living in God's presence.

♦ Did you know that Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement, was an Oblate of St. Benedict? She was a member of St. Procopius Abbey in Lisle, Illinois. Following her example, please consider becoming a Priory Oblate, Associate or Affiliate. Volunteering at St. Placid is also a wonderful way to be part of the Monastery Community. We have several opportunities available for men and women to work with us as volunteers. For more information, see http://stplacid.org and click Join Us, or contact Sister Lucy at 360.438.2595 or LWYNKOOP@stplacid.org

♦ During the weekend of February 28-March 2, we will once again discern who will be elected as our Prioress, our Community spiritual and temporal leader for the next four years. Please hold us in prayer now as we begin to pray for the Holy Spirit to guide our discernment process. "See how God's love shows us the way of life." —Prologue, Rule of Benedict
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.

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. 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:

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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 $__

Sister Laura’s Scriptorium: Books that Merit Attention

Prayer as Night Falls: Experiencing Compline, Kenneth Peterson, Paraclete Press, 2013. Our very own oblate Ken Peterson has produced a truly beautiful book, reflective of his spirit and as a many-decade student of chant. Part spiritual memoir, part spirituality and part history, we enter into a rich and informed experience of Compline, which leads us into contemplative prayer.

The Last Monk of Tibhirine. A True Story of Martyrdom, Faith, and Survival, Freddy Derwahl, Paraclete Press, 2013. The martyrs of Tibhirine were made famous through the deeply touching movie, “Of Gods and Men.” This is a gentle spiritual biography of the last surviving monk, Brother Jean-Pierre, and yet this is Derwahl’s own spiritual journey of encounter with a tender monk and the reality of Tibhirine.

Religious Life at the Crossroads: a School for Mystics and Prophets, Amy Hereford, CSJ, Orbis Books, 2013. I frequently hear concern and confusion from people inquiring about “how the Sisters are doing?” and “what’s going on?” Hereford provides a gentle, clearly written explanation of what has been going on and what appears to be emerging among younger Sisters and serious seekers who, in many ways, are reinventing religious life. I especially appreciated her insights that are guiding gospel-oriented intentional and religious communities. I think you will appreciate this.

Echoes of the Word. A New Kind of Monk on the Meaning of Life, Enzo Bianchi, Paraclete Press, 2013. Bianchi founded the ecumenical monastic Bose Community in Italy that is part of the “new monasticism.” This title is appropriate in that Bianchi provides a challenging and insightful exploration of a word or phrase important to an authentic interior journey. As in the early desert tradition of receiving “a word” we receive that word “unto life.” I highly recommend this for those willing and eager to go deeper into their interior life.

Centering Prayers. A One-Year Daily Companion for Going Deeper into the Love of God, Peter Traben Haas, Paraclete Press, 2013. I am not normally impressed with collections of prayers but Centering Prayers has proven a different resource for me. You may want to use the day’s prayer to either enter into the silence, or to conclude your time of silence. Truly these prayers awake in us the deeper meaning of our spiritual journey.
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Return this with mailing label attached
☐ New Address
☐ Please add my name
☐ Please remove my name
☐ Receiving more than one copy

What's New at the Priory Store —
by Sharon McDonald, OSB

Christ is my Way, my Truth, and my Life—John 14:6

My friend Joe just returned from making a pilgrimage to Medjugorje; our Affiliate and Oblate Cheryl went on pilgrimage to Lourdes in October; last summer a friend of Sister Maureen's walked "The Way" to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Today, most of us do not have this opportunity for pilgrimage to another country. We do, however, value the many ways we have to enhance our inner journey of personal and collective transformation.

At the Priory Store we offer labyrinth medals, as well as art and books based on the labyrinth found in the Cathedral at Chartre, France. By using these we honor the call to seek the "sweet water" of Wisdom while we travel and negotiate the twists and turns of life.

Walking the labyrinth with our eyes, instead of our feet, can be a meaningful experience. As we "walk" the labyrinth we find ourselves letting go, leaving behind our old ways of being as we move toward the Center. St Michael's parish in Olympia has a walking labyrinth in their Marian grotto with a symbol of Christ in its Rose-shaped Center. As we rest in the Center we receive renewed guidance and grace, the Love that Jesus is and teaches. We return bringing insights with us for new ways of being and doing.

The fruits of doing this kind of meditation prayer are for me expressed in Micah 6:8—"...to do justice, to act with kindness, and to walk humbly with God."

We are waiting for you to come soon to the Priory Store!