

Greetings Oblate Directors,

The official summer season is now history and autumn is in the air for some of us. I trust you are well and enjoying the last days of summer.

The only “new” news in this newsletter is our slate of speakers for NAABOD 2017.

## **Conference Speakers**

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**Theresa Schumacher, OSB – St. Benedict Monastery, St. Joseph, MN**



Theresa Schumacher OSB is a member of Saint Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, Minnesota. She has served as a teacher, campus minister, formation (novice) director and liturgy director for her monastic community. She has worked in college, parish and monastery settings. Her graduate studies are in Music from the University of Minnesota with a minor in Women's Studies and in Liturgical Theology from the University of Notre Dame.

Currently Sister Theresa is working with various aspects of liturgy and liturgical life at the monastery. She teaches in the monastery's initial formation program, she is a spiritual director, and she gives retreats and presentations on liturgical and monastic spirituality. Theresa co-directs the Studium Program of the monastery providing hospitality and friendship to scholars who live and work in Studium.

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**Rene McGraw, OSB – St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, MN**



Though my time in the classroom (St. John's University, Collegeville, MN) has spanned many decades, I am not yet tired of teaching. One of the thrills of teaching philosophy is that it has never become routine for me. A phrase of Heidegger, an insight from Aristotle, an apothegm from Nietzsche, an ethical demand from Camus or Levinas startles me as much now as it did when I first started teaching in 1962. Teaching philosophy has never ceased to excite me. The marvel and marveling of the philosophical enterprise has been joined with looking at the ethical and metaphysical dimensions involved in the other part of my academic life—peace studies. Year after year, I love being in the classroom. If only I could omit correcting tests and papers, I could not think of a better way to spend a life than in the classroom with a text of Heidegger or Levinas in my hand.

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**Mary Reuter, OSB – St. Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN**



For many years Sister Mary Reuter has walked her journey on the Benedictine way as a member of Saint Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN. She is grateful for this way of living the gospel that is rooted in her daily life where God has met her in challenging and gracious times. Her doctoral dissertation at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, gave her an opportunity to explore the formative possibilities of encounters in everyday life.

Sister Mary has taught students in junior high and at the College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University. She has served as a spiritual director and has facilitated retreats and workshops, many of which contributed reflections and stories for her book, *Running with Expanding Heart: Meeting God in Everyday Life*. She has served in leadership roles in her Benedictine community and in the College of Saint Benedict, St. Joseph, MN. Two years ago Sister Mary made the transition from college teaching to ministry through her monastery. Currently she is teaching in a monastery program, A School of Benedictine Spirituality. She also serves as a mentor of a young woman who is beginning the process of joining her monastery.

Sister Mary is committed to supporting people as they walk their spiritual journeys, particularly with the guidance of what St. Benedict of Norcia offers us.

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Saint Martin's Abbey are doing a little fundraiser for Norcia and Italian monasteries damaged in the recent earthquakes. If your communities and/or oblates would like to contribute to assist these monasteries in their time of need, please send your contributions to:

Sr. Laura Swan, OSB  
Benedictine Sisters of St. Placid Priory  
500 College Street NE  
Lacey, Washington 98516

### **Old News:**

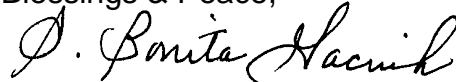
- NAABOD 2017 will be hosted by the Benedictines of St. Scholastica in Duluth, MN, July 14-19, 2017.
- NAABOD 2017 Theme is "Benedictine Values & Practices: Tools for Living, Tools for Life"
- If you need to fly, fly into the Minneapolis, MN airport and then take the shuttle to Duluth. This is cheaper than flying directly into Duluth, MN.

- Oblate Directors & Assistant & Associate Directors are encouraged to attend along with two oblates from your Monastery

NOTE: If for some reason, your directors are not able to attend NAABOD 2017, please remember to send two oblates from your Monastery as your representatives.

- We will be electing a new NAABOD leadership team at NAABOD 2017. So, please send your nominations for president and vice president to Fr. Mark Stengel ([stengelmark@gmail.com](mailto:stengelmark@gmail.com)). And, remember to pay your dues so that your Monastery is able to vote.
- Please remember to send me the list of oblates who have died since NAABOD 2015. Or, if your list of deceased oblates was not included in NAABOD 2015, please provide me with your lists from previous years as far back as is appropriate.
- Scholarships are available for directors (religious) for NAABOD 2017. Please contact me if you need financial assistance in order to attend NAABOD 2017 or if you need financial assistance in order to pay your annual NAABOD Membership dues.
- Please remember to send this newsletter to each of your assistant / associate oblate directors.

Blessings & Peace,



S. Bonita Gacnik, OSB

President, North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors (NAABOD)