

JuliaNews

A Newsletter for Oblates, Associates, & Friends
of the Order of Julian of Norwich

Volume XXVII

Pentecost 2009

No. 2

Dear Friends,

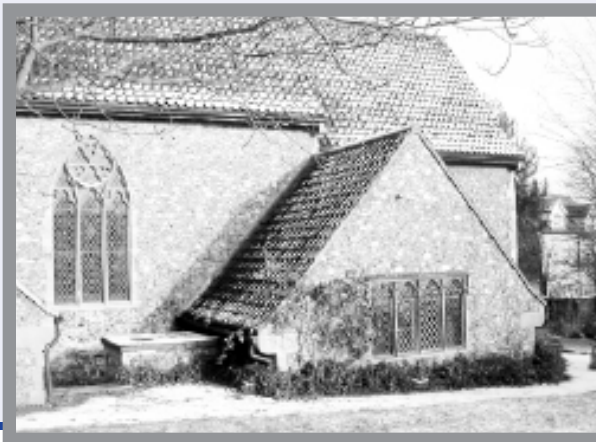
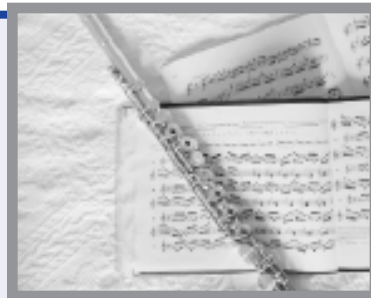
I'd like to thank you for giving me my sabbatical this past winter. My two months in England were enormously restorative. Only after I returned home did I realize the effect the sabbatical had on me. It strengthened me, clarified my intentions for the Order and in my own spiritual life, and gave me both focus and good zeal. What more could be asked for? I must thank especially the Community of All Hallows for putting me up at All Hallows Guest House in Norwich, Associates Ellen and Don Minor for their wonderful hospitality at their home in Lichfield, and Oblate Mother Patricia Freeth for welcoming me into her home. I rejoice especially in the great affection shown for the Order of Julian within the Norwich community. We are loved there, and a source of joy to the Norwich community.

As I return home, I am aware that the Order is entering a shaking-up of ordinary life. The long-awaited construction will begin in May or June. Everything from State approval to financial help has been lined up, and we are simply waiting on the contractors to finish their bids. Thank you again for your continued financial support and your faithful offering of pledges to this project.

It is amazing too to notice how God is sending new, young people to try their vocations with us. By the time you read this, we will have two novices and one junior professed sister; so one third of our community is presently in discernment! This is amazing. And we have received a flood of inquiries of people seeking the life that OJN has to offer: strongly monastic and contemplative, yet energetically engaged with the Church and world in ways appropriate for our charism. It feels like spring time at OJN.

In Christ,

Fr. Gregory



HOUSE NOTES

- After nine months of waiting, we learned in late March that our building plans were approved by the State review board. We anticipate being able to begin construction within the season. It will not be too quiet and peaceful hereabouts once the big yellow equipment rolls in, but the contemplative life will go on just the same.

- March winds brought down some tremendous branches in the front yard; but it was a tree service that took out the silver maples in the pasture. Our pasture still contains a mountain of chipped silver maple, even after all the flowerbeds have been spread with a thick layer of mulch. The felled tree trunks are being cut and split and stacked neatly in long lines. It looks something like an advertisement for woodburning stoves, or a logjam.

Affiliates checking out Sr. Mary Jude's new rosary.



- On 18 April we had the joy of celebrating Sr. Mary Jude's 2nd annual vows, and several local affiliates and friends were able to join us for the liturgy and reception. At second vows, the professing monk or nun receives a Julian rosary—a very simple, medieval style rosary, which is worn on the cincture.



- With engineers from WE Energies, Full Spectrum Solar and the City of Waukesha, the last connections were made and the solar collecting panels on the chapel roof began work on 4 March. We are currently deriving a large percentage of our electric needs from solar power. WE Energies, who provided one of the grants, is working with Full Spectrum to establish a web link to monitor production and usage.

- With the coming of spring many birds have been coming over and passing through, the usual complement of Canada geese; the mallards Mary and Joseph; and we have seen (and heard) several sandhill cranes flying over on their way to Horicon Marsh. The perennial red-wing blackbirds have commandeered the pasture as usual, seemingly not too daunted by the reduction in available arboreal real estate.

- With a newly expanded garden space, the Julian gardeners are hard at work tilling, hoeing, planting and weeding. The newest Julians, Sr Sarah and Postulant Jonathan can be

seen daily digging rows that have been planted with peas, spinach, broccoli and brussels sprouts. The removal of the pasture maples has increased our sun exposure in areas previously too shady for much production. As the weather continues to warm, we will be moving out tomato and pepper plants that were started from seeds in our common room back in February and March.

- Inside the house winter and early spring work has continued, regular ‘old-house upkeep’, sanding and refinishing, reorganizing. Sr. Sarah spent many hours restoring one of the first-floor storybook windows above the refectory to its original woodwork, having removed decades of variegated paint, and has also been busy in the workshop, creating prayer stools for Julian Shop. Sr. Monica has been busy getting and recovering from a new hip, and continues to serve industriously as the guest steward and community seamstress.

- In late April the Annual Meeting of CAROA (Conference of Anglican Religious Orders in the Americas) superiors, formation directors and other leaders took place at the Siena Center in Racine, hosted by OJN and the Community of St. Mary West. Our Guardian, who is also the president of CAROA, and our formation director Mthr. Hilary, spent the week in meetings at Racine, and most of our community visited the conference for the Friday evening festivities.

- In May, Fr. Gregory will travel to the Diocese of Northern Indiana to offer a clergy retreat, and Mthr. Hilary will attend a conference in Chicago given by the group Theology & Peace, on developing an understanding of mimetic theory in the Christian tradition.



The novitiate, Fr. Gregory, and Sr. Monica putting together Notre Dame de Paris at recreation

- Father John-Julian has had to deal with grief and goodness these days: grief in strenuous efforts to solve the medical problems of his beloved feline companion Magdalena – ending in euthanasia when all else failed. Then getting another cat turned into a problem since his elderly housing complex had instituted a pet deposit, and it took some time to find the money. The great outcome is a very black, domestic short-haired “Raven” who is an 11-year-old “rescue cat”, and has already made herself at home in the Hermitage. (As an “elderly” cat going to an “elderly” caretaker, she was free!)

- The goodness is that *Stars in the Dark World*, Father’s 420-page collection of “Stories of the Saints and Holy Days of the OJN Calendar”, has finally gone to the publisher (after several proof-readings and multiple corrections and adjustments). We have received word that May 21 will be the official publication date for *The Complete Julian* and there is already a book-signing scheduled at the seminary bookstore.

JULIAN SHOP NEWS

The Complete Julian by Fr John-Julian, OJN. Some twenty years in the making, the first book to offer a modern translation of all of Julian's writings (including her complete Revelations), a complete analysis of her work, as well as original historical, religious, and personal background material.

24.99

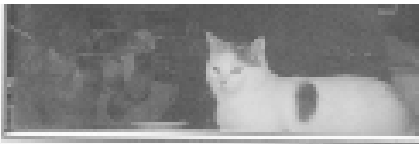
Prayers from Revelations of Divine Love by David McDermott. A collection of prayers, each based on a single chapter from Dame Julian's book. There is a short synopsis of the chapter and then a meditation on that work.

12.95

40-Day Journey With Julian Of Norwich edited by Lisa Dahill. Each day's readings has a pertinent Scripture selection, questions for reflection, suggestions for journaling and a prayer.

12.99

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