

PRESS RELEASE

To: P&D, Bishop's Bulletin

From: Benedictine Peace Center, Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, SD

Date: May 2, 2019

Certified as Spiritual Directors

At the close of their final residency, April 30 – May 2, 2019, three women received their certification as spiritual directors, celebrating the successful completion of the Spiritual Direction Ministry Formation Tutorial at the Benedictine Peace Center of Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, South Dakota. The newly certified spiritual directors are Sister Nancy Rose Gucwa OSB of Clyde, MO, Rev. Marta Wheeler of Omaha, NE, and Pam Bass, LCSW, also of Omaha, NE. They are the first graduates of this flexible two-year program, staffed by S. Jeanne Ranek, Director, and Ss. Doris Oberembt and Mary Jo Polak.



(Pictured from left to right are Rev. Marta Wheeler, S. Doris Oberembt, S. Jeanne Ranek, S. Nancy Rose Gucwa, S. Mary Jo Polak, and Pam Bass.)

(Pictured from left to right are Rev. Marta Wheeler, S. Doris Oberembt, S. Jeanne Ranek, S. Nancy Rose Gucwa, S.

The tutorial program, arranged in four segments, can be started at any time and may be spread over two years. Each of the four terms includes a two-day residency at the Benedictine peace Center in Yankton.

Academic and experiential components of the Spiritual Directors Ministry Formation Program included wisdom from Christian mystics, contemporary psychological insights, skills development for direction and a supervised practicum. Rooted in the monastic tradition, the program draws from a wide range of Christian writers from early and medieval Church through the 16th century Spanish mystics, John of the Cross, Teresa of Avila and Ignatius of Loyola, to more contemporary figures such as Thomas Merton.

More information on the program is available at www.yanktonbenedictines.org/spiritual-direction-ministry-formation-tutorial/ or by contacting program director, Sister Jeanne Ranek, OSB, PhD at jeanne.ranek@mtmc.edu.