

August 2008

Dear Sisters, Oblates and Friends,

With this letter we are asking you **to renew your BFP membership or to become a member** of BFP. Your membership gives us encouragement and your dues allow us to continue our activities here in Erie, to support many peace groups throughout the country and to join as co-sponsor of activities planned by other peace groups.

Erie Benedictines for Peace began in 1980 after Benedictines from around the United States spent a week in peaceful protest at the Pentagon—part of a year-long presence by various groups asking for an end to nuclear weapons.

BFP groups were organized in various US monasteries—Erie BFP has remained among the most active groups.



✚ BFP sponsors a **Take Back the Site Vigil** at the site of any murder in the city of Erie. The vigil is a simple prayer service during which we pray for the victim and the family and friends of the victim. We pray for the person accused of the crime and we **reclaim the site for nonviolence**. The vigils are powerful and very meaningful to the family and friends. **Four other groups have asked for our materials so they could begin the vigils in their areas.**



✚ Our **Good Friday Pilgrimage of Peace** was the 28th Annual Pilgrimage. For the past 4 years, the stations have been compiled by Oblate members of BFP—and Oblates have already volunteered for the 2009 and 2010 Pilgrimages.

✚ Erie BFP was privileged to host **John Dear, SJ** for a presentation in Erie April 3, 2008.

✚ Erie BFP is a member organization of the **Erie Peace Initiative** and is actively involved in its efforts to end the war in Iraq. At right, Sister Marcia Sigler and Oblate Marlene Trambley assemble signs...held by Sisters Marlene Bertke and Ellen Porter (front) and California Oblate Cheryl Baugh (rear) at a rally at the Federal Building.



✚ Our BFP **Peace Cranes** are still being used in peace vigils in the Erie area. At right, BFP member Mary Jo McEvoy from Detroit participated in a peace rally while visiting Erie.



✚ The **BFP banner** was carried on several occasions during the past year. Below, Sister Carolyn Gorny-Kopkowski and Oblates Barb Roseborough and Pam Mead carry the banner in the Martin Luther King, Jr. march in January... while at below right, Oblates Sheila McLaughlin and Sandy Sutton take part in a Veterans for Peace event in Meadville, PA.



✚ In response to several requests, BFP sold **t-shirts with this logo**. The endeavor was very well received.



We are deeply grateful for your support.

BFP Steering Committee
Marlene Bertke, Sheila McLaughlin, Mary Ellen Plumb,
Ellen Porter, Barb Roseborough, Marcia Sigler,
Cecilia Sullivan, Marlene Trambley