

Oblate Update November-December 2019

Oblates gathered on November 5th. Oblate John Hopkins prepared a session for us on Poetry as Lectio. The sharing that followed was varied, rich and moving.

The following are instructions we received on how to practice Lectio through poetry. We have also included the poem used and examples of what it inspired a couple of the Oblates to write.

How to practice Lectio through poetry.

First, pick a passage from scripture or one of the psalms, and then sit with that passage for a while, reading it over, waiting for God to give you that word or phrase meant for you.

Now, as oblates we know that part of Lectio Divina is taking that word or phrase that God has given us and then using said word or phrase in a prayer of our own making.

The difference in this exercise is instead of creating an oral prayer, we write our prayer in the form of a poem -- a sort of prayer-poem.

Or....

If poetry is not your favorite genre, then we get our prayerful response to the word or phrase calling out to us from scripture in more of a prose form – a response that looks more like a paragraph than a poem, let's say.

Whatever the case, let your creative response reside in your journal. Go back to it if you can throughout the day. You might change a word, add a word, or simply pray it again. In the long run, you have created something for God. In the words of Joan Chittister, we have become “co-creators with God.”

“All My Wellsprings Are Within You” Psalm 87:7

Oblate Responses to the exercise

O Lord, reach inside us, burst all the dams! Round open the valves with your saving hands.

Let the cataracts of mercy flow from wellsprings within! Wash our hearts to see the good that weeps within the sin.

Loosen the rusty spigots, let living waters gush! Lift the heavy sluice-gates, cleanse us with a touch!

John Hopkins

My soul is yearning---

For what?

My soul is thirsty -----

For what?

My tears blend with waves

Of the ocean.

My souls is yearning for

You God.

My souls is thirsty for

You God.

Where are you God?

You are within me ----

Around me ----lifting me up and

Holding me in your loving

Embrace.

Gabrielle

Beckoning, insisting, seducing in turn

The undertow is stronger than the swimmer's resistance

Tumbling and turning in the water

Surrounded by blue and whiteness from kaleidoscoping angles

Persistent, prevailing, pursuing with such a powerful love
That it's best to surrender limbs and plans and my life
I am already known from all those many angles
Already led to a gleaming, peaceful shore
A sparkling home

Syncletica

THERE WAS NO DECEMBER MEETING DUE TO INCLIMATE WEATHER
