



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRIORESS

*R.M. Prioress Therese, OSB*

August usually calls to mind the Feast of our Lady's Assumption, the out-pouring of fresh garden vegetables, the warmth of summer days and the preparation for fall and Fair days. This year family visits are also on the agenda, as Mr. and Mrs. Planansky (Mother Dilecta's (parents) will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary with their extensive and extended family. Others of us will have visits with family members: Myself with cousins long not seen, Mother Felicitas with her son Bill and family. Mother Catarina will travel to England for the Pope's visit to Parliament in connection with the festivities for John Cardinal Newman's canonization. We are honored to be represented at this occasion through the generosity of close friends.

In the meantime, we continue to live out St. Benedict's statement that guests are never lacking in a monastery. It is a continuing source of amazement to discover whence they come and their stories of interconnectedness! This is a source of enrichment for all involved.

## MONASTERY NEWS

We had a most unusual summer weather wise- with many cool, foggy days, delaying our getting in the hay. We lost many of our good workers with kids going off to college or getting married or other family commitments. For the first time in many years Mother Dilecta was on the tractor, baling. Our intern Cate learned to drive a tractor so did a lot of the raking and driving of the hay wagon.

"Our" Mormons came a second time this year, in early August. Their major project was laying of a new water pipe system for the animals in the main pastures as well as continuing the removal of the dilapidated reef-net boats from our beach. We have been enjoying the beach and as more of the area is reclaimed we will add picnic table and benches. It is a perfect place to watch birds and sit and read. They worked very hard in a mostly rainy day, gardening, dragging stones, hauling hay, etc. And always with such good cheer.

Carol Durak continues to rebind all of our choir books, an enormous amount of work. Bob Alexander, who donated our monastery generator, came with the generator "engineer" from Seattle to check things out for the winter and update the system.



Tom Broselle has continued his father Jerre's work for us doing chicken slaughter, dragging off old cars, etc. - To these and all who make our life on Shaw easier we say THANK YOU!

The big news is the arrival of our new chaplain, Father Jean Pierre Kasonga from the Congo-Brazzaville (former Belgian Congo). Father came to us after being in the USA only 5 months. He learned to read and write in school but did not have the opportunity to speak it much in daily life. Even so his English is very good. He is a very cheerful man with lots of stories and gives us a short homily daily. He has more responsibilities than past chaplains as he helps Father Heffernan in Friday Harbor by saying Masses on Orcas and Lopez Island.

We thank for prayers for Father Thaddaeus, OSB, who had a pacemaker put in after his heart attack and is doing very well. Father John returned to Tanzania in July and has called us once.

## ANIMAL NEWS



We are down to one milking cow and she had a most difficult birth with a nerve in her back leg damaged making milking hard. We are desperate for a new Jersey cow, so would anyone like to help us out. The milk is one of our sources of income and at present we are not able to sell the milk.

Our puppy Koko is 7 months old and is bigger than Bella, who no longer puts up with his shenanigans but puts him in his place regularly. We are hoping we will live to see him be as well behaved as Bella.

## OBLATE NEWS

Ten of our Oblates will meet in early October at Our Lady of the Rock. Many come during the year on a regular basis to work and pray with us.

Our Lady of the Rock  
PO Box 425  
Shaw Island, WA 98286-0425



## The Future

One of the fabulous projects worked on by many this year was the upgrading of the area around the pond. Mother Mary Grace lead this effort with the help of many volunteers and now it is a lovely place to visit and relax.

Anything you can do to help us with the following needs would be a blessing. \* **Fencing**; materials and helping hands to fix \* **Labor to dig** a new septic system at the guest house. \* **A second generator** for the well pump at the barn and guest area. \*

Always **bird seed**.

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