

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Dear Friends, Lovers of Christ and the Church and of Julian,

Over the past months I have been talking with many friends of the Order to raise money for our construction project. The generosity that has poured into the Order of Julian has been amazing, and we are now well over two-thirds of the way towards our goal of raising \$300,000 in gifts and pledges for the next three years. In late July we started an unexpected and prolonged conversation with the State Review Board (let the reader understand) with a resulting delay in our plans and the eventual decision to add water sprinkling and a wheelchair lift to the new expansion. These additions add roughly \$50,000 to the project cost. However, construction is now back on track. The architects are making these changes to the plans and all five general contractors bidding on the project are eager to begin work once we finish the bidding process.

I have a challenge for readers of JuliaNews: if 100 people come forward from this mailing and pledge \$30 a month for the next three years to the Expansion Fund, for a total gift of \$1,080, we will be able to build without further delay. *The urgency to build is due to our desire to care for older members in the Order and to provide space for aspirants who are discerning a vocation with the Order of Julian.*

The greatest news I can tell you is that God is wonderfully in charge of this project, providing wisdom in planning and patience in delays and astounding surprises along the way. Moreover, as Guardian of the Order, I am keenly aware of how each brother and sister in the community, in our contemplative vocation to solitude, prayer, and conversion of life, is being ministered to by Christ as we continue faithful to our calling to live closely intimate with God. Through unspectacular, daily life in the monastery God teaches us the truth about ourselves and offers us a remarkable homeliness of loving care. This keeps our hearts free and open and enables us to give healing light and love to others — even in the midst of fundraising and construction.

*If you visit Julian House Monastery, you will find a community of very ordinary people living by grace into the mystery of God's redemption of all sin and suffering and the transfiguration of the world, the mystery that simply **is** Jesus. By your generosity and the generous care of God we are honored to live this life of prayer and poverty and purity of heart for the world that God so loves. I wish all of you joyful light and peace.*

Fr. Gregory OJN

House Notes

- Ordinary Time this year has taken on a little of the character of Advent: when will the big yellow machines be coming up the driveway to begin work on the Julian House extension project? Cheering our waiting has been the generosity of all the many donors to the project, as well as the news that both solar energy generation installation grants applied for have been approved, one from our regional electric company, WE Energies, and the other from the state of Wisconsin's renewable energy program, Focus on Energy.

- Coming a little later than in previous years (just like our garden tomatoes) JulianFest this year was likewise worth the wait. Our featured speaker was The Rev. Dr. Paula Barker of Seabury-Western Seminary, the title of whose talk was "Behold and See: Vision and Understanding in Julian of Norwich." In it she explored the ways in which the multi-faceted experience of mystical vision and recent discoveries in the cognitive and neurosciences might inform and interpret one another. Audio recordings of this talk, as well as the two sermons preached at the festival Eucharists by our own Fr. Gregory, OJN and North Carolina

Oblate Brenda Weems can be listened to for free on our website.

- After JulianFest and a mighty effort at rendering the gardens weed-free, Julian House was closed for two weeks and all the members headed out to various venues with family, friends and other communities for a time of leave; our novice Sr. Laura Ellen particularly enjoyed the hospitality of the sisters of the Community of the Transfiguration in Ohio.

- Just before annual rest we had the treat of a steady stream of contractors gathering information to be able to bid on the building extension. During one of these visits while Fr. Gregory was out on the tractor for some lawn mowing, one of the contractors calmly notified him that the tractor was on fire. The fire was put out, and we all returned from annual rest to new replacement weeds and a new replacement insurance-bought tractor.

- While at this writing Llewelyn House still awaits a buyer, the Members Regular gathered there on a fine day in June for a thanksgiving Eucharist and picnic, celebrating the gift that the house has been to the Order.



• Fr. John-Julian continues the painful work of slimming down his book on Julian to make it ready for publication. At this writing it is ten thousand words lighter. Balancing that out, his and Sr. Cornelia's work continues at enlarging our stock of new sung graduals, responsorial psalms and sequences for the feast days of the year.

"...What a mistake it is for us, as individuals and as members of communities, to believe that refusing to include people that we deem as undesirable will somehow safeguard and retain the 'purity' of the orthodoxy we wish to preserve. The more we marginalize other people and shut them out, the farther we remove ourselves from Jesus and His vision of the kingdom that might one day come on earth as it will be in heaven."

– an Oblate of OJN

JuliaNews

is a quarterly newsletter published by
The Order of Julian of Norwich

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