

CUTHBERT'S CORACLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ANAMCHARA FELLOWSHIP

SPRING - 2022



Br. John Brendan

ANAMCHARA FELLOWSHIP GATHERING - 2022

Dear Family

After much prayer and consulting the leadership, I have made the difficult decision that Gathering 2022 will be held virtually using the Zoom platform. It breaks my heart, but we must protect those at risk. I had hoped and prayed that we might finally meet again in person but that is not to be yet. We must consider the wellbeing of our family and we have members who are immune-compromised and asking them and others to travel across the country and to come together for a week is exposing people to potential illness. At the retreat center there just did not seem to be any way to maintain adequate distancing. God willing next year we will be able to come together in person. I will be working with Br. Samuel Timothy and Sr. Kathleen Clare to modify the schedule to accommodate a virtual Gathering. I see no reason for any change to the presentations. Soon you will receive the schedule and the descriptions of the presentations.

Love and blessings

Br. John Brendan, Abbot

Anamchara Fellowship Gathering - June 2022

The theme for Gathering 2022, "We Are Monks in the World! Embodying our vocation" aptly describes the wonderful journey we hope to take our community on. This journey explores more deeply where we come from, where we are going and how will we get there. The path will take us through our history, our charisms and vows and then show us a variety of practices that we can use to support our spiritual journey and our community...a deeper understanding and the tools we can use. The following is a listing of the workshops that will be presented:

Historical and Spiritual Foundation of the Anamchara Fellowship-Sr. BJ & Sr. Julian

How do we express our dedication to the Holy Trinity -Sr. Donna Ruth

Living Our Vocation – Sr. Patricia Sarah and Sr. Renee Francis

(2022 Gathering Team)



I want to share this news from Bishop Perry, Diocese of Michigan. Some of you may already know this but many do not. The Rev. Sister Veronica Mary, "Sister Vee", (Photo at the Left) will become our new Missioner for Spirituality and Race effective January 1, 2022. In this role, Sister Vee will continue her work in building the educational foundation for reconciliation - understanding who we are and what we are called to do to become beloved community. She will also design and lead retreats, classes and events that enable us to discover and deepen our spiritual practices and ultimately encourage us to embody the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our world. Congratulations Sr. Vee! We will be keeping you in our prayers.

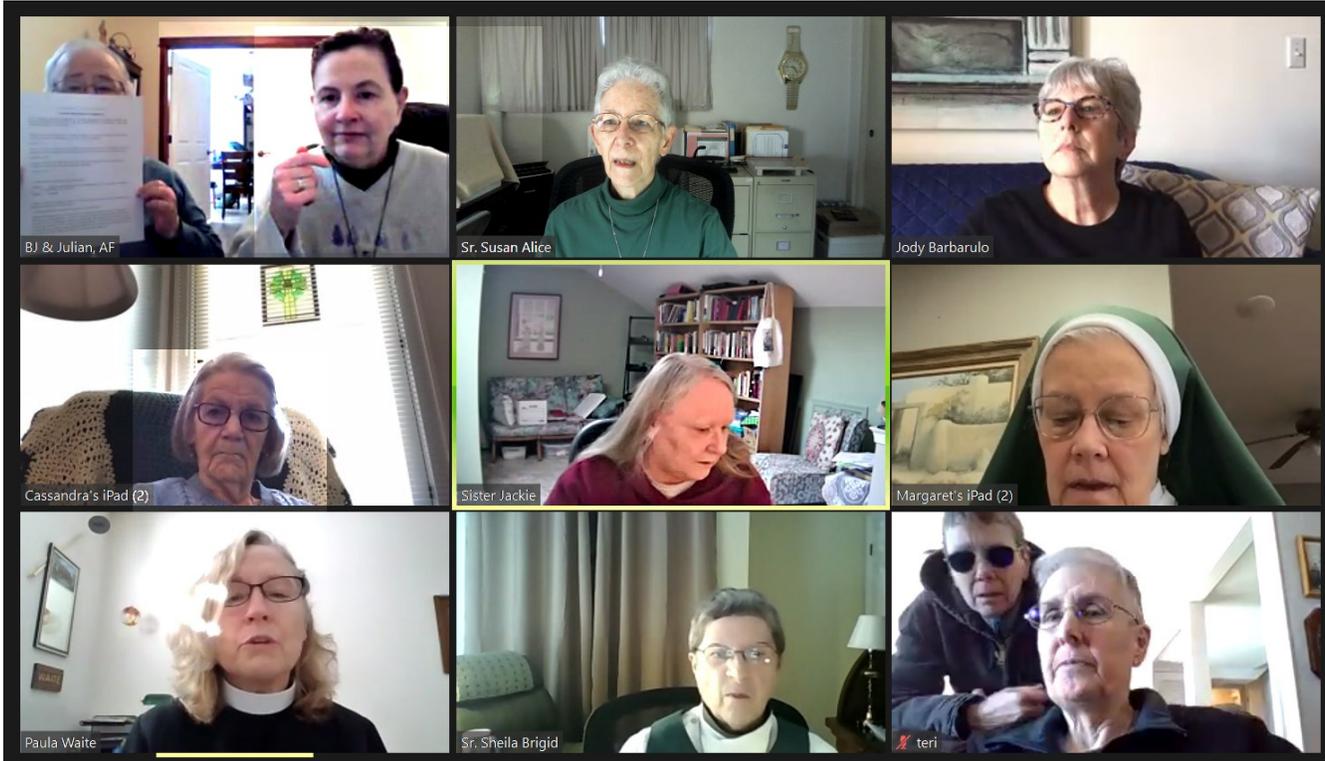
Blessings
Br. John Brendan - Abbot

(AF Facebook)



ASPIRANT RECEPTION 

The Aspirant Reception for Jody Barbarulo took place during the Whitby Priory meeting on January 8, 2022 via Zoom. In attendance were: Sr. BJ, Sr. Julian, Sr. Cassandra Grace, Sr. Jacalyn Hild, The Rev. Sr. Margaret Kentigern, Sr. Susan Alice, The Rev. Sr. Sheila Brigid, The Rev. Paula Waite, The Rev. Companion Kathleen Smith-Jones and The Rev. Companion Teri Smith-Jones.



In Memoriam - 2022



Br. John-Aelred

ANAMCHARA FELLOWSHIP DAILY PRAYER

*Bless and enlighten our journeys,
O Lord. May the Triune of our strength
lead us deeper into the heart of your
perfect will. Grant us grace as we grow
in the spirit of hospitality, generosity,
compassion and love. May our vows of
simplicity, fidelity and obedience draw us
ever closer to you and to each other and
may our lives bear witness to the
Kingdom of God.*

In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.



Companion Mary Shone

About our Pories



In the early days of Anamchara Fellowship there were only a handful of members on the East Coast. When the Fellowship began to expand to the West Coast and everywhere in-between, the need for localized groups became apparent. At first there were only a few groups, then called cells. After more expansion of members, the number of groups grew too and cells were renamed pories. We began to identify our pories after Celtic saints or places and to date we have 11 pories: Caledonia Priory in Michigan, Clonmacnoise Priory in Missouri and Arkansas, Iona Priory in Southern California, Kildara Priory in Southern Delaware, Killeedy Priory in Montana, Lindisfarne Priory in Oregon and Washington State, Rona Priory in Scotland, UK, St. Brigit Priory in Pennsylvania, St. Columba Priory in Ohio, St. Patrick Priory in Florida, and Whitby Priory in Northern Delaware and New Jersey. We have members in other locations across the United States and Brazil that get affiliated with the closest priory group. Our pories generally meet once or twice a month, either in person and/or via Zoom video calls giving us community time together.

(By Sr. Susan Alice)



DESERT WISDOM
By Sr. Patricia Angela, AF



Giant Rock

*The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer,
my God, my rock in whom I take refuge,
Psalm 18:2*

Giant Rock is awesome. It looms 7 stories above the desert floor. It covers more than 5,000 sq. ft. It is a sacred place for the indigenous people of the area. It also has some history behind it. An alleged German spy excavated a 3 room home under the rock. Later, a man created a landing strip for UFOs at the site. People come and go, but the rock stands, a huge monolith dominating the landscape.

Then, in 2006, Giant Rock split in two. How could that happen? We have expressions in our language like “solid as a rock” and “sturdy as the Rock of Gibraltar”. Jesus told us to build our lives on the stability of a rock, not on the shifting sands. That Giant Rock would break asunder made me sad.

When it broke, it revealed a beautiful white granite core. I got to thinking about other scriptures and expressions. God tells us he will replace hearts of stone with hearts of flesh. God hardened the heart of Pharaoh. We also speak of a broken heart. Cracking open a hard heart is a good thing. When Giant Rock split, it revealed a core of beautiful white granite. When our own hardened hearts open, I wonder what beauty might shine forth. Maybe a broken heart, in spite of the pain, can bring forth healing and new life.

It took eons for Giant Rock to split. Millennia of fierce desert sun; wind-driven sand storms, freezing rain for that fissure to grow and crack open. Are you praying for a change of heart in yourself or someone else? When will that happen? In God’s time, not ours. God does not live by clock and calendar. He lives in the eternal Now. Be patient. His work on the human heart is as inexorable as on a granite rock. Both will yield.

Remember that Anamchara Fellowship, Inc. is a Non-Profit organization, and that donations are tax deductible. Though the individual members of the Fellowship do not personally profit from the donations, your generosity helps us continue to bring the Word and Love of God to others through an ever expanding ministry.

Contributions can be sent to:

Anamchara Fellowship
4142 Ogletown-Stanton Rd. #141
Newark, DE 19713

www.AnamcharaFellowship.org

I LIE DOWN THIS NIGHT

**I LIE down this night with God,
And God will lie down with me ;
I lie down this night with Christ,
And Christ will lie down with me ;
I lie down this night with Spirit,
And the Spirit will lie down with me
God and Christ and the Spirit
Be lying down with me.**

(From the Carmina Gadelica)