



**FROM THE
PRIORESS**

One of the joys of the preparation for Pascaltide is the anticipation of

new life, which bursts forth with exuberance on all sides. The days are longer and brighter, the grass is greener and seems to grow overnight, the spring flowers appear, the birds sing and build their nests, the animals bring forth their young, and we fill the Chapel with ALLELUIA's! But, of course, new life brings change and changes are double-edged. We have sent Father Scott Braathen, S.O.L.T. on to further his call and welcomed Father Mathew to new experiences in the Northwest. Meanwhile the rhythm of daily prayer is our stable point and strength. We hold you and the many persons entrusted to our care and prayer, in our hearts and thoughts!



MONASTERY NEWS

Our Father Scott left us after Easter and a final dinner. He will be greatly missed by all; nuns, guests and islanders. We wish him well in his new endeavor to start a contemplative branch of S.O.L.T. Father John Smith of Canada was then with us for two weeks and among his projects made the machine shop look like new. Last Friday our new Chaplain arrived. Father Mathew Thelly is a Carmelite from eastern India, who has been in Tennessee for three years. His order was started by Blessed Kuriakose Elias

Chavara who founded the first Indian indigenous religious Congregation, the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (CMI). He is from Jagdalpur, an area known for its lush green mountains, deep valleys, dense forests, waterfalls, caves, exuberant festivities and peaceful solitude. Mother Mary Grace fixed up the old cabin for him and he seems to be settling in nicely. His homilies are filled with humor and great stories.

Two of our Land Program women left us in May but we have Tari, a very gifted young woman especially in the care of animals and photography. We also have a new "housemother", Holly, a widow who is studying to become a Catholic, is talented in fiber arts. Both are great cooks!



Confirmation were confirmed by Archbishop Peter.

The Sunday after Easter we hosted a First Communion. Shortly after Mother Hildegard's God-son James and Mel Woodard

We have been enjoying lettuce from the greenhouse our Ferndale youth group built last summer. They are coming again this summer to complete many projects including building a new bathroom (foundation started by UW Newman group in March), a new wood supply shed, and a run area for the dogs.

In June we have a nurse coming for her 3 month trial, so please pray for her.

Check out Mother Hildegard's blog islandlife-inamonastery.blogspot.com/

TRAVELS

Mother Hildegard traveled with two Oblates to Arizona in March for a birding exploration and Mother Dilecta visited her Father (who is 93 years young) in California. Mother Catarina enjoyed England in May.

SUPPORT



New mower

In our end of year appeal we focused on the needs of our farm. Alleluia! to all of you

who were so generous. A new mower was donated by Deacon Larry and Karen McDonald, a car for our new chaplain from neighbors Ned & Elaine Griffin, and a truck from George Hochstein, who leads the Ferndale youth group, to mention just a few items. And lots of BIRDSEED (Happy Birds!!).



Cheese in the our cooler

The monetary donations also poured in allowing us to acquire a wine cooler (to age the cheese), a new cow, and

materials for the farm. Mother Prioress also received a grant for her cheese making project from a new program in the Archdiocese for "retired" nuns. (little do they know Benedictines never retire!) Mother Catarina received funds from the same program for her travels to Orcas for Bible studies with Catholic women there.

THANK YOU ALL AND PLEASE COME VISIT OLR!



Mel Woodard's First Holy Communion

