

Sister Maureen O'Larey OSB

SISTERS OF ST. BENEDICT, ST. PLACID PRIORY
FINAL PROFESSION: 1998



I was born and raised in Pasco, Washington. I'm a Benedictine Sister with the community at St. Placid Priory in Lacey. I am a lifelong Catholic. My spiritual journey ignited when I was confirmed at the age of 26. I volunteered in my parish, became active in the charismatic renewal, and became a Benedictine oblate. I had a very good job in high tech. My plan was that once my mortgage was paid in full, I was going to sell my home, quit my job, move to an area with a lower cost of living, and volunteer for a religious community.

God had other plans! I began listening deeply to God and found God was luring me to the monastic way of life. I love praying the Liturgy of the Hours and going to Mass. I was attracted to community living. One of the Sisters at the Priory, a friend of mine, asked me: "What is your heart's desire?" And I had come to realize that my desire was really to live the monastic way. To live in community. To live a life totally dedicated to God. To pass along the blessings God had given me.

In 1993, I quit my job, sold my home and became a postulant at St. Placid Priory. I was 41. I am very grateful for my call to religious life.

At the Priory, Jesus comes to us daily in many forms. Individuals and families who are poor and hungry may come to our door needing food or gas money. People who are dealing with difficult life challenges may come to our Spirituality Center where they can really focus on listening to God. When we deepen our relationship with God, our other relationships improve. Our retreatants are rested and renewed. They return to their families and are better fathers and mothers, better sisters and brothers, better friends, better employees. Others may attend a day program and learn new ways to listen to, and to pray to, God. I was attracted to St. Placid's because of our retreat ministry and the adult spiritual formation that we do each day. It is a huge blessing to be a part of this!

When my spirit is faint within me, you know my path.
PSALM 142:3

Favorite scripture passage



"It has always been challenging for us to set aside funds for retirement. St. Placid Priory, like other Catholic religious communities, is self-supporting.

When our Sisters taught in Catholic schools, they received very small stipends, \$5 to \$10 each month. It was very difficult making current ends meet and to pay education expenses for our Sisters who were teachers. None of our Sisters received a pension for their time teaching and working in Catholic schools.

The funds from the *Called to Serve as Christ* campaign will have a huge impact on our community. Our retirement savings will be strengthened. The funds will help us with our day-to-day living expenses. We will be able to continue to offer, at a moderate cost, our adult spiritual formation programs and retreats. We will be able to continue to offer program and retreat scholarships to those who lack funds and to help us to continue to help the poor and hungry who come to our door."

SISTER MAUREEN O'LAHEY
on the importance
of the campaign