

## Oblate Update March 2019

Abbey Oblates enjoyed an inspirational DVD presentation and discussion of the beautiful and creative “Passion of the Earth” project from the Benedictine Monastery of St. Gertrude in Cottonwood Idaho.

As quoted from the Monastery of St. Gertrude website, on “A narrative of the Project” by Sister Teresa Jackson, the author of the project: “*The Passion of the Earth* is designed to be a spiritual exercise that enables people to see the earth and the cosmos not only as God’s creation, but as the most basic expression of God’s very self. The earth and the cosmos are not inanimate objects for human beings to use, abuse, and destroy as they see fit, but a gift of God our creator to reverence and cherish. Humanity does not stand above creation as dominating caretakers, but rather we humans stand within its midst as one small part of the vast expression of the cosmos.”

Also, from the website: “Artist Melanie Weidner was commissioned “to create *The Passion of the Earth*, a multi-media project which is a blend of the traditional Catholic Stations of the Cross devotion and the Universe Story as presented in the work of Thomas Berry. In seven brief, narrative stations the story of the earth is told, from creation to the current moment when humanity must decide whether to care for this gift of God’s creation or whether to continue on the path of destruction.”

Abbey Oblates engaged in deep reflection on this touching, thought provoking presentation. The creation of the art integrating the seven days of creation statements was captivating. What is our individual “Passion of the Earth”? How is our faith and Benedictine practice helping us to care for our brothers and sisters and all of God’s creation? We left our meeting with much to ponder...

If you would like more information on the “Passion of the Earth” project go to: <https://www.stgertrudes.org/passion-of-the-earth/>