



MESSAGE FROM THE Prioress

R.M. Prioress Therese, OSB

ALLELUIA! He has truly risen – and the whole of nature joins with us in celebrating. “This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us be glad and rejoice in it!” May we be eager to discern the many signs of new life that this spring brings so that we may spread the joy of the Easter season, and awareness of Christ’s new life, alive and active in us and all of creation. Our daily prayer for you and your families is that the peace of Christ may fill your hearts and direct your actions through the many changes that life presents. ALLELUIA!

MONASTERY NEWS

Spring is here in full force with flowers and green everywhere and lambs running thru the pasture. Our two postulants, Rose and Barbara are doing well, as is the community with the many adjustments for newcomers. There is a resurgence of life.

We have three young women considering entering our community. A pre-postulant from Maryland will be coming in May for her three month trial. Another from Ohio will come for her first visit late in the spring. We’ve also enjoyed the initial visit of a young English woman interested in our community, who has just spent the last ten years teaching in Japan. She is now back in England to begin the visa process for a longer visit.

We have had two women in the land program, to whom we are completely grateful. Their hard work and creative hands have helped us through successful winter and spring seasons.

Again we have been blessed with many helping hands. “Our Mormons” came late in March for their annual clean-up work. We are starting to remove the dilapidated reef-net boats from our beach. They are collapsing after many years of disuse. We now have a lovely area on the beach in which to sit and watch the birds. Next year we will remove a few more and create a perfect perch for bird watching.

It has been a difficult month for our priests. Father John Mollel from Tanzania was hospitalized after Good Friday services with MRSA infection, a serious staph infection. He continues to remain hospitalized, now in Seattle. When he recovers he will return to Africa. We are very sad at the loss of this wonderful priest. We will miss his beautiful sermons, friendly smile, and always helpful hands. In the mean time the Archdioceses is providing us a priest for Sunday services. In addition, two weeks ago our former chaplain, Father Thaddaeus Arledge, OSB, of St. Martin’s Abbey, suffered a severe heart attack. He is hospitalized and in intensive care. Please pray for both of these men and for us to find another priest.

We mourn the passing of our dear friend Jerre Broselle on January 12. He had lived with Leukemia for over 20 years, quietly carrying on all his work. He came twice yearly to manage our chicken slaughter; not only that, he prepared his son Tom to carry on this mission. He was a pillar of the Church, a leader in the Knights of Columbus, and generous to a fault. He reminds us of Joseph, strong, quiet and full of faith. Please pray for him, his dear wife Muggs, and all his family.

Shaw Island has seen many changes this year. Perhaps the most difficult is the loss of the Hoffman, Foley, and Larsen families. The land, which has been in the Hoffman family over 120 years, was sold. Neal and his family have moved to Maine. (Already we miss the presence of Neal and his five daughters in chapel each Sunday.) The Hoffmans are in Anacortes, where Henry can get better health care. The Larsens are off to Camano Island. Monte Larsen has been our sheep shearer for almost twenty years, but he promises to come back.



**First Communion for
the Foley Family.**

ANIMAL NEWS



The latest member of our community is our new Portuguese Water Dog, Helm's Alee Kealoha (AKA: Koko Peli). He joins Bella and Shanley as the guardians and clowns of Our Lady of the Rock. He was donated by Joanne Forsythe, the benefactor who gave us Bella two years ago.

OBLATE NEWS

Eight of our oblates came for Holy Week which enriched the liturgy for the community. We are always grateful to our oblates for the many works they do for us through the year and their representation of us to the world. Through their efforts, in gusting winds and rains, we re-sanded the Japanese gardens in front of the Chapel, making the image of the parting of the seas leading up to the chapel doors clear and beautiful. The oblates also hauled bucket loads of gravel from our local beaches to the

ground below our bell tower to beautify the resting place of Maeve and the entrance to the enclosure. In between this hard work they were able to sit adoration, study scripture, sing the psalms, and prepare Father John for an emergency evacuation off the island.

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



The Future

We have many people to whom we are eternally grateful. Our annual fund raising drive in December brought \$36,431 in donations and gifts; an amazing blessing during a very difficult year. Rick Felt filled the farm tank with 80 gallons of gas. Michelle sends us diurnals each month to replace our old ones. Carol Durak continues to rebind all of our choir books, an enormous amount of work. Bob Alexander, who donated our monastery generator, is staying on top of its maintenance, providing us warmth and a stove to cook on throughout the many power outages on the island this winter. To all we say THANK YOU!

Spring time brings new life and a long list of repairs! 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 small hybrid truck** for Mother Prioress to deliver milk and use on the island. * **A second generator** for the well pump at the barn and guest area. * **bird seed**.

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