



Monastery Mosaic

March 2010

From the Prioress

Dear Friends,

The birds and flowers don't seem to realize that according to our human calendar spring has not officially started. As the poet Mary Oliver suggests, nature has its own rhythm: "Don't bother me/ I've just been born."

I want to update you on our planning process which continues moving forward. We met again as a community with our facilitator to look more deeply into our human and financial resources and needs. As I mentioned in the last [Mosaic](#) newsletter we also engaged a realtor who provided us with information about our properties.

If you recall the first step of our process was to meet as a Benedictine community to surface our challenges; the next step is to ask a variety of people from the wider community to join us in looking at these challenges and creative possibilities.

In the next two months we will be designing a plan, which we hope to have in place by summer, to include our wider support community. We will be asking various people to work with us to offer input and suggestions before we make any decisions. If you receive a call inviting you to work with us, I hope you will consider saying yes.

Thank you for continuing to keep us in prayer and for your very generous support in so many ways.
Sister Barbara

News from the Monastery

As you may know Sister Claudia is in the Wexford nursing facility. Not too long ago when Sister Rose Mary and I were visiting her she informed us that

she had fallen asleep while saying her prayers. Sister Rosemary, thinking to comfort her said, "Claudia, I understand that your guardian angel finishes your prayers if you fall asleep. Did she?" Without missing a beat Sr Claudia responded, "How do I know? I was asleep!"

Do you have some time to volunteer at the Monastery? Sister Germaine has a wide variety of projects she can offer you including garden work, harvesting when the time is ripe, cleaning, walking the llamas, etc. And this is only a fraction of the list she gave me! If you have any time to give will you please contact her in person, by phone (250.753.1763) or by e-mail gchrupalo@shaw.ca.

Associates and Oblates

Our next Benedictine retreat day is Sunday, April 18 from 8:45-3:30. The theme is *Lectio Divina: an ancient yet ever new form of prayer*. These retreat days, held at the Bethlehem Retreat Centre, are open to all who are interested in the wisdom tradition of Benedict and want to take time for prayer and quiet.

Monastic Wisdom

Give yourself frequently to prayer.
Rule of Benedict.

The function of prayer is not to establish a routine; it is to establish a relationship with God who is in relationship with us always...The function of prayer is to bring us in touch with ourselves, as well. To the ancients, "tears of compunction" were the sign of a soul that knew its limits, faced its sins, accepted its needs and lived in hope."

Sr. Joan Chittister, The Rule of Benedict