



Monastery Mosaic

July/ 2010

From the Prioress

Dear Friends,

In June the House of Bread community took time to make a retreat. It was an opportunity to pray and reflect on our lives together rather than a time to explore our next step in the planning process. It is a challenge to stop and take extended time for prayer when it seems there are so many things to do, so many decisions to be made. Yet we stopped to pray and reflect more deeply together because that is what we felt the Spirit urging us to do.

The fruits of this time of prayer will ripen and when it is timely we will consult with the wider community and eventually make decisions that beckon us into a future where the Spirit is both nudging us to go and waiting for us when we arrive.

We pray we will continue to listen and move in step with the timeline we hear from the Spirit rather than a timeline of our own making. We plan, we listen for guidance; we possibly revise the plan, we listen again. "Listen with the ear of your heart." as the Rule of Benedict says.
Sister Barbara

News from the Monastery

Many of you were able to attend the Vigil and the funeral service during which we celebrated the life of Sr. Claudia. I have no doubt that she took great delight in having you present. I want to give special thanks to Mary Ann O'Halloran who, with the help of several volunteers, organized the beautiful reception. Thank you to everyone who helped create beautiful memories for all of us to cherish.

Duncan Mackintosh spent many volunteer hours preparing the Monastery fence to be painted and now we need painter(s) to complete the job. If you

can handle a paint brush and have some time, please contact Sr. Germaine and she will happily put you to work.

Sr. Val, recently retired from NRGH, is on a three week holiday visiting friends in various parts of the country. Hopefully this time away will renew her in body and spirit before she returns to on-call work in the fall.

Someone in the community, who will remain nameless, asked me to drive the truck to the Bush in order to release a raccoon she caught in the live trap. This was 9:00 at night. I objected that I didn't think it was in my role description but my protest fell on deaf ears and the raccoon received a ride to the Bush.

Associates and Oblates

Our last Benedictine retreat day was well attended and we invite you to register for the next one which will be on Saturday, August 28. The theme is *Mindfulness, Balance and the disciplined life*.

In the middle of July the Oblate team will travel to Queen of Angels Monastery in Mt. Angel, Oregon to attend the Northwest Regional Oblate meeting. We plan to share with those attending the meeting what we have been doing and to return with new ideas to enhance our own program.

Monastic Wisdom

Benedictine spirituality goes into the heart in order to embrace the world. It forms us differently than the world forms us but it does not attempt to shape us independently of the real world around us.

Joan Chittister, The Rule of Benedict

