



THE SAINT VINCENT OBLATE NEWS
Saint Vincent Archabbey
300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650-2690

724-805-2291

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Please note registration forms for Oblate Day and for the October day of recollection on the colored insert.

**CHANGING FROM EVIL WAYS OF THE PAST
AND EMBRACING NEWNESS OF LIFE**

Dear Oblates, Oblate novices, and Friends,

This summer there is much new life in our monastic community. On the morning of July 9, five new novices were clothed with the monastic habit and took on new names. In the evening the four novices who had entered last year professed their first vows. Although we had no monks professing solemn vows this year, we now have thirteen “junior monks” (those in temporary vows), and most of these men are in their twenties and thirties. Also, during our intensive community meetings on July 8 and 9, we monks discussed a number of new situations in a new way. For us monks of the Archabbey it has been a time to remember that we who live in Christ are called to “newness of life” (Rom 6:4) and summoned by God to be “transformed by the renewal of [our minds]” (Rom 12:2).

All of us have realms where we prefer not to grow and change, even when God is calling us to move on. Several months ago my watch band disintegrated beyond repair. I thought of buying a new band, but I never found the opportunity to go shopping for one (partly because I really did not want to go out on such an errand). As a result, I learned to carry the face of the watch in my habit pocket and to take it out whenever I needed to know the time. Well, after not many weeks of living by this new habit, the watch itself stopped; so I firmly resolved to go out to buy a new battery as well as a new band. Alas, it turned out to be much cheaper to buy a whole new watch! When I first started wearing a watch on my wrist again, I found a part of me longing for the “old way” of keeping the watch in my pocket. I had become accustomed to taking out the watch only when I needed it, and it was beneficial that I was less tempted to check the time too often. Thus even a rather new habit became a familiar way of functioning which I was reluctant to cast off.

In some circumstances we are blessed to have other people to prod us forward to growth-filled change. Several months ago I felt the need to purchase some new viola music to expand my repertoire. After I performed the convenient task of ordering three volumes by phone, I had to pick up the music at a store in Latrobe. When I arrived home, I realized that one volume was not the one I had ordered; so I phoned the store again, and the clerk agreed to supply the correct volume in exchange. A couple of weeks later I had to drive to downtown Latrobe again to accomplish that

transaction. That time I was blessed to find a parking space almost right across from the music store, and there was still time in the meter. However, the space was located between two already parked cars, and I am not skilled at parallel parking. After several minutes of twisting the car into and out of the space, I felt that I had done my best and proceeded to walk over to the store. As I did so, a man some distance away kindly cried out, “Father, you had better get your car in closer. It’s sticking out too much!” Therefore, in embarrassment I tried and tried further to park the car correctly and finally managed to get it a bit closer to the curb. At that point I was so frustrated that I wondered why I had ever decided to order any music. Later, however, after I had calmed down, I learned several grace-filled lessons from the incident: (1) setting out to do something new inevitably involves trials, which must be borne patiently; (2) even at my age I was able to do “something new” by improving my underdeveloped ability to do parallel parking; and (3) I should be grateful for the concerned stranger who did not want to see the car – and me – in any danger. Such ordinary adversities of daily life can be wonderful occasions of growing in “newness of life”!

St. Benedict and the Church’s law require that monks profess vows of “stability, fidelity to monastic life, and obedience” (*RB* 58:17). The second vow, *conversatio morum* in Latin, is also translated in such various ways as “ongoing conversion according to a monastic manner of life” or “the perfection of charity in a monastic way of life.” The Latin phrase probably encompasses all these meanings and more. That vow, or promise in the case of Oblates, helps to keep us growing and changing through a life time of fidelity to the Gospel and the *Rule* as we seek to live out their values in growing charity in family and community. An Oblate or monk must never give up on growing and changing because Christ Himself beckons us to this ongoing conversion, often through disappointments and failures. Learning trustingly to leave behind things and ideas of the past and past ways of behaving is a key to this growth. The monk entering the community “is to be stripped of everything of his own that he is wearing and clothed in what belongs to the monastery” (*RB* 58:26). These new clothes, and often a new name, symbolize the newness of life in which the monk or Oblate is always to live. Our life is no longer ours, but Christ’s!

Every day, says St. Benedict, a monk is to confess his sins to God and “change from these evil ways in the future” (RB 4:57). His fellow monks challenge him to this daily conversion from self-will to self-emptying love through both encouragement and correction. The abbot is to help his monks move forward spiritually with a variety of techniques; in varying circumstances and with different individuals, he is to be “threatening and coaxing by turns, stern as a taskmaster [or] devoted and tender as only a father can be” (2:24). He and the other officials of the monastery assist the monks to discern the will of God, to “abandon their own will” (5:7), and to turn to God’s will as “they follow the voice of authority in their actions” (5:8). Sometimes authorities knowingly or unintentionally create “difficult, unfavorable, or even unjust conditions” in the community; in such situations “the faithful must endure everything, even contradiction, for the Lord’s sake” (7:38) and thus hasten to receive a “reward from God” (7:38), which includes the gift of spiritual growth that comes through adversity. The “seniors” (perhaps the deans) of the monastery have authority to warn twice privately any brother who is “found to be stubborn or disobedient or proud” or who “grumbles or in any way despises the holy rule and defies the orders of his seniors” (23:1). Such warnings are issued not to show disdain for the individual but to help him to amend and reform. In these and other instances the ongoing conversion of each monk is to be nurtured. The abbot and other officials are to “hate faults but love the brothers” (64:11); those in charge are “not [to] ... allow faults to flourish but rather ... prune them away with prudence and love as [they see] best for each individual” (64:14).

It might do well to note that the three Benedictine vows work together and, to some extent, overlap. Obedience and stability both support *conversatio morum*. Obedience tells us in which direction we are to change (not all change is positive growth!), and stability challenges us to accept the sufferings involved in change with patience and with rootedness in the Cross of Christ.

How, then, can we better nurture our commitment to *conversatio morum*? We might first be grateful for all the areas in which, at least for the present, we are not called to change. Too much change on too many fronts, as some of us well know, can render our lives a turbulent mess! I myself like my jobs in the monastery, and I have not been called to have a change of assignment for some years. Likewise, I am content with the monastic schedule, with my weekend ministries, with my generally good health, and (on the whole) with the community as it is, and I tend not to want these things to change in any major way. Yet at any moment I might be summoned, by obedience or by circumstance, to let go of any of these out of love for Christ and the Church. You or I might even be asked to embrace terminal illness or to die. If so, our

commitment to *conversatio morum* tells us to let go gracefully, to embrace the cross of painful change, and trust firmly that Our Lord will bring us to a genuine newness of life that is better than the life that we must relinquish, if only we faithfully welcome Him to accompany us on each step of the journey to life eternal.

Aside from occasions of major change and realms where change seems not to be demanded, conversion usually happens in small, quiet ways from day to day, especially in the ordinary decisions that we make. As part of Christian communities, we are to welcome people, circumstances, and events to transform us as God’s grace works through them. In particular, we are to open ourselves to others’ good advice and sometimes to seek out such counsel. Even when someone’s words irritate us, we are to realize that those words were allowed by God for a reason. If advice given is bad or irrelevant, then we can grow in humility by graciously accepting the person who offers it. (That, of course, does not rule out correcting someone lovingly when he or she needs to be corrected – not only so that we might feel relieved but, even more, so that the other might grow in virtue.)

After I had written a good part of this article, I had the blessing and the trial of undergoing double-hernia surgery. As a result, I have had to accept various restrictions, to change my daily habits in very significant ways, and to accept others’ advice about which medications to take, what to eat, how to sleep, how to stand and sit, and how (not) to climb stairs. In almost every instance I have come to recognize the advice as very good, but following it and changing long-ingrained habits has been hard! I must trust that all these challenges are helping me to embrace newness of life in Christ as I let go (at least temporarily) to past ways, those ways that are not helpful to recovery from surgery or, in the larger picture, to a life consecrated in obedience to God.

In addition to welcoming others and what they communicate to be instruments of ongoing conversion, we need to see that God sometimes calls each of us to help others to grow in Christ. Most of us have at least occasional, if not daily, opportunities to correct (lovingly), to encourage, to warn, to affirm, or to show compassionate concern and solidarity even when we do not feel like it. I am amazed how, on occasion, after I have uttered such words as, “How are you feeling?”, the other person launches into a ten-minute sharing of sorrows and joys. We can trust that such heartfelt outpouring and patient listening by the one who seeks to enter into the other’s situation will help the troubled person to see his or her circumstances as part of God’s loving plan and as part of a journey of ongoing conversion in the ways of the Gospel.

Let us rejoice, then, in the all the means God uses to help us to “hasten toward [our] heavenly home” (*RB* 73:8). The Church’s teaching, the Scriptures, the *Rule*, our friends and family, and those in Christian fellowship with us can all help us, as God permits or arranges, toward our goal to “change from ... evil ways” (4:48) to the ways that keep us on the path to holiness and help us to do all “out of love for Christ, good habit and delight in virtue” (7:69). More and more cleansed of vices and sins, we shall little by little reach the “loftier

summits of ... teachings and virtue” (73:9) set before us and thus be ready for the heavenly reward that “God has prepared for those who love Him” (4:77).

In the peace of Christ and Saint Benedict,

Fr. Donald S. Raila, O.S.B.,
Director of Oblates

A MESSAGE FROM ARCHABBOT DOUGLAS

July 16, 2010

Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Dear Oblates and Friends of Saint Vincent,

Greetings and warmest wishes from Brazil! As you know, one of the major apostolates of the Benedictine community of Saint Vincent Archabbey is our São Bento Priory in Vinhedo, which is located near São Paulo. I am here for my annual visitation of our community here. It is always an inspiration to see the deep faith and generous spirit within the community and among the Brazilian people.

Today the Benedictine community in Brazil operates a retreat center, which provides opportunities for growth in the spiritual life for both young and old, as well as for religious communities that use our facilities year round for retreats and spiritual conferences. The Siloé Retreat Center in Vinhedo has become well-known throughout Brazil. Inspired by the words of Saint Benedict, who encourages his monks to receive the guest as Christ himself, our Brazilian community is honored to provide hospitality, in the best Benedictine tradition, to thousands of people each year.

The community here has three postulants, who will be entering the novitiate in the coming months. A few weeks ago our community in Latrobe welcomed five new novices and witnessed the simple profession of vows of four monks, along with the renewal of vows of nine junior monks, four of whom will be ready for solemn vows next July. We are deeply grateful to God for the calling He gave to these young men and for the courageous “yes” which they, in turn, gave to God’s calling.

As these wonderful young monks continue their formation in the monastic way of life, I ask you please to remember them and our entire community in your prayers that we may persevere in our journey of faith so that “in all things God may be glorified.”

Through the intercession of our Holy Father Benedict, may God’s blessings be with you in great abundance.

Faithfully in Christ,

+Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B.
Archabbot of Saint Vincent

OBLATE DAY 2010 - September 26

All Oblates, Oblate novices, and their guests are welcome to attend Oblate Day on Sunday, September 26, from 9:00 A.M. to 6:30 P.M. The guest speaker will be Fr. Jacques Daley, O.S.B. See the registration form on the insert, and send in a completed form before September 20 if you plan to attend. Note that Mass will be offered in Mary, Mother of Wisdom Chapel at 10:30 A.M. Those who would like overnight accommodations should notify Fr. Donald in advance since guest rooms are limited. Be sure to indicate if you plan to be received as an Oblate novice or Oblate; if so, a completed application form is required.

OBLATE DAY OF RECOLLECTION - October 16, 2010

A day of recollection for Oblates, Oblate novices, and other interested persons will be held at the Archabbey on Saturday, October 16, from 8:30 A.M. to 6:30 P.M. **Registration will be on the first floor of Leander Hall from 8:30 to 9:00.** The day will include conferences by Fr. Boniface Hicks, O.S.B., who works for radio station WAOB and is on the faculty of St. Vincent College; Saturday-morning Mass; the opportunity for confession; Midday Prayer and Evening Prayer with the monastic community; and lunch and supper. The cost will be \$33.00 (or \$26.00 for lunch only); one may send a check with registration or pay on arrival. Those who cannot pay the full price can request a discount. Please send the registration form [see the flier] to Chris Karem by October 9.

OBLATE RETREATS, May 28-30 and June 4-6

Some 36 people, mostly Oblates and Oblate novices, attended this year's first retreat on Benedictine spirituality, entitled "Benedictine Spirituality in the Year of the Priest: Perspectives and Prospects on Ecclesial Life" and directed by Fr. Edward Mazich. Some 30 attended the second (and silent) retreat on Benedictine spirituality, entitled "Entering the Silence of Nazareth" and directed by Fr. Boniface Hicks. On May 29 the retreatants participated in the Mass of ordination of Fr. Bonaventure Curtis, O.S.B. Reprints of outlines of Fr. Edward's conferences are available. As for Fr. Boniface's conferences, there are recordings which could be sent by e-mail to those interested. In either case, contact the Oblate Office if you are interested.

At Oblation ceremonies at 3:15 P.M. on May 29 in St. Gregory Chapel, Fr. Donald received the following:

Oblates: **Barry J. (Nilus of Ancyra) Kraynack** of Drums, PA
Ronald A. (Anselm) Weleski of Butler, PA

Oblate novice: **Carol S. Massingill** of Johnstown, PA .

Dr. Kraynack is an alumnus of St. Vincent College. Also, the full Oblates who were present renewed their Oblation.

At Oblation ceremonies at 2:15 P.M. on June 5 in St. Gregory Chapel, Fr. invested

William Gratchic of Scottsdale, PA,

as an Oblate novice. Also, the full Oblates renewed their Oblation.

MEETING OF DEANERY REPRESENTATIVES, May 29

At 1:00 P.M. on May 29, representatives of Oblate deaneries met with Fr. Donald in the Brownfield Center. Attending were representatives from Annville, Butler, Carrolltown, Latrobe, the Niagara Area, Pittsburgh, and Williamsport. The group discussed what each deanery was doing at monthly meetings, what books might be used for discussion, and what resources should be available in each deanery.

BR. JEREMIAH TRAVELS SOUTH TO ENCOURAGE OBLATES AND PROMOTE OBLATE PROGRAM

From August 2 to 16, Br. Jeremiah Lange, assistant Director of Oblates, is traveling south along the east coast to make stops in various places to speak about our Oblate Program or to meet with already-existing groups of Oblates. He was planning to speak in Baltimore, Virginia Beach, Charleston, SC, Savannah, and Gainesville, FL. Please pray for the fruitfulness of this trip, which Br. Jeremiah so generously offered to make. By the way, Oblates who need to send e-mail messages to St. Vincent regarding Oblate business may send their messages to Br. Jeremiah at jeremiah.lange@email.stvincent.edu .

PRAYER CHAIN IN LATROBE AREA CONTINUES; NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME

The prayer chain for Oblates in the Latrobe/Greensburg/Ligonier/Jeanette areas which began on July 21, 2009, has continued faithfully each Tuesday evening at 6:30 P.M.. The process begins with requests made to the Oblate Office. Those interested in submitting prayer requests may phone the Oblate Office at 724-805-2291. **Those in the Latrobe area interested in joining the prayer chain, which is activated every Tuesday evening, may contact Oblate Anthony Sunseri at 724-832-8068. See also the flier attached to this newsletter.**

DEANERY HISTORIES

All 20 deaneries have submitted histories, and as of early August, Fr. Donald was still doing some editing. Hopefully, a booklet with all the entries may be available in September. Keep in touch with the Oblate Office about this.

JULY 10 – COMMEMORATION OF FEAST OF ST. BENEDICT

Oblates and their guests, some 45 people, participated in the Archabbey's celebration of the Feast of St. Benedict, Patriarch of Western Monasticism. Several of the Oblates arrived on July 9 and thus were able to witness the first profession at Evening Prayer of Benedictine monks Br. Romuald Duchesne, Br. Michael Rumpf, Br. Matthew Lambert, and Br. Isaac Haywiser. At the concelebrated Mass at 10:00 on July 10, Archabbot Douglas was the principal celebrant and homilist, and the Benedictine nuns of St. Emma Monastery in Greensburg were honored in light of their recently becoming an independent community.

During Oblation ceremonies at 2:30 in St. Gregory Chapel, Fr. Donald received the following:

Oblates: **Xavier (Dante) Bingham** of Newark, OH

Kevin (Walter) Capp of Erie PA

Patricia L. (Scholastica) Hoover of Ulysses, PA

Michael G. (John of the Cross) McDermott of Guelph, Ontario, Canada

Christine M. (Cecilia) Rossmiller of Donegal, PA

Susan E. (Mary Magdalene) Wykoff of Lock Haven, PA

Oblate novice: **Kathleen A. Brestensky** of New Kensington, PA .

After the Oblations the following Oblate jubilarians were honored: Pamela (Jennifer) Johnson – 25 years, Ann (Theresa) Riddle – 20 years, Anthony (Joseph) DeMarchi – 20 years, Brian (Benedict) Chisholm – 15 years, Roy (Andrew) McKenzie – 15 years, Mary Jane (Therese) Bohinc (5 years), Gregory (Gilbert) DeFloria – 5 years, Robert (Anselm) Kurland – 5 years. Also, some Oblates who had wished to come but who could not were honored in absentia: Marcia (Mary) Stoner – 20 years, Katherine O'Brien-Johnston – 20 years, Mary Lou (Cecilia) Bongiovi – 5 years, Margaret (Thérèse) Connor – 5 years, Lisa Beth Kayser – 5 years, Mary (Clare) Leftwich – 5 years, Don (Elizabeth) Lieberknecht – 5 years, Kathleen (Frances Benedicta) Lockhart – 5 years, Gabriele (Monica) Terrill (5 years). Some of the group also stayed for Evening Prayer in Mary, Mother of Wisdom Chapel and then for supper.

OBLATE BOARD OF ADVISORS – meetings on June 25 and August 27

The Oblate Board of Advisors met at the Archabbey on Friday, June 25. The eight members present finally chose a name for the Oblate newsletter, namely ***The Saint Vincent Oblate News***. We thank all those who submitted other suggestions, some of them very creative; some of these may be put to use for future Oblate publications. The group also discussed the possibility of a major (several-day) deanery representatives' meeting, the possibility of an Oblate blog, and the development of new deaneries. Anyone who has ideas to submit may contact the Oblate Office or Br. Jeremiah. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Friday, August 27, at 6:30 P.M. in Brownfield 203.

N.A.A.B.O.D. CONFERENCE AT ST. MEINRAD ARCHABBEY, JULY 1-6, 2011

The biennial meeting of the North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors will take place at St. Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad, Indiana, in 2011. Two Oblates from each participating monastery are invited to attend besides the Oblate director. One Oblate affiliated with St. Vincent Archabbey has already offered to attend, and we welcome another Oblate to come forth. The Oblate should be active in the affairs of his or her deanery so that the experience at the meeting will benefit others.

ITEMS AVAILABLE FROM THE OBLATE OFFICE

- (1) book *Life and Miracles of St. Benedict* - \$6.76 each, plus postage
- (2) pamphlet "God's Love for You" with subtle evangelization – free
- (3) large blessed medals of St. Benedict – for a donation
- (4) booklet *St. Benedict for Busy Parents* – \$.40 each
- (5) booklet of Oblates' reflections on verses of the *Rule* – free or with donation for postage
- (6) Br. Isidore's presentation "Holiness and Benedictine Spirituality" – single-spaced or double-spaced
- (7) booklets formerly used for Compline for events at St. Vincent Parish or (a different version) by Oblates in Latrobe for monthly meetings (a new version was printed in March, 2010)

BOOKS BY BENEDICTINE AUTHORS OR ON BENEDICTINE SPIRITUALITY AVAILABLE FROM THE BASILICA GIFT SHOP OR THE ST. VINCENT COLLEGE BOOK CENTER

Book Center: Fr. Thomas Acklin, O.S.B., 2 books on the priesthood; Fr. Demetrius Dumm, O.S.B., *Cherish Christ above All, Flowers in the Desert, Praying the Scriptures, A Mystical Portrait of Jesus, So We Do Not Lose Heart*; Fr. Mark Gruber, O.S.B., *Deep Calls unto Deep, Exalted in Glory, Thanksgiving and Praise, Waiting for Dawn, Sacrifice in the Desert*; also: *A Benedictine Handbook, A Good Life* by Robert Benson, *Around the Monastic Table* by Sr. Aquinata Böckmann, O.S.B.

Gift Shop: Br. Benedict Janecko, O.S.B., *The Psalms: Heartbeat of Life and Worship*; Br. Bruno Heisey, O.S.B., *St. Vincent Seminary from Its Origins to the Present*; Fr. Philip Kanfush, O.S.B., *Renewed Each Morning*; Fr. Demetrius, most of those in the book center; Fr. Thomas Acklin, same as in book center; Fr. Mark Gruber, *Waiting for Dawn, Exalted in Glory*; many books on Benedictine spirituality by various authors.

OBLATE LIBRARY

Oblates and Oblate novices are always welcome to borrow books from the Oblate Library in person or by mail. You may contact Fr. Donald for a list of books that are in the library. If you borrow a book when you are personally present, please make sure to sign a card, and please do not keep books out for more than six months. Note that most issues of the *American Benedictine Review* from the late 1960's are available in the library.

RECOMMENDED READING:

The following recommended books are in the Oblate Library:

- Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, O.F.M.Cap., *Obedience: The Authority of the Word* (tr. by Frances Lonergan Villa) (Boston, MA: St. Paul Books & Media, 1989)
- Abbot Jerome Kodell, O.S.B., *Don't Trust the Abbot: Musings from the Monastery* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2009)
- Abbot Jerome Kodell, O.S.B., *Life Lessons from the Monastery: Wisdom on Love, Prayer, Calling, & Commitment* (Ijamsville, MD: The Word Among Us Press, 2010)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS

Eucharistic adoration is being held on every Sunday from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. in St. Gregory Chapel. Oblates are encouraged to attend to pray for vocations to the religious life and the priesthood.

Also, there is Eucharistic adoration every Friday in St. Gregory Chapel from 8:15 A.M. to 3:45 P.M., with the Divine Mercy Chaplet prayed at 3:00 and Benediction at 3:30 P.M. There is an effort to make sure that there are people praying in the chapel at every hour or half-hour. **If you would like to be on a list of regular adorers or of substitutes, please phone the Oblate Office at 724-805-2291, or phone Andrea Galiardi at 724-925-3251.**

BENEDICTINE OBLATE PROGRAM ON RADIO WEDO, 810 AM

This program, hosted by Oblate John James of North Huntingdon, is broadcast from 8:45 A.M. to 9:00 A.M., Monday through Friday.

OBLATE MEETINGS IN LATROBE

Oblates from all locations are welcome to the monthly meetings of the Latrobe Deanery of Oblates at 6:45 P.M. in Brownfield Room 202 on Sundays. The next four meetings will be on August 15, September 19, October 17, and November 21. Also, presentations on Benedictine spirituality are given in the same room at 3:00 P.M. on the same days. Those wishing to pray Vespers with the monks at 5:00 and to have supper in the guest refectory should phone Fr. Donald (724-805-2291) a day or so in advance.

VOCATIONS VIDEO AVAILABLE

The Archabbey's Vocation Office recently produced a vocations DVD entitled "I Only Show You the Cross." If any of you know young men who are thinking about a vocation to the religious life and might benefit from the DVD, please contact the Oblate Office or the Vocation Office (724-532-6655).

OBLATES WELCOME TO JOIN SAINT VINCENT DEVELOPMENT CLUB

The Development Club, a fund-raising program begun by the Archabbey 44 years ago, assists in the funding of the community's various apostolates. One becomes a member by purchasing a 10-month ticket for \$10.00 a month (or \$100.00 paid in full). There are five cash prizes each day, Monday through Saturday, totaling \$514,700.00, with two St. Vincent College scholarships. Winners are based on the 4-digit Pennsylvania evening lottery. For more information, write to the Development Club Office at the Archabbey, or phone 724-805-2218.

REPORTS FROM SECOND WORLD CONGRESS OF OBLATES IN ROME, OCTOBER 2-10, 2009

Last October nine Oblates affiliated with the Archabbey attended the World Congress. Most of them have submitted reports, and they are available from the Oblate Office. Those who have not yet submitted written reports to the Oblate Office are urged to do so, so that the fruits of the World Congress may be shared with the whole Oblate community.

PRAYER INTENTIONS AND PERSONAL NOTES:

(omitted)

OBLATE CONDOLENCES: Let us pray for healing and strength for members of our Oblate Community who have lost loved ones as well as for the repose of the souls of the deceased:

- Oblate Robert O'Brien of Asheboro, NC, whose wife, Bessie Furr O'Brien, died on March 6
- Oblate Arleen Jupina of Jeannette, PA, whose father, Louis Kovacs, died on March 27
- Oblate Elaine Cournoyer of Prince Albert, Sask., Canada, whose father, Charles, died on May 31
- Oblate Charlotte Spino of Latrobe, PA, whose brother Lloyd Oesterling died on June 29
- Oblate Carl Eckels of Severna Park, MD, whose brother Philip P. Eckels died on July 25 .

OBLATE DEATHS: Let us pray that the recently deceased members of our Oblate Community attain the fullness of life with Christ and all the saints:

- 7 Jun 2007 – Robert J. Biedenbach of Zanesville, OH (Oblate since June, 1983; transferred to St. Vincent in March, 1993)
- 23 Mar 2010 – Mary Elizabeth (Ellen) Panza of Gibsonia, PA (originally Vandergrift; Oblate since Oct. 2, 1994)
- 29 Apr 2010 – Christine (Frances) Auvdel of Johnstown, PA (Oblate since March 21, 1987)
- 22 May 2010 – Genevieve (Gertrude) Paduano of Williamsport, PA (Oblate since May 24, 1968)
- 13 Jun 2010 – Anna (Stella Marie) Newell of Jeannette, PA (Oblate since March 21, 1990)
- 27 Jun 2010 – Thomas J. (Benedict) Claybaugh, Sr., of Monongahela, PA (Oblate since Aug. 5, 1961)
- 5 Jul 2010 – Josephine (Daniel) Hoffman of McHenry, IL (formerly Vandergrift, PA; Oblate since April 10, 1964).

NEWS FROM OBLATE DEANERIES

Albion, PA (St. Paul Deanery) -- *monthly meetings at chapel in Albion*

Moderator Ralph DeCecco wrote on August 3. At the meeting on July 31, Oblate Joseph Hartdegen gave an excellent lesson on faith. Two inquirers attended and subsequently completed applications.

Back on February 6,

Michael (Jerome) Sullivan of Albion, PA, made his final Oblation in the presence of Deacon Ralph, Msgr. James Peterson (the celebrant), and others who were attendance at the Saturday-evening Mass.

Annville, PA (St. Placid Deanery) -- *meetings at 3 P.M. on 4th Sunday of each month, St. Paul the Apostle Church, Annville*

Secretary Gabrielle Terrill wrote on May 2, May 29, and July 7. The meeting on April 25, attended by 11 people, began with Evening Prayer and continued with a discussion of humility led by Oblates Phil Reemes and Mary Ann Bingeman. They spoke about the image of a 12-step ladder to humility and touched on the themes of recognition of one's faults, forgiveness of others, utter dependence on God's grace, gentleness of speech, witness, and the Sacrament of Penance.

Eight people attended the meeting on May 16. After Evening Prayer the group discussed the topic "Is Catholicism still relevant?" and listened to a C.D. by Matthew Kelly entitled "The Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality." (Oblate John Meridionale had brought the C.D., which is published by Lighthouse Catholic Media, with website www.lighthousecatholicmedia.org).

During Vespers before the meeting on June 27, Fr. John invested the following as Oblate novices:

Judith Lackovic of Mechanicsburg, PA

Tanishia Sperling of Lebanon, PA.

Then the group of eight, along with Fr. John, reflected on the growth of the deanery and the possibility of having some meetings in Mechanicsburg. Fr. John spoke about his sabbatical, including his pilgrimage to Santiago De Compostela in Spain and his stay at St. Michael's Abbey in Metten, Bavaria, the mother house of St. Vincent Archabbey.

Asheboro, NC (St. Joseph / St. Gabriel Deanery)

Lay leader Robert O'Brien reported on June 8. At the meeting on May 22, at Lillian Hazelwood's home, three Oblates, one Oblate novice, and one inquirer were present. After an opening prayer the group discussed *RB* 40-44 and how those regulations helped to prevent chaos in the monasteries of St. Benedict's day and how they can be applied today to help to create peace and order in our communities. The group also discussed how to publicize the Oblate Program in St. Joseph Parish, which has about 800 families. The meeting closed with the Liturgy of the Hours and a Litany of St. Benedict.

Baltimore, MD (St. Walburga Deanery) -- meetings at 3:00-4:30 on 3rd Sun. of month, parish house, St. Benedict Church

Oblate novice James Wells reported on June 14. The meeting on June 13 was led by Fr. Paschal Morlino, moderator, and attended by 12 others. First, Fr. Paschal reflected on Jubilarian Day (June 13) at the Archabbey. During the Mass Fr. Paschal was honored for his 50 years in monastic vows, and a number of Oblates and others from Baltimore had attended the event. Then he read an article "Building a Monastery of the Heart," written by a woman who stayed for some time at Mount St. Scholastica in Kansas. The lessons that she learned included *conversatio morum* and the precept, "Keep death before you daily." Then during Vespers at St. Benedict Church ceremonies were held during which Fr. Paschal received the following:

Oblate: **Bonnie (Therese) Bezila** of Ellicott City, MD

Oblate novice: **Deborah L. Shoup** of Columbia, MD.

Bonnie is the wife of Oblate **Joseph Bezila**.

Butler, PA (St. Hildegard Deanery) -- monthly meetings at St. Fidelis Church, generally the 3rd Thurs. of month

Lay leader Ethel Galli wrote on June 26 and July 23. The meeting on May 27 began with the praying of Vespers. Then Oblate novice Jean Schweikart gave a presentation from the chapter "Listening" in *The Path of Life*. It was emphasized that God is speaking to us all times and in all circumstances. We are to spend time with the Father in prayer as Jesus did. In *lectio divina* we listen with the ear of the heart and with an attitude of quiet confidence, docility, and receptivity.

At the meeting on June 24, after the praying of Vespers, Oblate Ron Weleski spoke about his recent retreat at the Archabbey and his joy at becoming a full Oblate. Then Fr. Anthony Grossi, O.S.B., spoke about *RB* 48 and the motto "prayer and work." He noted that the primary task of the monks is the "Opus Dei" (Liturgy of the Hours) and referred to the diversity of gifts and the various jobs of the monks at the Archabbey, with the assignments prayerfully chosen by the abbot.

At the meeting on July 22, after the praying of Vespers, Ethel gave a presentation on the chapter "Prayer" from *The Path of Life*, with a description of prayer as the highest activity of which human beings are capable. Those present then spoke about their experiences of prayer.

Carrolltown, PA (Sacred Heart Deanery) -- monthly meetings at St. Benedict Church, in the church and/or a meeting room. No report was given.

Chincoteague Island, VA (Our Lady of Guadalupe Deanery) -- monthly meetings at St. Andrew Church.

Lay leader Mary Hoffken wrote on July 11. At the meeting on March 23, attended by Fr. Paschal Kneip and eight Oblates, Mary gave a basic presentation about the Divine Office. She explained the difference between *Shorter Christian Prayer* and the four-volume *Liturgy of the Hours*, suggested the use of the *Saint Joseph Guide*, and referred to the *The Divine Office for Dodos* as a possibly helpful resource. The meeting ended with Evening Prayer.

Very few attended the meeting on April 20 because of bad weather. The meeting included an invocation to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a discussion, and Evening Prayer. Fr. Paschal's absence made it difficult for the group to meet during the summer.

Johnstown, PA (St. John Gualbert Deanery) -- meetings on 2nd Monday of each month, 6:30 P.M., St. Benedict Church

Lay leader Carl Motter wrote on May 5 and June 16. At the meeting on May 3, Msgr. Michael Becker, moderator, celebrated Mass for the Oblates, during which the 22 Oblates present renewed their Oblation. The Mass was followed by a social gathering with refreshments.

At the meeting on June 14, a group gathered only for Evening Prayer since both Msgr. Becker and Mike Russo were away on retreat. Copies of *A Blessed Life*, by Wil Derkse, were distributed for discussion at future meetings.

Latrobe, PA (St. Gregory the Great Deanery) -- meetings usually on 3rd Sunday of month, 6:45 P.M., Brownfield 202

On May 16 some 20 people joined Fr. Donald for a continuing discussion based on *The Life and Miracles of St. Benedict*. They pondered the entrance of Maurus and Placid into the monastery at Subiaco (and thus the phenomenon of claustral Oblates) and three of the four miracles at Subiaco. It was shown that every incident has some connection to the *Holy Rule* and also conveys a spiritual lesson to the reader beyond the mere facts.

On June 13 the 18 or so attendees discussed from *Life and Miracles* the story of Maurus' saving Placid from drowning and the incidents related to the jealous priest Florentius. St. Benedict's grief over his enemy's death was held up as an example for emulation.

Before Compline in the Archabbey Basilica.

Celeste Pileggi of Charleroi, PA,

made her final Oblation in the presence of Fr. Donald and the others who were gathered for the meeting.

On July 18 a relatively small group of some 15 people discussed further incidents from *Life and Miracles*, Chapter 8. There was some reflection on the connection between St. Benedict's miracles and the Paschal mystery, the zealous preaching by St. Benedict and his monks, and the tactics of discouragement used by the Devil after the move to Montecassino.

Lessons in Latrobe at 3:00 P.M. before Oblate Meetings

On May 16 Br. Bruno gave a presentation entitled "Historical Perspectives on the Rule" to about 17 attendees. He referred largely to the historian Daniel J. Boorstin and his trilogy *Discoveries, Creators, and Seekers*. Although not a Christian, Boorstin had great admiration for St. Benedict and saw great value in Benedictine encouragement of learning, the nurturing of Gregorian chant, and the seeking of "spiritual adventure" with the help of the vow of stability.

On June 13 Br. Jeremiah gave a presentation entitled "Asceticism" to about 13 attendees. He stated that asceticism had been defined in many ways; one helpful definition might be "voluntary, sustained, and at least partially systematic self-denial for the sake of greater union with God." Asceticism can be linked with the terms self-denial, renunciation, abstinence, self-chosen limitations, and delayed gratification for the sake of a greater spiritual good. The spiritual dimension is essential and should be integrated with any physical practices. In a historical overview Br. Jeremiah pointed out how the first Christians undergoing persecution had a natural asceticism simply to live as Christians. As Christianity became more acceptable, especially in the fourth century, many people entered monastic life to counteract the loss of "spiritual edge" by many Christians. In any case, Our Lord in the Gospels and St. Paul in his letters frequently call for asceticism in Christian discipleship. We today can see and practice asceticism as freeing the soul for prayer and as being a positive factor in our lives that can open us to a more sincere relationship with God.

On July 18 Fr. Andrew made a presentation "Obedience in Benedictine Spirituality" to an overflow crowd of some 28 people. He reflected on *RB* 5, *RB* 68, and obedience in the context of Christ's Cross and offered some predispositions to obedience, especially in monastic life. Our obedience is a loving response to Christ, who first became obedient to us and to the Father out of love for us. Our attitude of total surrender in obedience can be expressed in the prayer, "I want to do what You want me to do the way You want me to do it for as long as You want me to do it because You want me to do it."

Minersville, PA (St. Malachy Deanery) – *monthly meetings at the chapel in Minersville*

No report was given.

Niagara Area, Ontario, Canada (St. Henry/St. Gertrude Deanery) -- *meetings on 4th Friday, meeting room of St. Thomas Aquinas Church, St. Catharines, Ont.*

Lay leader Brian Chisholm wrote on May 29 and called on July 30, and Secretary Trudy Bretzler wrote on July 26. The meeting in May was moved back by a week, to May 21, so that Oblates could attend the retreat at the Archabbey on May 28-30. The thirteen people who attended participated in Evening Prayer, a rosary, and the Litany of St. Benedict before a business meeting. Fr. Francis Hubilla, O.S.B., moderator, said that he would offer a Mass for newly re-elected Archabbot Douglas in behalf of the deanery. Fr. Francis then led a discussion on the process of electing an abbot and then reflected on the Mass readings for Sunday, May 16.

At the meeting on June 25, fifteen people were present. After Evening Prayer Brian spoke about plans for the 50th anniversary of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in 2011. It was suggested that each Oblate of the deanery contribute \$25.00 toward the celebrations and that the deanery sponsor a talk on the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Then Fr. Francis encouraged the deanery to participate in the anniversary celebrations, suggested that the Oblates might wear a modified cuculla, and urged Oblates to absorb the culture of the Benedictine Order, to visit the Archabbey each year, and to know and live their faith. Also, a prayer list and a summary of the Oblate retreat at the Archabbey were distributed. The meeting ended with prayer, a blessing, and the singing of "Salve Regina."

The small number who attended the meeting on July 23 went to Brian's house after the devotions in church. Brian showed a videotape from the events at St. Vincent on July 10.

Pittsburgh, PA (St. Peter Deanery) -- *meetings on 2nd or 3rd Wed., Our Lady Queen of Peace Worship Site.*

On June 26, during the charismatic retreat at the Archabbey,
Dorothy (Eugenia) Degonish of Pittsburgh, PA, and
Patricia (Monica) Kammersell of Pittsburgh, PA,

made their final Oblation before Fr. Donald and the other retreatants present in St. Gregory Chapel. Several other Oblates were present and renewed their Oblation.

Lay leader James Perini reported by e-mail on July 6 and 12. Ten people attended the meeting on June 16, during which a study of *Introduction to the Devout Life* continued. The topics discussed were the dignity and holiness of Christian marriage and the struggle to combat ordinary temptations. The Oblates cited examples of good Christian marriage. On July 14 the Oblates held their annual picnic in the park next to St. Peter Church. Attendees were asked to bring covered dishes.

St. Marys, PA (St. Maurus Deanery) -- meetings on Thurs. before 1st Fri. of month, 7:00 P.M.

Lay leader Peggi Gabler wrote on May 10 and July 8. On March 4 at Queen of the World Church, Fr. Michael Ferrick, moderator, invested as Oblate novices

E. Ann Brennan of St. Marys, PA, and
Gerald Brennan of St. Marys, PA.

Gerry and Ann are husband and wife.

The first deanery meeting for 2010 was held on May 5. Seven people joined Fr. Michael. After the praying of "Hail Holy Queen," lay leader Ben Hoffman welcomed Gerry and Ann as Oblate novices. Then Fr. Michael gave a short talk on the Gospel of the day. Ben read *RB* 33 on private ownership, and there was some discussion about the value of monks' having very few possessions. Mary Lynn Nicklas spoke further about her experiences at the World Congress last October. The Oblates present then renewed their promises in the presence of Fr. Michael before a closing prayer.

St. Marys, PA (continued)

There was no meeting in June because of conflicting activities. The meeting on July 1 began with Vespers and Benediction. Nine people attended. An inquirer was given introductory materials, and copies of the "Ultima" and other music were distributed. There was reading of *RB* 24:1-7 on the "degrees of excommunication." This and several other matters were discussed before the closing prayer.

Saint Vincent College – monthly meetings during the school year, usually in Mary, Mother of Wisdom Chapel
(No report is expected during the summer.)

Savannah, GA -- special monthly events at Sunday Vespers at Benedictine Priory

In a letter sent to the Oblate community on May 27, moderator Fr. Ronald Gatman, O.S.B., summarized the Oblate events of the past season. In September there was an opening Mass in the priory chapel followed by a covered-dish supper. In October Dr. Joseph Bator, who teaches at Benedictine Military School, gave a presentation at Vespers that was both informative and spiritual. In November there was another gathering for Mass. In January Fr. Jude Brady, came down from Pennsylvania to make a presentation at Vespers on the vow of *conversatio morum*, which involves continual growth in virtue. At the next meeting, Fr. Jeffrey Nyardy celebrated Mass and delivered a memorable homily.

Near the end of April the Oblates gathered for a day of recollection, during which Oblate Mike Williams gave a talk on *RB* 37, concerning the elderly and children, with reflections on Mike's own experiences as a husband and father. On the same day Fr. Ronald offered a talk on "Equanimity," involving balance and moderation in all things. The day also included confessions, Sunday Mass and supper.

Fr. Ronald and the Oblate Council were "hoping to offer more of the same and better this coming year."

Scranton, PA (St. Boniface/St. Lioba Deanery) -- monthly meetings on 3rd Fri. at Immaculate Conception Church

On May 21 meeting was held with Br. Jeremiah and Fr. Donald visiting from the Archabbey. Some 25 people came to 5:00 Vespers and Benediction at the adoration chapel at Immaculate Conception Church, and most of those stayed for the meeting at 6:00. After the serving of refreshments, Fr. Donald began by explaining the Oblate Program since most of the attendees were not Oblates. Then he gave a presentation "Obedience as a Pleasing Sacrifice to God," and Br. Jeremiah spoke about obedience and his visit to Catholic inmates at Coal Township earlier that day. The group finally reflected on ways to promote the Oblate Program in the parishes in Scranton. Br. Jeremiah offered to give talks at parishes that would be interested.

Lay leader Gretchen Meyers wrote on June 23 and July 24. At the meeting in June, the three people who attended continued the discussion from the meeting in April.

The meeting scheduled for July was canceled because Gretchen was ill. Rev. August ("Gus") Ricciardi of St. Joseph Church in Matamoras, PA, has agreed to serve as the deanery's moderator.

Southern Pines, NC (St. Ephrem the Syrian Deanery) – monthly meetings on 2nd Thurs. of month

Secretary Laura Lowder sent a report by e-mail on August 3. During May the group decided that getting together just once a month was not enough; so a "potluck fellowship" on the fourth Thursday of each month was planned, with no program but just food and conversation. The first supper, in June, attracted five people, and four came in July.

Three people attended the meeting on June 17. First they prayed Evening Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours, led by Deacon Stephen Dozier, and then they discussed the fourth and fifth sections of *RB 7*, on humility. The conversation was deep and enjoyable.

Three people also attended the meeting on July 8. After the praying of Vespers, the group continued and concluded the discussion of humility from the *Rule*.

Also, the deanery has been planning ways to get the word out in the community about their presence. They plan to put together some brochures and a cover letter to be sent to area priests, especially the three or four who are involved in spiritual direction, with an invitation to participate in the Oblate meetings and to tell their congregations about the Oblates. An informational meeting will also probably be held in August or September. Laura has also been sending out e-mail notices to all deanery members and to about 25 other people in the area (about a 65-mile radius) concerning the forthcoming meeting and fellowship potluck.

State College, PA (St. Joseph Deanery) -- meetings on 2nd Monday of each month, Benedictine residence.

Secretary Ashley Leggett wrote on May 11 and June 13. The meeting on May 10 was attended by 11 people and led by lay leader Laura Schneider. After Evening Prayer the group planned their final meeting of the season for June 12. Laura announced that she was stepping down as lay leader. **We are grateful for her many years of service in that capacity.** The group then discussed behavior, dress and attitudes during Mass on the basis of the November, 2009, Oblate newsletter. Various experiences and situations were discussed. Regret was expressed for the loss of silence, formal dress, and other forms of reverence. There was agreement on the need to set good example as the best way to move toward proper standards. The meeting closed with the "Ultima" and prayers of intercession and thanksgiving.

State College, PA (continued)

The closing meeting for the season on June 12 began with Mass at Our Lady of Victory Church and continued with brunch at a restaurant. Those attending were seven Oblates, three Oblate novices, two spouses, and Fr. David Griffin, O.S.B., moderator. The group was also pondering which book to study for the 2010-11 series of meetings.

Virginia Beach, VA (St. Scholastica Deanery) -- meetings on 1st Wed., 7 P.M., Computer Library, St. Gregory the Great School

Lay leader Dee Pauls wrote on May 7, June 11, and July 11. At the meeting on May 5, the Oblates joined the parish's Filipino community for devotions to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, followed by a Mass of St. Benedict, with readings and a homily connected with the election of an archabbot. Then in the meeting room Fr. Cristiano, moderator, led a discussion based on *RB 64* and the abbatial election at the Archabbey. Because of the great interest, the discussion lasted longer than usual.

Br. Michael Antonacci, a junior monk who was doing a pastoral internship at St. Gregory the Great Parish, led the meeting on June 2. After an opening prayer Br. Michael spoke about faith and prayer, with references to passages in the *Rule* that deal with prayer. He also led the eight Oblates present to speak about situations in life in which faith played an important role. Then Fr. Cristiano came in and spoke about the re-election of Archabbot Douglas.

Seven people joined Fr. Cristiano for the meeting on July 7. Fr. Cristiano spoke about the Gospels from the previous two Sundays, about apostles and disciples, and about the great cost of discipleship. The group then proceeded to the church's chapel, where Fr. Cristiano invested

John Dooley of Virginia Beach, VA,
as an Oblate novice. The meeting ended with Night Prayer.

Williamsport, PA (Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus Deanery) -- meetings on last Sunday of each month, 1 P.M., St. Joseph the Worker (Mater Dolorosa) Church, meeting room in former school

On May 20 a meeting was held with Br. Jeremiah and Fr. Donald visiting from the Archabbey. Four Oblates and one inquirer attended. Fr. Donald gave a presentation "Obedience as a Pleasing Sacrifice to God," and Br. Jeremiah added some reflections. The group also spoke of ways to publicize the Oblate Program in the Williamsport area and Br. Jeremiah expressed willingness to speak at Masses in the fall.

Various Locations

On May 19 at St. Gertrude Church in Vandergrift, PA, Fr. James Loew, O.S.B., pastor, invested **Nicholas R. Pityk** of West Leechburg, PA,
as an Oblate novice. Nick is a graduate student at St. Vincent College.

On June 12 at St. Lawrence Church in Riegelsville, PA, Rev. Gavin M. Muir, pastor, invested **Thomas J. Trotter III** of Riegelsville, PA,
as an Oblate novice.

On June 19 at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada,
Elaine K. (Juliana) Cournoyer of Prince Albert, Sask.,

made her final Oblation in the presence of Rev. Maurice Fiolleau, who is rector of the cathedral.

On July 15 Deacon Rue Thompson, chaplain, invested

Michael T. Pope of St. Marys, WV,

as an Oblate novice in the chapel at St. Marys, WV.

On July 24, during the four-day men's retreat at the Archabbey, Fr. Donald invested

James P Pennell of Beaufort, SC,

as an Oblate novice.

SICK & INFIRM MONKS: The following monks of the Archabbey have been hospitalized or otherwise seriously ill or infirm over the past three months and could use the Oblates' prayers: Fr. Demetrius Dumm, Br. Patrick Lacey, Fr. Lee Yoakam, Fr. Paul Rubadue.

DECEASED MONKS

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Fr. Conan Feigh, who died on June 4 at the age of 79, and of Fr. Alvin Downey, who died on June 13 at the age of 67. Fr. Conan served as the moderator of the Oblates in State College for a number of years.

OVERDUE OR MISSING LIBRARY BOOKS AND TAPES: PLEASE RESPOND!

During the past year a number of books from the Oblate Library have been found to be missing, presumably because people withdrew them without signing them out. Others were admittedly lost by their borrowers. **Please check your bookshelves to see if you have any of the missing books.** Also, if anyone would like to donate a copy of any of the lost books, such a donation would be welcome.

- St. Bernard of Clairvaux, *Selected Works*
- Roberta C. Bondi, *To Pray and to Love*
- Rev. William Burk, *Protect Us from All Anxiety: Meditations for the Depressed*
- Rozanne Elder (ed.), *The Contemplative Path: Reflections on Recovering a Lost Tradition*
- Fr. André Gozier, O.S.B., *Fifteen Days of Prayer with Saint Benedict*
- Rev. Bernard Head, *Blessed Marmion: A 21st-Century Appreciation* (pamphlet)
- Fr. Terrence G. Kardong, O.S.B., *Day by Day with Saint Benedict*
- Fr. Thomas Keating, O.C.S.O., *Intimacy with God*
- Fr. George A. Maloney, S.J., *The Jesus Prayer* (pamphlet)
- John Moschos, *The Spiritual Meadow*
- Susan Annette Muto, *Meditation in Motion*
- Fr. Guy-Marie Oury, O.S.B., *A Monastic Pilgrimage: Following the Footsteps of St. Benedict*
- Abbot David Parry, O.S.B., *Household of God*
- Basil M. Pennington, O.C.S.O., *Lectio Divina: Renewing the Ancient Practice*
- Pseudo Macarius, *The Fifty Spiritual Homilies and the Great Letter*
- Fr. Michael Scanlon, O.F.M., *Let the Fire Fall*

Cassette Tapes and Compact Disks:

- Esther de Waal, *Seeking God* (3 tapes)
- Sr. Jean Francis Dolan, O.S.B., "Group *Lectio*," from 1995 NAABOD meeting
- Msgr. Francis Mannion, "Holy Dwelling: Monastic Stability in an Unstable Culture"
- Sr. Anne McCarthy, O.S.B., presentation on AIM meeting, from 1995 NAABOD meeting
- *Preaching Today*: "Guarding Human Life"
- Janet F. Smith, "Is Pre-Marital Sex Wrong?"
- Fr. Columba Stewart, O.S.B., "Formation in Benedictine Spirituality," from 2001 NAABOD meeting
- Christopher West, "John Paul II's Theology of the Human Body"

SCHEDULE FOR OBLATE DAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2010

- 9:00 A.M. - 10:20 - Registration & get-together, Faculty Dining Room (Placid A) (no registration during Mass)
- 10:30 A.M. - Mass for participants, Mary, Mother of Wisdom Chapel (college chapel in Carey Center)
- 11:40 A.M. - Midday Prayer, Placid Hall, Room B
- 11:55 P.M. - Lunch, Placid Hall, Room B
- 1:00 P.M. - Basilica Gift Shop open (also all morning)
- 1:45 P.M. - Oblation ceremonies, basilica
- 2:15 P.M. - Confessions, basilica
- 3:00 P.M. - Social with the monastic community, Assembly Room
- 3:45 P.M. - Presentation by Fr. Jacques Daley, O.S.B., Assembly Room
- 5:00 P.M. - Evening Prayer with the monastic community, basilica
- 5:35 P.M. - Supper, Placid Hall, Room B
- 6:45 P.M. - Departure.

Registration Form for Oblate Day, September 26, 2010

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____

- I plan to attend Oblate Day on Sept. 20 at St. Vincent.
- (number of reservations) for lunch at \$5.50 each (money enclosed).
- (number of reservations) for supper at \$6.50 each (money enclosed).

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

(Please make out checks to St. Vincent Archabbey.)

- I plan to be received as an Oblate (application required for those invested after 1/1/96);
I wish to take _____ as an Oblate name.
- I wish to be received as an Oblate novice (application required).
- I would like overnight accommodations for ___ Sept. 25, ___ Sept. 26. (Please contact Fr. Donald several weeks in advance.)

Please send this form to Mrs. Christine Karem, 2012 Souli St., Greensburg, PA 15601 (phone: 724-216-5830), and not to the Oblate Office. Please mail in this form by September 20.

Schedule for Oblate Day of Recollection, October 16, 2010, Fr. Boniface Hicks, O.S.B.

- 8:30 A.M. Registration, Leander Hall
- 9:00 A.M. First conference, St. Gregory Chapel
- 9:30-10:10 Confessions, Leander parlor and near-by office
- 10:15 A.M. Mass, St. Gregory Chapel
- 11:30 A.M. Midday Prayer, St. Gregory Chapel
- 11:45 A.M. Lunch, Placid Dining Room B
- 1:00 P.M. Second conference, St. Gregory Chapel
- 1:30 P.M. Oblation ceremonies, St. Gregory Chapel
- 3:30 P.M. Third conference, St. Gregory Chapel
- 5:00 P.M. Evening Prayer, St. Gregory Chapel
- 5:35 P.M. Supper, Placid Dining Room B

Registration Form for Oblate Day of Recollection, October 16, 2010

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____

- I plan to attend Oblate day of recollection on Oct. 16 at St. Vincent.
- Enclosed is the fee of \$33.00 (or \$26.00 for only one meal).

(Please make out checks to St. Vincent Archabbey; please make out separate checks for the day of recollection and Oblate Day if you are attending both. Thank you!)

- I would like overnight accommodations for ___ Oct. 15, ___ Oct. 16 (Please contact Fr. Donald several weeks in advance.)

Please send this form to Mrs. Christine Karem, 2012 Souli St., Greensburg, PA 15601 (phone: 724-216-5830) and not to the Oblate Office. Please mail in this form by October 10.

Notice of Books Written by Oblate Phillip L. Engle of Greensburg, PA

Phil Engle has written a few books that might be of interest to Oblates:

SCAPEGOAT THEOLOGY and the Problem of Violence both presents and critiques the theories of René Girard. It also discusses issues relating to the problem of human violence from a Christian perspective, including anarchism, pacifism, self-defense, and the just-war theory.

WORLDVIEWS broadly surveys both the scientific worldview and the teleological (religious) worldview. It ends with a more detailed consideration of both ethics and meta-ethics, following in the path blazed by Alasdair MacIntyre in his great work *After Virtue*.

EVOLUTION: A Catechism is a “catechism” of biological evolution. **Part 1** lists the basic *facts of evolution*. **Part 2** discusses competing *theories* of evolution. **Part 3** discusses Robert F. DeHaan’s theory of *macrodevelopment*, which in my opinion is the *true* theory of evolution.

You may obtain these books from www.laurelhighlandsmidia.com. PDF copies are free. An EPUB copy of *EVOLUTION: A Catechism* is also free. Finally, you can purchase paperback copies of these books via this website.

Form for those in Latrobe/ Greensburg/ Ligonier/ Jeannette area interested in phone prayer chain

I would like to be part of the prayer chain that meets by phone about 6:30 P.M. every Tuesday to pray for the needs of the Oblate community and others who ask for our prayers. My information is as follows:

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ e-mail address _____

Please send this information to **Anthony Sunseri, Janyce Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601**, or phone Anthony at 724-832-0868.

Letter of Thanks from Florida for Greeting Cards Sent to Prisoners

June 23, 2010

Dear Fr. Donald and my beloved fellow Oblates,

What a blessing you all are to so many men that you will never know personally, nor will they ever know you. That's where the true charity is. Since I know that all of you are avid Bible readers, you know these verses from Matthew:

“And He will place the sheep at His right hand, but the goats at His left. Then the King will say to those at His right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry, and you gave me food; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger, and you welcomed me; I was naked, and you clothed me; I was sick, and you visited me; I was in prison, and you came to me.’ ... Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of my brethren, you did it to me” (Matt 25: 33-36 & 40).

Also:

“Thus when you give alms, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you” (Matt 6:2-4).

The above are two of my favorite passages from St. Matthew's Gospel, both dealing with helping the less fortunate and the rewards promised by Jesus to those who serve unselfishly. The cards you've sent us are equivalent to your storing up treasures in heaven. “As you did to one of the least of my brethren, that you did unto Me.” What an assuring statement! It is, I believe, being said by Jesus to you fine people who have helped these forgotten men. Yes, most are guilty career criminals, murderers, rapists, addicts, and thieves. But all are children of God, just lost and unable to realize that they are children of God. Yet there also are a great number who have see the light and are real Christians.

So on their behalf I thank you and ask God to bless you all abundantly. Each time we have Mass, I will ask for God's blessings upon all the good people affiliated with St. Vincent Archabbey. Thank you!

Love always in Christ,
Your brother in Benedict,
John Anderson
Pax Christi

