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**THE SAINT VINCENT OBLATE NEWS**  
**Saint Vincent Archabbey**  
**300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650-2690**  
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February - April, 2011

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Please note forms on flier for renewal of Oblation, for celebration on March 21, and for 2011 *Directory*.

**ACCOMPLISHING WHAT WE CANNOT DO ALONE:**  
**“LET EVERYONE RECEIVE HELP” (RB 35:4)**

Dear Oblates, Oblate Novices, and Friends,

We live in a society of many imbalances, one of which involves work. Large numbers of people are unemployed or underemployed. Other people are overworked, sometimes because others have been laid off and leave additional burdens behind for the remaining employees. People without sufficient work or income may be tempted to become discouraged and murmur. Those with too much work can likewise be tempted to lose heart and grumble. What do the *Holy Rule* and Benedictine monastic life have to say in response to such a dilemma?

Without attempting to solve our society’s employment problems, one might make the simple but effective response to the problems of excessive work or lack of work in the precept, “Ask for help when it is needed; offer help when one can give it.” Offering help and accepting help, beyond practical benefits, serve to build up community. In some situations foreseen by the *Rule*, human help might not be available, and then one must simply “[trust] in God’s help” (RB 68:5) and obey a superior’s command to take up a difficult task. On some occasions, however, we may display a certain slavery to stubborn individualism and fail to ask for help that might be available. I remember a television ad from about 50 years ago in which a woman who was overwhelmed with some task was offered help; instead of accepting the offer, she replied angrily, “I’d rather do it myself!” My sister and I found her stubborn assertion rather humorous, and indeed she was probably made to look rather foolish in order to sell whatever product was involved. Nonetheless, we might do well to ask ourselves whether in some situations we refuse to accept help out of a prideful sense of self-sufficiency.

Asking for help and providing help can create bonds among people. Some months ago when I was helping to clean up after supper in our monastic refectory, a roll of plastic wrap became torn and entangled – and effectively useless. I tried again and again to untangle the mess, but it seemed only to grow worse. Not wishing to waste more time, I showed the box of plastic wrap to

the employee on duty. She, too, struggled with the tangled plastic without success. Then she said, “Let’s look for Sue. She’s a real expert in this!” By the grace of God, Sue was found quickly, and she was able to untangle the roll of plastic in a relatively short time. What a blessing! Months later the other employee and I recalled the incident with joy. It was not just a matter of untangling a roll of plastic wrap; it was an occasion of communal cooperation, exchange of life, and mutual formation as we learned to depend more on others and on God, who works through simple, ordinary problems to help us to give glory to Him.

Reflecting on this one incident, I am reminded of other instances in which I have been helped graciously. All of these, I am sure, have been given to me to help to form me in the way of greater gratitude, greater trust in God, and greater cooperation with others in the work of daily life. I am grateful for the sister of one of our Oblates who has consistently typed about half of this newsletter for several years. I am grateful for the Oblate who has volunteered her time and resources to sew together hundreds of scapulars. (I can’t imagine myself attempting to sew even one!) I am grateful for the novices, vocation guests, and Oblate volunteers who have painstakingly taped in corrections, by the hundreds, to our liturgical books. I try to be grateful even when I am not really seeking help and yet am offered help anyway and then must search for something for someone to do. The little tasks that I manage to find apparently bring joy to those who are helping and joy to me in accepting an unexpected offer on short notice. I am grateful for the novices who helped me to move boxes of liturgical music out of the old crypt storage area about two years ago and for those who helped to move boxes back to a newly renovated area this past year. I am grateful for the novice monk who helped me move into the new Oblate Office in 2006 when I was feeling utterly discouraged over all the boxes in disarray on the floor. I am grateful for the monk, surely supplied by God, who on a Sunday last winter drove with me to a relatively distant church; he thus was able to visit his ailing mother, and I was spared the extreme anxiety of driving on a busy interstate highway through darkness and

snow. I am grateful for the monk who drove me and guided me to the papal Mass in Washington in 2008; the graces of that pilgrimage are more than I can count! I am grateful for Br. Jeremiah's regular assistance, especially with e-mail business (I am very glad not to have e-mail!) and with his traveling to visit groups of Oblates and potential Oblates over distances that would be impossible challenges to me. I am grateful for those who, after my surgery last summer, helped to wheel me into choir, put on my socks (because I couldn't bend over for ten days or so), told me to drink ginger ale (despite my doubts), gave me other caring advice, or offered me a device which enabled me to put on my socks on my own. I hope I shall never forget these occasions of grace-filled help, these "sacramental" events in which God came to my assistance through human instruments. Perhaps we can all benefit from putting together such litanies of gratitude for help received on various occasions. We can also be grateful for the many instances in which we were summoned to help.

The *Rule* of St. Benedict indicates how, in many ordinary situations, giving help and receiving help not only provide relief from distress but also bring everyone involved closer to God. St. Benedict writes about such practical help particularly in Chapter 35, on the "Kitchen Servers of the Week." It begins with the simple but powerful statement, "The brothers should serve one another" (35:1) and continues with the practical precept, "No one will be excused from kitchen service unless . . ." (35:1). "Such service," asserts St. Benedict, "increases reward and fosters love" (35:2); that is, it builds up a community in the love of Christ and enables us to imitate Christ in His own humble service, the supreme example of which is his foot-washing at the Last Supper (Jn 13:1-17). All the officials of the monastery are called to serve. The abbot has the difficult tasks of "directing souls and serving a variety of temperaments" (2:31) and of "[helping] others to amend by his warnings" (2:40). The goal of the abbot "must be profit for the monks, not preeminence for himself" (64:8). Deans of the monastery are to "take care of their groups of ten" (21:2). The cellarer is to "show every care and concern for the sick, children, guests and the poor" (31:9) and to "provide the brothers their allotted amount of food without delay" (31:16); in a large community "he should be given helpers" (31:17). The sick monks are to be "served out of honor for God" (36:4) and "patiently borne with, because serving them leads to a greater reward" (36:5). The reader for the week is to serve skillfully and humbly; he needs the community's prayers "so that God may shield him from the spirit of vanity" (38:2). At the Work of God, "No one should presume to read or sing unless he is able to benefit the hearers" (47:3). Guests are to be served with special Christ-like consideration; "the abbot and the entire community shall wash their feet" (53:13).

The porter is to be attentive and hospitable to visitors, who "will always find him [at the door] to answer them" (66:2); he is to respond to their needs with "a prompt answer and with the warmth of love" (66:4). To assist him in serving visitors well, "the porter [should] be given one of the younger brothers if he needs help" (66:5). All the monks are to build up a community of mutual love in Christ by "earnestly competing in obedience to one another" (72:5).

It is interesting that St. Benedict, who so often condemns murmuring, or grumbling, as a fault to be avoided at all costs, nonetheless warns authorities against giving monks reasons for "justifiable murmuring." Regarding kitchen duty, if the two brothers regularly assigned have too much work, "additional help should be available when needed, so that they can perform this service without grumbling" (33:18). The cellarer needs to provide the other monks "their allotted amount of food without any pride or delay, lest they be led astray" (31:16), apparently through the temptation to murmur. The lack of adequate, timely food can lead to monks' becoming upset and discouraged, and it would be very difficult not to murmur under such circumstances. Likewise the abbot has a responsibility to "regulate and arrange all matters that souls may be saved and the brothers may go about their activities without justifiable grumbling" (41:5). This statement appears in the context of arranging times for monks' meals. Once again, insufficient food and/or too much fasting can pave the way for grumbling. Serving one another with consideration for real needs and sensitivities can nurture an atmosphere of Christ-centered peace, which goes along with joy, praise, and thanksgiving.

How can all of us, Oblates and monks, better offer and receive help in the name of Christ? For one thing, we might consider whether we resist opportunities to give or receive help. Perhaps a sense of rugged individualism keeps us from receiving help even when we really could use it. It may be that we are fearful of feeling that we owe others something. It may be that we have problems with accepting free, gracious gifts from God, especially through another human being. If so, let us ask for the grace to overcome such obstacles and thus to learn to receive graciously! As potential givers, we may find excuses not to give. We may fear giving up time and other activities to be involved with another person's needs. We may not especially like a particular person (or group of people) who seem to need help. We may be afraid of not giving adequately and thus disappointing those in need. Perhaps we may feel that a given task is beneath our dignity. (No charitable task is, in fact, too humble for us.) If we are really called to help, then we must pray for the grace to help in the name of Christ without fear or worry. He will give us the courage and the strength that we need, whether we fail or succeed

from a human perspective!

As a potential receiver of help, how can I be truly open to God's will in my act of receiving? I can nurture gratitude for whatever is given, even if it is not totally to my liking. I ought to express my gratitude as a way to acknowledge a precious relationship that goes beyond any given exchange. I must recognize that the help ultimately comes from God our Savior and that receiving His assistance brings me into deeper fellowship with Him. St. Benedict reproves those who stubbornly refuse to receive food or drink offered by a superior: "If anyone is offered something by a superior and refuses it, then, if he later wants what he refused or anything else, he should receive nothing at all until he has made appropriate amends" (RB 44:19). Of course, there may be times when it would not be right to receive help or the offer of a gift. If I discern that to be the case, then I must learn to say "No" with graciousness, courtesy, and genuine appreciation for the person who makes the offer. On the other hand, we must remember that Christ Himself often received help, most notably from Simon the Cyrenian as He carried His cross.

As a potential giver of help, how can I give more generously and ungrudgingly? I need to give not because I may feel good about the effort or because I gain some tangible reward but because I am pleasing God, who calls me to give, and because my offer of help builds up community. My act of giving should not be "cringing or sluggish or half-hearted, but free from any grumbling or any reaction of unwillingness" (RB 5:14). As best I can, I need to put on the mind of Christ. I need to show the person assisted that I really care and am willing to go beyond mere duty. My giving should be an act of heartfelt love. On the other hand, there may be times when I cannot or should not help. I may already be overextended or too exhausted mentally or physically. In other words, it may be God's will in a given situation that I am not the one called to help. If this is so, I can still "offer a kind word in reply" (RB 31:13) and indicate that I would like to help if I could; I can pray that the

requester's need be satisfied according to God's will.

In sum, in the process of offering or receiving help, there is far more than meets the eye. When we request help, we acknowledge our dependence on God and other people to fulfill our duties in life as well as to survive. We are called to resist the tendency to assert, "I'd rather do it myself!" In our neediness and inadequacy, we are being taught to receive all good things that come to us as treasured gifts from God and to dispose ourselves more and more to welcome every grace that He has in store for us. Furthermore, in the person of the one who helps we encounter Christ and grow in communion with Him. When we are summoned to offer help, we are reminded that God has given us time, energy, and material things not to hoard for our own advantage but to serve others. When we serve in harmony with God's will, we grow in a spirit of obedience, and we are doing Christ's work in this world. This is truly an honor and a privilege! Furthermore, we encounter Christ in the persons served. We are told that we meet Christ "more particularly" in "poor people and pilgrims" (RB 53:15) because they can give us nothing in return; in cases of helping such utterly needy people, we should rejoice in the opportunity to give for the sake of God alone. Such giving is an act of faith! Of course, there is a very substantial reward beyond our imagining. All whom we seek to serve "are to be welcomed as Christ, for He Himself will say: 'I was a stranger and you welcomed Me'" (RB 53:1, quoting Mt 25:35). The prospect of endless glory with Our Lord and all the saints surely must be sufficient motivation for us to give generously (and receive gratefully) in the name of Christ!

In the peace of Christ and Saint Benedict,

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

### **RENEWAL OF OBLATION AND KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THE ARCHABBEY**

All Oblates who do not have the occasion to renew their Oblation at St. Vincent or with local deaneries are encouraged to make their renewals privately on or about the Solemnity of Saint Benedict, March 21 this year, and to send a completed renewal form (see the flier) to the Oblate Office. It is helpful to know of your ongoing, active interest in the Oblate Program and your personal growth in Benedictine spirituality. Those wishing to make donations may write out checks to ST. VINCENT ARCHABBEY. (Now that the Oblate Office is dependent on donations for its operation [except for photocopies], donations are especially helpful.)

Also, if you are an Oblate novice who is not involved in a deanery and have not contacted the Archabbey for several years, please use the renewal form to express your interest in the Oblate Program. In particular, if you have been an Oblate novice for over a year, please remember that you are eligible to become a full Oblate if you fulfill the requirements in II.E of the *Oblate Formation Booklet*. In any case, it would be good to know if we can help you in any way on your journey as an Oblate / Oblate novice. Also, if you are no longer interested in the Oblate Program and do not wish to receive the newsletter, this might be a good opportunity to let us know your intention. If you are genuinely interested in

continuing your pursuit of an Oblate vocation, please do renew your Oblation in a living, faith-enhancing way!

**A MESSAGE FROM ARCHABBOT DOUGLAS**

Lent, 2011

Dear Oblates and Friends of Saint Vincent,

Pope Benedict speaks of Lent as a privileged time of interior pilgrimage toward God – the Font of mercy and forgiveness. It is Jesus Himself who accompanies us through the desert of our own poverty – poverty of pride, self-centeredness, indifference, loneliness, violence – to the Font of God’s mercy.

We begin the season of Lent with a cross of ashes traced on our foreheads as a reminder *not only* of our inevitable death – “Remember that you are dust” – *but also* of a pledge of resurrection. We would hardly want to be signed with a cross of hopelessness and despair, simply to be reminded that we are going to die. Rather, the ashes remind us that it is through death that we come to life – eternal life. Through Jesus Christ the ashes of death become transformed to resurrected life. St. Paul reminds us, “We were indeed buried with Christ through baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead, we too might live in newness of life” (Romans 6:4).

May the coming days of Lent truly be a privileged time of interior pilgrimage as we follow the way Christ has shown us.

Sincerely in Christ,

Archabbot Douglas

**THE SOLEMNITY OF ST. BENEDICT AT THE ARCHABBEY ON MARCH 21, 2011**

Oblates from all areas are welcome to join Oblates of the Latrobe (St. Gregory) Deanery on **Monday, March 21**, to celebrate the Solemnity of the Passing of Our Holy Father Benedict with the monastic community and other guests. The schedule includes concelebrated Mass at 4:00 P.M., supper at 5:30 P.M. (in Placid B), Oblation ceremonies at 6:30 P.M. (in the basilica), Evening Prayer with the monastic community at 7:30 P.M., and a social at 8:05 P.M. (in the parish Assembly Room). Members of the Oblate community and their guests who wish to attend should fill out the form on the flier and send it to Chris Karem by March 15. The cost of the supper is \$6.50. Checks should be made out to ST. VINCENT ARCHABBEY, and reservations should be made in advance so that we can plan for the right number of people.

**OBLATE DAY 2011 ON SEPTEMBER 25; DAY OF RECOLLECTION ON OCTOBER 15**

This year's Oblate Day will be Sunday, September 25. Oblate Deacon Michael Russo is scheduled to be the guest speaker. The fall day of recollection is scheduled for Saturday, October 15.

**“OBLATE RETREATS,” MAY 20-22 and JUNE 3-5, 2011**

Oblates and others interested in Benedictine spirituality are invited to participate in either (or both) of this year's two “Benedictine” retreats. Fr. Maurus will direct the retreat from Friday, May 20, to Sunday, May 22, entitled “Keep Death Daily before Your Eyes,” and Fr. Donald will direct the retreat from Friday, June 3, to Sunday, June 5, entitled “Humility: A Necessary Ingredient on the Journey to Holiness.” The latter will be a silent retreat. **Note that both of these retreats will be based on Benedictine spirituality.** All those on the Oblate mailing list should have received a listing of retreats, but if you need a brochure, contact the Oblate Office. Registration (and all other special arrangements) should be done through the St. Vincent Retreat Program, and not through the Oblate Office.

**PLEASE CHECK BOOKSHELVES FOR BOOKS MISSING FROM OBLATE LIBRARY**

Despite efforts to check books out only through a librarian at Oblate meetings in Latrobe, some books continue to “walk away.” Please review the list of lost and missing books at the end of this newsletter, and see if you might have any of them on your bookshelves. Thank you! Also, some people have had books out for unreasonably long periods of time – up to seven years. If you are one of these people, please return borrowed books promptly! It is uncharitable to prevent other

people from using these books.

### **OBLATES RECEIVE 10% DISCOUNT AT BASILICA GIFT SHOP**

If you are shopping at the Basilica Gift Shop and are an Oblate or an Oblate novice, mention your affiliation with the Oblate community to the volunteers at the shop, and you will receive a 10% discount on your purchases.

### **MENTORING PROGRAM: THOSE WHO DESIRE MENTORS OR WHO WISH TO MENTOR**

Please contact the Oblate Office if you are an inquirer or an Oblate novice (or even an Oblate) who would like to have an Oblate to help you on your journey in Benedictine spirituality. Likewise let us know if you are willing to volunteer to serve as a mentor; if you do volunteer, you will receive a packet of information to assist you in your ministry. **Right now we are in special need of mentors; several people have requested mentors, and we do not have any more volunteers to serve in this way.**

### **OBLATE BOARD OF ADVISORS: Meeting on January 14**

The Oblate Board of Advisors met on Friday, January 14, with four Oblates joining Br. Jeremiah and Fr. Donald. (Other members were ill or had family commitments.) The group had a fruitful discussion about the new Oblate web site, about a possible Oblates' Ongoing Formation Committee, about a possible Retreat Committee (to plan retreats or days of recollection at the outlying deaneries), and about potential new deaneries in Danville and/or Selinsgrove, Utica (N.Y.), and Vandergrift. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 15, at 6:30 P.M. Representatives of deaneries outside Latrobe are welcome. **Suggestions for the potential Ongoing Formation and Retreat committees are welcome.**

### **PHOTOGRAPHS OF OBLATE EVENTS DESIRED**

Oblate Joyce Collins of West Newton, a member of the Board of Advisors, has been assembling a photograph album of pictures of Oblate events that the Oblate Office has accumulated over the years. For some reason no photographs previous to 2002 have been found. If any Oblates have photographs of past Oblate events, especially before 2002, and are willing to donate them to the Oblate Office, please send them to us, preferably with dates and names of the people in the photographs.

### **DIRECTORY OF OBLATES: PREPARING FOR THIS SUMMER'S REVISION**

If any Oblate or Oblate novice who was listed in the 2009 *Directory* wishes to report a change of address, phone number, or e-mail address, please contact Chris Karem. Likewise, if you are not included in the 2009 *Directory* but wish to be included in this summer's revision, please send to Chris the information that you wish to be published. The *Directory* is revised about every two years, and copies are sent only to those who wish to participate. For security reasons copies of the *Directory* are not sent to prisons. The next revision is to be issued this summer. Chris' e-mail address is:

[ckarem@comcast.net](mailto:ckarem@comcast.net) .

One can also write to Chris at Mrs. Christine Karem, 2012 Souli St., Greensburg, PA 15601.

### **RECOMMENDED READING** (*The books listed are available in the Oblate Library.*)

- Pope Benedict XVI, *Church Fathers and Teachers: From Saint Leo the Great to Peter Lombard* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2010) – includes chapters on St. Benedict and Pope St. Gregory the Great
- Fr. Tadeusz Dajczer, *The Mystery of Faith: Meditations on the Eucharist* (Brewster, MA: Paraclete Press, 2009)

### **NEW BOOKS ON BENEDICTINE SPIRITUALITY**

- Sister Jeremy Hall, O.S.B., *Silence, Solitude, Simplicity: A Hermit's Love Affair with a Noisy, Crowded, and Complicated World* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2007)
- Philip Zaleski, *A Guide to Making a Contemplative Weekend Retreat* (Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2009)

**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. Also, homilies on Benedictine spirituality from the radio station are now available on the web site [wedoradio@comcast.net](mailto:wedoradio@comcast.net) . One may also access these homilies at [www.frdonald.wedo810.com](http://www.frdonald.wedo810.com). John James has made this service available, and we thank him for his generosity.

## **OBLATE MEETINGS IN LATROBE**

Oblates from all locations are welcome to the monthly meetings of the Latrobe Deanery of Oblates, mostly at 6:45 P.M. in seminary classroom Brownfield 202 on Sundays. The next four meetings will be on February 20, March 13, April 17, and May 15. Those wishing to come early for Evening Prayer (at 5:00) and supper before the meetings at St. Vincent should phone Fr. Donald in advance at (724) 805-2291. Classes on Benedictine spirituality will continue to be offered at 3:00 P.M. on the same dates. On February 20, Br. Jeremiah will offer a teaching on "*Lectio Divina*"; on March 13, Fr. Edward Mazich a teaching on "St. Benedict and His *Rule*"; and on April 17, Fr. Jude a presentation on "Obedience in Benedictine Spirituality."

## **ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS**

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed every Sunday from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. in St. Gregory Chapel. Oblates are urged to use these times for Eucharistic adoration, if possible, especially on the Sundays of Oblate classes and meetings, to pray for vocations, and especially for vocations to the Archabbey.

## **SUGGESTED LENTEN PROJECTS FOR 2011**

It is suggested that the Oblates and Oblate novices affiliated with St. Vincent Archabbey rededicate themselves to the regular praying of the Liturgy of the Hours (as much as their schedules allow) and the regular practice (ideally daily) of *lectio divina*. The undertaking of good spiritual reading in the place of less beneficial activities is also recommended.

## **COPIES OF *St. Benedict and St. Thérèse* TO BE MAILED OUT SOON**

Over 40 copies of this book, which will be used by the Latrobe (St. Gregory the Great) Deanery in future meetings, have been requested. They were ordered about January 18, and they should be mailed out (or given out) soon. Fr. Donald needs some volunteers to help with the mailing.

## **NEW OBLATE WEBSITE**

Saint Vincent's Oblate Program, which formerly had a web site connected with the national Oblate web site administered by St. John's Abbey, now has its own web site connected with our own Archabbey. The address is: <http://www.svaoblates.org>. Br. Jeremiah is trying to keep the web site updated weekly with relevant information.

## **BR. JEREMIAH MAY BE CONTACTED BY E-MAIL**

For those of you who prefer to use e-mail, Br. Jeremiah Lange, O.S.B., the assistant Oblate director, may be contacted at the Oblate Office's e-mail address: [svaoblates@email.stvincent.edu](mailto:svaoblates@email.stvincent.edu). Br. Jeremiah will try to respond as best he can or give the messages to Fr. Donald. Both of us have much other work to do; so we cannot guarantee a quick response. Please be patient with us.

## **CONFERENCES ON *LECTIO DIVINA*: "Make My Word Your Home"**

Audio CD's and a DVD data disk of conferences on *lectio divina* from Worth Abbey in Sussex, England, in 2009 are available for \$95.00 from a U.S. distributor, namely Tom Kostrzewa, 8050 Ashare Court, Clarkston, MI 48346-1153, or [TomKay4834@AOL.COM](mailto:TomKay4834@AOL.COM), with website <http://www.p3p.org>. The package includes talks by five speakers, including Fr. Michael Casey, O.C.S.O. If anyone wants an order form with more information, please contact the Oblate Office.

## **DONATIONS WELCOME TOWARD BASILICA GALLERY ORGAN CAMPAIGN**

Enclosed with this newsletter is a brochure describing the Saint Vincent Archabbey Basilica Organ Campaign. A new pipe organ for the apse was installed over a year ago, but we still do not have a pipe organ for the nave (main body) of the basilica. Please be as generous as you can to support this massive project to enhance the music in our majestic basilica.

## **NEWS FROM OBLATE DEANERIES**

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

Moderator Deacon Ralph DeCecco reported on January 29. There were regular meetings on November 27 and January 29, during which the groups reflected on the values of obedience and humility from the *Rule*. Two inquirers attended the meeting in January and may be applying.

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

Lay leader Gabriele Terrill reported by e-mail on November 9, December 4, and January 26. Thirteen people joined Fr. John Peck, moderator, for the meeting on October 24. After Evening Prayer Oblate Mary Ann Bingeman reported about the day of recollection at the Archabbey on October 16, and she distributed copies of *Oblate Deanery Histories*. Then there was some discussion about the lack of moral upbringing for many of today's youth; many do not believe anything, live by instant gratification, and think they can do everything without God. "However, with God there is always hope," and some communities of young Christians are springing up in parts of the world. The group then read *RB* 4:44-77. Gabriele reported, "It is a chapter we should read often; the more we think about it and do it, the more natural it becomes...Never give up hope! With Christ there is always hope."

At the meeting on November 21, Fr. John and the 11 other attendees prayed Evening Prayer and then discussed an article by Abbot John Klassen of St. John's Abbey, which Fr. John distributed. It concerned the *Rule* and environmental stewardship, with emphasis on the importance of humility, stability, and frugality in a life of good stewardship. The comments called for opposing our consumeristic culture and generating ideas on changing our environment for the better with the help of the *Rule*.

Thirteen members came together for the meeting on January 16. After Vespers the group read from Chapter 2 of Fr. Michael Casey's book on humility. They discussed the statements "humility is grounded in truth," "we are not divine," "we are creatures," "we are sinners," and "we are stalled human beings." In sum, at all stages of spiritual growth, we need God's help, and humility is what inclines us to accept it.

### **Asheboro, NC (St. Joseph / St. Gabriel Deanery)** -- *meetings at Lillian Hazelwood's home, 4<sup>th</sup> Sat. of month*

Lay leader Doris Blase wrote on December 21. There was no meeting in December since the fourth Saturday was Christmas Day. There was some concern about the leadership of the deanery and about the pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Fr. Christopher Davis, who has been very ill.

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

Secretary James Wells reported by e-mail on November 22 and January 17. At the meeting on November 21, attended by about 12 people in addition to Fr. Paschal Morlino, moderator, Fr. Paschal began by distributing copies of the *Oblate Deanery Histories* and describing the contents. Then he offered some reflections on "being present to the moment," on Advent, on Thanksgiving, and on the Solemnity of Christ the King. To help the Oblates to live in the spirit of Advent, copies of the booklet *Advent Prayer with Henri J. M. Nouwen* were given to all the attendees. Then the group went to the church for about 45 minutes for Eucharistic adoration, after which the Oblates and a number of parishioners prayed Vespers, which concluded with Benediction.

About 12 people joined Fr. Paschal for the meeting on January 16. He gave a lesson on hospitality, with reference to *RB* 53 and Scripture (in particular the response of Abraham and Sarah to three divine visitors and the response of our Blessed Mother to the angel Gabriel). Fr. Paschal also reflected on some personal experiences of calls to hospitality and commented, "Christ doesn't always come well-dressed." The attendees were also given three questions for later personal reflection. The dates March 20 and August 14 were mentioned as times for Oblation ceremonies; those preparing for investiture or final Oblation were urged to complete their applications well in advance. Then there was a post-Christmas social with food brought by each person.

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

Lay leader Ethel Galli wrote on January 2. No meeting was held during November because of bad weather. The meeting on December 14 was held at Panera Bread's meeting room since other activities needed the usual space in the church. First, Ethel led a discussion on a talk entitled "Reparation and the Purification of Hearts" by Fr. David Paulson. It involved God's plan of salvation, the need to offer prayers and sacrifices for others' conversion, and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Next Ethel gave an overview of Chapters 2-5 of *Seeking God* by Esther DeWaal. Finally, she presented the group with a paper by Fr. Scott Seethaler on the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

**Carrolltown, PA (Sacred Heart Deanery)** -- monthly meetings at St. Benedict Church, in the church and/or a meeting room, on Sunday evenings at 6:00.

Lay leader Mary Catherine Hoover wrote on December 1. The meeting on November 21 began at 6:00 with Evening Prayer. Then Fr. Jude, moderator, led a discussion of *RB 1*, on the “four kinds of monks.” Fr. Jude gave an explanation of each type, and there were many comments and questions. Two inquirers expressed interest in becoming Oblate novices in January. The deanery did not meet in December because of all the busyness in the parish.

**Charleston, SC** – monthly meetings at Cathedral of St. John the Baptist: Vespers in upper church, 6:30, meeting in cathedral hall at 7:00.

Lay leader Marsha Boles reported by e-mail on February 1. The meeting on November 16 began with Vespers led by Marsha. Nine people, including two Oblates, attended. The group discussed various business issues, decided to have an Advent party on December 21, and resolved to keep meeting each Tuesday at 6:30 P.M. for Vespers. Then they discussed Lesson 3, “Conversion of Heart” from the standard 10 lessons. The meeting closed with Compline.

The Advent party was well-attended. It was preceded with Vespers and closed with Compline.

The meeting on January 18, as usual, began with Vespers and closed with Compline. The meeting was rather relaxed since Marsha was recovering from laryngitis. After a time of socializing the group read the Prologue of the *Rule* and meditated on what it meant to them. The group looked forward to the meeting scheduled for February 15, at which Rev. Gregory Wilson, moderator, was to make a presentation “Praying the Liturgy of the Hours according to the Benedictine Tradition.”

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

Lay leader Mary Hoffken wrote on December 12. Meetings were scheduled for September and October but only Mary and Fr. Paschal Kneip, moderator, attended. Other Oblates attended a rescheduled meeting in September.

On November 27, instead of a regular meeting, Oblates attended a Vespers service with Benediction following a 5:00 Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Christ the King. The Oblates were prayerfully concerned about their moderator, Fr. Paschal, who had to return to the Archabbey in December because of pneumonia.

**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 November 17 and January 19. The meeting on November 15 consisted of Evening Prayer and a discussion of Chapter 1 of *A Blessed Life* by Will Derkse. Leading the discussion, Deacon Mike Russo, moderator, spoke about the three vows of stability, *conversatio morum* (“change of lifestyle”), and obedience and reflected on the gradual nature of growth into a serious commitment to the vows.

The meeting scheduled for December had to be cancelled because of bad weather. The meeting on January 17 began with Vespers and continued with Deacon Mike’s leading a discussion based on the chapter “Reticence and Silence” from *A Blessed Life*. The exchange focused on the increased noisiness and reduced reverence in churches and the need to *make* quiet time for oneself. There was an announcement of the deaths of two Oblates and of the mother of an Oblate novice.

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

Small groups of Oblates gathered for wake services, first for deceased Oblate novice Margaret Janecko on October 19 and then for deceased Oblate Maria Nave on November 14.

At the meeting on November 21, attended by over 20 people, several business items were discussed, and there was a brief music practice for Compline. Then Oblate Joyce Collins gave a short presentation about her participation in the planning session at the Abbey of Montserrat, Spain, for the 2013 World Congress of Oblates. Then the group continued its discussion of *Life and Miracles of St. Benedict*. Chapters 17-20 were covered, with emphasis on the dangers of attachments, murmuring, and pride. In the Archabbey Basilica, before the praying of Compline,

**Julie A. (Therese) Feight** of Bedford, PA,

made her final Oblation in the presence Fr. Donald, her parents, and the others who were assembled.

The meeting on December 19 drew only about 12 people, perhaps because of the cold weather and/or preparations for Christmas. Still the group had some lively discussion over Chapters 20-23 of *Life and Miracles*, which largely concern St. Benedict’s prophetic gifts. Among the topics discussed were humility, murmuring, trust, and intercession for the dead.

Perhaps it was unusually sunny, snow-free weather that drew over 20 people to the meeting on January 16. The group discussed Chapters 24-29 of *Life and Miracles*, and orders for a new book were taken. There was some discussion about providence, trust, and steadfastness in one’s vocation.



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

On November 21 Fr. Thomas More Sikora gave a very thorough presentation on the Liturgy of the Hours. He emphasized that the Office is not a private form of prayer but the “voice of the Church” to God. The three purposes of the Hours, he asserted, are to give glory to God, to pray in intercession, and to sanctify time. After reflecting on the roles of the hymns, the psalms, and the readings, Fr. Thomas More spent sometime speaking about Vigils and commenting that praying the Office is “hard work.” The large audience of some 24 asked many questions after the lesson.

On December 19 Fr. Jean-Luc Zadroga gave a presentation on “Prayer in Benedictine Spirituality.” He began with some reflections on the Blessed Virgin Mary as the model for all Christian prayer, and he showed, through the liturgical seasons, how she is always bringing us to Christ. Then Fr. Jean-Luc reflected on passages from the Prologue of the *Rule* that refer to proper dispositions for prayer, especially the need to listen and to develop a consciousness of God’s presence always and everywhere. Finally, he spoke about the roles of listening and talking in prayer and the understanding of prayer as “the willingness to conform to what God wants.”

Almost 24 people attended Fr. Chad’s presentation on “The Spirit of Hospitality and Dialogue” on January 16. Quoting from *RB* 53, he emphasized the fundamental premise that every person has God-given dignity and that people are not a commodity. Fr. Chad then cited references to hospitality in the Old and New Testaments, including Abraham’s greeting of three strangers, Christ’s multiplication of loaves, and His table fellowship with sinners. Christian hospitality involves self-emptying and communion because it is part of the Paschal mystery. Finally, Fr. Chad addressed the “spirituality of conversation.” Conversation and dialogue, he said, are essential to hospitality as dimensions of engaging with another person; this involves attention, receptivity, and acceptance amid differences and disagreements.

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

Lay leader William Sedoma wrote on November 12, December 7, January 9, and January 29.

The monthly meeting on December 4 was attended by four oblates and eight inquirers. After an opening prayer from the formation booklet, there were intercessions for Oblates and others in need according to letters from the Archabbey. Then several chapters from the *Rule* were read and discussed. There was also some discussion about ways to help the needy, and contributions were made to a “good-will bag.” The meeting ended with a prayer from the formation booklet.

The annual Catholic pre-Christmas dinner was held on December 9.

Rev. Robert J. Potts led Oblation ceremonies on January 5 and received the following:

Oblate: **Anthony J. Anderson** of Minersville, PA  
Oblate novices: **Charles A. Costanzo** of Minersville, PA  
**W. Frederic Endy** of Minersville, PA  
**Vincent Sirolli** of Minersville, PA .

At the meeting on January 29, the newest three Oblate novices were welcomed. After the opening prayer and prayers for special requests, the group discussed their good-will bag and updated their inventory. Members who helped to make the pre-Christmas dinner a success were thanked. Then the group read the Prologue of the *Rule* and a statement from the *Oblate Formation Booklet*. The meeting closed with a prayer from the formation booklet.

### **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 January 26 and 28, and secretary Trudy Bretzler sent a report by FAX on February 2. The Oblates took interest in the installation of the new Bishop of St. Catharines, Bishop Gerard Paul Bergie, on November 9.

The meeting on November 26 drew 19 people as well as the pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Fr. Michael Basque. After the usual opening prayers in the church, Fr. Basque invested two people as Oblate novices:

**Nellie Dias** of Ayr, Ontario, and  
**Colette Vilandr ** of Ayr, Ontario.

The other Oblates present renewed their Oblation. Then the group went downstairs for refreshments, and there was some discussion with Fr. Basque about the forthcoming new missal and the new translations of Mass parts. Brian suggested that the deanery serve as a contact for people in the diocese who would like perpetual Mass cards from the Trinitarians. Copies of an article, “Monk’s Best Friend,” regarding the ringing of monastic bells, were distributed.

There was no meeting during December, but the Oblates sponsored three weekly holy hours as usual.

Ten people attended the meeting on January 28. Since the alarm system in the church went off, there was some commotion until the pastor (who fortunately was in) turned it off. After the usual prayers in the church, there was some discussion of forthcoming events: a Lenten day of recollection, Divine Mercy Sunday, and a mission presentation in July by Fr. Justin Matro, O.S.B. Then there was a lively discussion of *RB* Prol: 1-7, with emphasis on fatherhood, obedience,

the following of rules, and the importance of grace.

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

Lay leader James Perini reported by e-mail on December 13.

The deanery met for an annual pre-Christmas party on December 15. The meal followed the praying of Vespers.

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

Secretary Peggi Gabler wrote on November 14. The meeting on November 4, attended by eight Oblates, began with a prayer to St. Benedict. After the reading of minutes and a letter from Fr. Donald, Peggi distributed copies of the booklet of deanery histories. Then Oblate Mary Lynn Nicklas spoke about her attendance at the planning session for the 2013 World Congress in Montserrat, Spain, on October 22-25. Lynn also showed and explained an image of the "Black Madonna." Then there was a reading of *RB* 28:1-8, on "those who refuse to amend." Before closing in prayer, the group agreed not to meet during the winter months.

**Saint Vincent College (Mary, Mother of Wisdom Deanery)** – monthly meetings at 7 P.M. on Thursdays, Alcuin Hall Conference Room.

Fr. Jean Luc, moderator, reported on November 18 and February 4. On September 16 the attendees heard a presentation by Fr. Warren about "The Goods of the Monastery." At the meeting on October 7, Br. Nathanael spoke about "Restraint of Speech." At the meeting on November 4, Br. Francis gave a presentation on "The Election of an Abbot." Each meeting closed with the praying of Compline.

On December 2 Br. Jeremiah spoke about the practice of *lectio divina*. On January 13 Fr. Joseph Gerg gave a reflection entitled "The Sounds of Silence," which addressed the theme of silence in the *Rule*. On February 3 Br. Michael Rumpf gave a presentation on the steps of humility from *RB* 7.

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

As of January 12, Oblate novice **Francine Ware** of Savannah transferred her novice Oblation from Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside, CA, to St. Vincent Archabbey. Francine has been involved in the Oblate community in Savannah for over two years following a move from California. Otherwise there were no reports of meetings.

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

Lay leader Gretchen Meyers wrote November 27. Four Oblates met on November 19. They discussed conferences on the "principal vices" by Fr. Justin Matro, with some lively conversation. Gretchen reflected, "Understanding what is actually going on in our own hearts is the key to change and growth. I thought of this as a means of becoming happy since happiness can't truly exist without virtue and virtue doesn't flourish without wrestling with vice."

**Selingsgrove, PA** – monthly meetings on 2nd Sundays at St. Pius X Church in Selingsgrove

A new deanery has been in the process of emerging at St. Pius X Church in Selingsgrove, thanks to the initiation of Oblate Frank Stoshack of Shamokin. On January 13 Frank reported on the meetings on the second Sundays in November, December, and January. The group meets in the library of St. Pius X Church at 2:00 and then goes to the adoration chapel for Evening Prayer. Marcia LaBant, who hopes soon to be invested, has been serving as secretary, and the pastor, Rev. Edward J. "Ted" Keating, has given his support to the group.

Marcia reported by e-mail on January 10. The next meeting was planned for February 13, with hopes for a changed format: the praying of Vespers in the church's chapel, then an opportunity for socializing, and then a period of discussion.

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

Deacon Daniel Dozier, moderator, reported by phone on December 28-29, and lay leader Laura Lowder reported by e-mail on December 27 and January 31.

Several members of the group were planning to go on retreat together in February at Mepkin Abbey in South Carolina. They hoped to talk about making final Oblations at some time after the retreat.

At the monthly meetings four to six people have attended, with exchanges about the history and importance of the Divine Office. The group has also continued an ongoing discussion about the *Rule*. An occasional inquirer has also attended.

At the meeting on January 13, attended by three people, a consideration of the section of the *Rule* on "possessions" was completed, and there was an animated discussion. On January 27 four members of the group met for dinner and fellowship.

**State College, PA (St. Joseph Deanery)** -- meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, Our Lady of Victory Church, St. Joseph Activity Center.

Former secretary Ashley Leggett wrote on November 16 and 30; new secretary Phyllis Austin wrote on December 19 and January 11. The meeting on November 15 was attended by 13 people, including three inquirers and Fr. David Griffin, moderator. After the praying of Vespers the group discussed Chapters 4, 5, and 6 of *Go to Joseph* by Fr. Richard W. Gilsdorf. The exchange included the following topics: the marriage between Mary and Joseph, the journey to Bethlehem as a procession, Our Lord's birth in a stable, the circumcision, the presentation, the visit of the Magi, and the "losing" of Jesus in the temple. After concluding prayers several items of business were addressed. Oblate Ashley Leggett has accepted the role of lay leader and is searching for someone to take on the role of secretary. Oblate Kay Tittmann was arranging for a collection for a care package to be sent to Ellen Mazzara's son in Afghanistan.

As of November 30 Oblate Phyllis Austin had agreed to serve as the deanery's secretary. Other Oblates were being asked to take on other tasks: keeping on hand materials (leaflets, medals, etc.) and lists of personnel. We thank Ashley for having served as secretary for many years and now for serving as lay leader. Our thanks go also to Phyllis for taking on the role of secretary.

The meeting on December 13 was attended by 13 people. Fr. David had to be away at a penance service; so Ashley led Vespers. Ellen Mazzara expressed gratitude for Masses offered for her son Joe and the marines in his unit in Afghanistan. Kay Tittmann was collecting more items for the marines as part of an ongoing ministry. Then the group had a discussion on the final chapters of *Go to Joseph*. There were reflections on the close relationship between Jesus and St. Joseph, on their last moments together, and on the grief that Our Lord must have felt at his foster father's death. The group chose *To Whom Shall We Go?: Lessons from the Apostle Peter*, by Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, as their next book for discussion.

On January 10 the group met at 5:00 for Mass at Our Lady of Victory Church, with Fr. David as the celebrant. During the Mass he invested

**Sara Nagel** of Bellefonte, PA,

as an Oblate novice. Also, the 11 Oblates present renewed their Oblation. Then a pot-luck dinner was held in the church's social hall. Copies of the next book for discussion were distributed.

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

Lay leader Delina "Dee" Pauls wrote on November 4 and January 18. At the well-attended meeting on September 1, Fr. Cristiano, moderator, spoke about the synoptic Gospels, the Gospel reading for the day, Messianic prophecies, and Jesus' use of "I AM." After some discussion the group proceeded to the chapel, where

**Robert H. Mahaffy** of Yorktown, VA,

made his final Oblation before Fr. Cristiano and the other Oblates who were gathered.

At the meeting on October 6, it was announced that Fr. Michael Gabler, recently appointed parochial vicar, would be the new moderator of the deanery. Fr. Michael introduced himself and mentioned some of his ideas for leading the Oblates. Also, three completed applications were submitted, and the meeting was closed with Night Prayer. We are grateful to Fr. Cristiano for his years of service as the deanery's moderator.

Nine Oblates attended the meeting on November 3. After the "Prayer to St. Benedict," Fr. Michael led Oblation ceremonies and received the following:

Oblate: **Christopher (Benedict) Hite** of Norfolk, VA

Oblate novice: **Erika Hite** of Norfolk, VA.

Chris and Erika are husband and wife. Then Fr. Michael spoke about *RB 27* and the issue of "excommunication," with reference to the need for an abbot to serve as a loving father and to show concern for wayward monks. The meeting ended with Night Prayer.

The short meeting in December began with the prayer of St. Benedict, prayers for the sick, and a reflection by Fr. Michael on the reading from the *Rule* for the day (*RB 50*, on the brothers who are working far from the oratory). Then Fr. Michael invested

**B. Claire Bonifield** of Chesapeake, VA,

as an Oblate novice. Then there was a social with food and conversation.

**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

Lay leader Ted Richardson wrote on November 14 to announce the meetings in November and December, and he reported by phone on December 6; Oblate Susan Wykoff reported by e-mail on December 14 and January 23.

Three people attended the meeting on November 21, and they continued a discussion of *The Path of Life*. Only Ted and Sue attended the meeting on December 12. Still, they opened with an Advent prayer service and then completed a

discussion on private prayer from the book *The Path of Life*. The meeting concluded with an impromptu discussion on sacred music and liturgy. (continued)

The meeting on January 23 was attended by two others besides Sue and began with a discussion on publicizing meetings. Sue had contacted the diocesan newsletter, and Frances and Helen Sammarco suggested other publications. In light of the appointment of a new bishop in Altoona/Johnston (Sue's diocese), there was some exchange about Pro-Life activities in parishes and ways to be involved in Pro-Life activities. Then the group read from *RB 7* on humility and from Chapter 7, "Humility," in *The Path of Life*. After a brief discussion the meeting ended with the praying of the Angelus.

### **SICK & INFIRM MONKS**

The following monks of the Archabbey have been hospitalized or otherwise especially ill during the past three months and could use our prayers: Fr. Paschal Kneip, Fr. Blane, Br. Fred Supek, Fr. Jacques, Fr. Dominic, and Fr. Lee.

### **DECEASED MONK**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr. Omer Kline, who died on January 17 at the age of 87.

### **OVERDUE OR MISSING LIBRARY BOOKS AND TAPES: PLEASE RESPOND!**

During the past several years 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. We are grateful to the several Oblates who during the past couple of months donated copies of the majority of the formerly missing books. Thank you!** (It is probably of no use to keep seeking the missing cassette tapes, which may no longer be available.)

- Fr. George A. Maloney, S.J., *The Jesus Prayer* (pamphlet)
- 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*
- Pseudo Macarius, *The Fifty Spiritual Homilies and the Great Letter*

**RESERVATION FORM FOR CELEBRATION OF ST. BENEDICT DAY ON MARCH 21**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I plan to attend the dinner for Oblates at St. Vincent on Monday March 21, 2011, along with \_\_\_ guests; I enclose \_\_\_\_\_ (\$6.50 per person; make out checks to **ST. VINCENT ARCHABBEY**. An additional donation for the social would be welcome).

\_\_\_ I plan to be invested as an \_\_\_ Oblate, \_\_\_ Oblate novice on March 21. On becoming a full Oblate, I plan to take the Oblate name \_\_\_\_\_. (*application form required*)

\_\_\_ I would like overnight accommodations. (Please contact Fr. Donald well in advance.)

Please send this form to: **Mrs. Christine Karem, 2012 Souli St., Greensburg, PA 15601 (phone: 724-875-0285).**

**SCHEDULE FOR SOLEMNITY OF SAINT BENEDICT, MARCH 21, 2011**

4:00 P.M. – Concelebrated Mass in Archabbey Basilica

5:30 P.M. – dinner in Placid Hall Dining Room B

6:30 P.M. – Oblation ceremonies, Archabbey Basilica, choir area

7:30 P.M. – Vespers with monastic community, Archabbey Basilica, choir area

8:05 P.M. – social in Parish Assembly Room

**RENEWAL OF OBLATION**

Peace! In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

I, (name), renew my Oblation and offer myself to Almighty God, through the Blessed Virgin Mary and our holy Father Benedict, as an Oblate of Saint Vincent Archabbey, and I promise again, before God and all the saints, to dedicate my life to the service of God and neighbor according to the *Rule* of St. Benedict, insofar as my state in life permits.

“Sustain me, O Lord, as You have promised, that I may live, and disappoint me not in my hope” (Ps 119:116 & *RB* 58:21).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Please detach and return to:  
Director of Oblates  
St. Vincent Archabbey  
300 Fraser Purchase Rd.  
Latrobe, PA 15650-2690 .

**DIRECTORY OF OBLATES: 2011 EDITION**

If any Oblate or Oblate novice wishes to submit his or her address, phone number, or e-mail address for a *Directory* that will be accessible to other members of the Oblate community who likewise submit their information, please contact Christine Karem. The *Directory* is revised about every two years, and copies are sent only to those who wish to participate. The next revision is to be issued in summer, 2011. Chris’ e-mail address is: [ckarem@comcast.net](mailto:ckarem@comcast.net).

One may also write to Chris at Mrs. Christine Karem, 2012 Souli St., Greensburg, PA 15601 or phone her at 724-875-0285.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_