



# OBLATES OF SAINT BENEDICT

Saint Vincent Archabbey

300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650-2690

May - July, 2008

724-805-2291

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Please note fliers with forms for summer project & for registration for July 11, and with letter for Oblate scholarship.

## ARRIVING AT THE "PERFECT LOVE OF GOD THAT CASTS OUT FEAR" (RB 7:67): ONLY WITH GREAT HUMILITY

Dear Oblates, Oblate novices, and Friends,

Among the dangers of the spiritual life are the attitude that we have been perfected beyond improvement and, in contrast, the fear that we are so hopelessly deficient that God cannot help us to progress further. The first condition is one of pride, and so is the second, although it masks itself as humility. Our task as Christians is to trust totally in God's merciful love despite our abysmal weakness and sinfulness and to hope that, in coöperation with God's graces, He will lead us to the heights of perfection. And God does want us ultimately to be perfect in the way of Christ. Our Lord calls to "be made perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Mt 5:48) and to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mk 12:30). (Of course, this "perfection" is in terms of love, mercy, and compassion; we are surely never to become all-powerful and all-knowing as God is. We shall always be creatures, and He our Creator and Redeemer; and that is part of our joy!) The mystery of Christ's Resurrection assures of the victory of Christ's self-emptying love and the victory of His gift of hope in us, the hope of sharing fully in the Blessed Trinity's communion of love.

St. Benedict wisely challenges us to aspire to the summit of perfect love. After laying out the twelve steps of humility, he asserts that the monk who ascends all these steps "will quickly arrive at that perfect love of God which casts out fear" (RB 7:67). Here he is quoting from 1 Jn 4:18, which in full reads, "Love has no room for fear; rather, perfect love casts out all fear. And since fear has to do with punishment, love is not yet perfect in one who is afraid" (1970 NAB translation). In these passages St. John and St. Benedict are not speaking of the genuine "fear of the Lord," a humble reverence and awe that acknowledges that God is God and we are not, since this fear is a salutary part of the whole spiritual journey; rather they are referring to the fear that arises from focus on ourselves and preoccupation with our limitations, weakness, and unworthiness, all of which stem from a lack of trust

in God's generous bounty. This fear makes it difficult to love. When we fear what others think about us, how few resources we have, or how likely we are likely to fail, we exclude the possibilities opened by God's lavish love, and we thus block off some channels of His grace.

Last fall I was often preoccupied with the project of ordering copies of the book *The Path of Life*, and it made me aware of the negative impact of fears in me, fears that still need to be conquered. After I put a notice in the August Oblate newsletter, some 60 books were ordered, and then more people requested books at our local Oblate meeting in September; so I ordered 80 books about September 18. Well, October came, November came, and December came; and still no books had arrived. Whenever I contacted the company, I would receive a polite reply: "The books *will* come; it's just taking us some time to get them. Our company is undergoing reorganization." At one point, however, a notice came to me in the mail saying that the book was out of stock. Well, that notice really stirred up my fears and anger! What did I fear? I feared coping with the embarrassment that would come from failure in a project which I had initiated. I feared losing the trust of people who had depended on me for obtaining the books. I feared being immersed in a tendency to blame myself with very little mercy. And I feared all the extra work involved in refunding hundreds of dollars to disappointed individuals. (For me having to undo something I have done with considerable investment of time and energy is dreadful!) As it turns out, the company soon thereafter informed me that the notice had been mistaken and then, shortly before Christmas, that 100 copies of the book had arrived from England, that they would be shipped to the Oblate Office promptly, and that we would be given an even greater discount than had been offered earlier, with a cost of \$10.36 per book instead of \$18.00 per book. The books came on December 26 and early in January. I rejoiced! I had the college's Business Office make out refund checks to all the purchasers and gathered two Oblate volunteers, who generously offered several

hours of their time to package the books for mailing or for personal distribution. As new fears cropped up within me, I then realized that freedom from fear must not depend on a positive outcome but rather must arise from a choice to trust and to receive whatever God gives with humility. I had a new choice, either to lament all the extra work and extra communication and the loss of “my time” that came with the distribution of books and checks, or to welcome the signs of God’s love in the company’s apologies, in their offer of a generous discount, in their friendly disposition on the phone, and in the volunteers’ magnanimous offering of assistance. (Furthermore, when I say “company,” I must realize that this means real human beings created in God’s image!)

What, then, is the remedy for our fears? It is growth in trust in God’s superabundant love, in a humble acceptance of our own radical poverty, and in a humble risk-taking that acts on our belief that when we make decisions in good faith, God will “come through” in His way and His time, which is always better than our way and our time. Especially in the steps of humility, the *Holy Rule* provides insightful guidance for living in a love that grows gradually and that becomes strong enough to cast out fears one by one. If we embrace the fear of the Lord recommended by the first step of humility, we come to remember how lovingly He guides us each moment of every day and thus works against our fears and anxieties related to our loss of control. If we learn the second step’s exhortation to surrender our will more and more to the Lord’s will, we overcome the fear of not getting our way and learn that His way is always far better for us. Likewise, in the third step, when obedience to a superior for love of Christ demands that we die to self in a painful way (or even die physically for the One who loved us first), we see how Christ’s love can cast out our fear of death and loss of self-will. So, too, God’s love overcomes our fear of adversities and injustices (step 4), our fear of letting others know our sins and weaknesses (step 5), our fear of losing others’ esteem (steps 6 and 7), our fear of losing our uniqueness among others (step 8), our fear of being less valued because we lack cleverness in speech and readiness to laugh (steps 9-11), and our fear of exposing our sins to God’s awesome but merciful judgment (step 12). When we learn more and more how unshakable is God’s love for us, our fears may still emerge from time to time, but they no longer have much control over us. Christ’s love begins to reign supreme in us, and our humble submission to the power of His love will be fulfilled

in the new life of resurrection for which we yearn.

I found this principle of love’s power to cast out fear to be manifest in a concrete way in my experience of attending the papal Mass in Washington, DC, on April 17. One by one my fears were addressed by the loving intervention of God in ways that I could not have predicted. In the first place I did not even want to go because I feared the loss of time for my work, but then God seemed to nudge me to sign my name on a list. Then, before the day of the trip and even during the trip, I worried about the burden of long-range travel, the uncertainty of overnight accommodations, the danger of food that might upset my system, the possible confusion in using public transportation amid crowds of people, the lack of customary facilities on the field of a large baseball stadium, the difficulty of bearing with a bright sun in an open field, and the need to find the monks, amid a large crowd, with whom I was to travel home. In every situation the love of God worked through people and situations to render my fears useless. In the end, it did not even matter that at one point I lost my ticket and then left behind a coat in the vesting room; such things, I realized, are of miniscule importance when compared to the opportunity to surrender to God’s all-magnanimous love, especially in a Holy Eucharist celebrated under the leadership of Pope Benedict himself and in communion with a huge, enthusiastic congregation representing the whole Church! Indeed, God’s love was truly manifest in the Holy Father, in the Mass itself, in the warmth of the people around me, and in the innumerable incidents that led me to enter a bit better into the communion of love that casts out fear. Now I must continue to trust that the love that led me safely to a marvelous experience at Nationals Park and back to the Archabbey will continue to embrace me and infuse my every experience so as to teach me the uselessness of every fear that tends to enslave me.

What, then, is our role in welcoming the “perfect love of God” to overcome our particular fears? It is our daily struggle to live in faith, hope, and love and in the humility that summons us to rely continually on God’s grace. First, of course, we need to admit that we do sometimes live in fear. It might be helpful to learn our particular fears and to work on them one by one. When we recognize a fear coming to the surface, we can invite Christ our risen Lord to rule over that fear in His victorious love. We may not feel or understand His saving work in us, but repeated surrender of our fears to

Him will give Him a chance to enter ever more deeply into those areas of our lives where we cling to self-sufficient ways and lack trust. Another help might be to remember, in prayer, those past circumstances when God in His great love rescued us from our distress and made it clear how futile it was to fear and to waste time in worry. Then we need to trust, trust, and trust again that the same love that lifted us up in the past is still ever-present, all-powerful, and ever eager to reveal itself to us. When the love of Christ begins to fill our hearts, it leaves less and less room for fear, regardless of how dismal our external circumstances may be. Then we can hope that someday we shall reach a point at which we do everything “out of love for Christ, good habit, and delight in virtue” (RB 7:69).

The beautiful Gospel readings for Masses during this Easter Season assure us that Christ is indeed risen and is inviting us to partake of the greatest joy we can imagine: a share in His own eternal communion of love with the Father in the Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus wants to take us with Him to the Father, “that where I am you also may be” (Jn 14:3). This place with the Father is not only held out

as a promise for the future, although our state of heavenly “rest” with God will certainly exceed anything we can experience here on earth. This state of loving communion begins here and now as we come to believe that Christ is in the Father and in us, allow ourselves to be guided by the Spirit of truth, share in the very works that Christ does in and through us (Jn 14:12), and trust ever more fully that God never leaves us orphaned (Jn 14:18). Let us, then, rejoice daily in the ways in which God summons us to a deeper humility. Let us in that humility aspire to the perfect love that casts out fear and to the joy that flows from that love. Rather than murmur over inconveniences and tragedies, let us welcome the Lord to overcome our fear and lack of trust and to dwell in us as He keeps expanding our hearts in the love that knows no bounds and that becomes our joy and our delight.

Your brother in Christ and Saint Benedict,

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

### **A MESSAGE FROM ARCHABBOT DOUGLAS**

May 2, 2008

Dear Oblates and Friends of Saint Vincent Archabbey,

As we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost, our hope and courage are renewed with the promise of Christ’s everlasting presence through the power of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives and in the world: “Behold, I am with you always” (Mt 28:20). It is this active presence of our Risen Lord through the power of the Holy Spirit that inspires and energizes us for the challenge of Christian discipleship – a discipleship characterized by faith, hope, and love.

Pope Benedict XVI’s visit to the United States provided an opportunity for all of us to be renewed in that Spirit in the midst of the challenges our world faces today. As Oblates imbued with the spirituality of Saint Benedict, your goal is to join us in cherishing Christ above all through prayer, work, silence, *lectio*, and all of the other spiritual resources put forth by Saint Benedict in the *Holy Rule*.

Come, Holy Spirit, enkindle in us the fire of your love!

Sincerely in Christ,

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

### **SOLEMNITY OF ST. BENEDICT AT THE ARCHABBHEY, APRIL 1**

A number of Oblates and their guests, some 42 people, joined the extended Benedictine community for the annual celebration of the Passing of Our Holy Father Benedict, Abbot. At the Mass at 4:00 P.M., Bishop Denis

J. Madden, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, served as the principal celebrant and homilist and preached about the enduring values of Benedictine life over the centuries, especially Christian community and humility.

After a festive meal, Oblation ceremonies were held at 6:30 P.M. in the Archabbey Basilica, where Fr. Donald received the following:

Oblate: **Audrey (Benedicta) Hoepfer** of Herminie, PA

Oblate novice: **Timothy P. McHenry** of Greensburg, PA .

After dinner the group prayed Vespers with the monastic community at 7:30. A social in the Parish Assembly Room followed. Once again, despite the initial lack of anything to drink (it may have been Fr. Donald's fault), St. Vincent Dining Service provided an superabundance!

### **DAY OF RECOLLECTION AT ST. EMMA, MARCH 9**

Only about nine people came to the annual Oblate day of recollection at St. Emma Retreat House, but it was a grace-filled day for those who attended. Suggestions for next year are welcome. There is hope of placing a flier about the day of recollection in the November or February issues of this newsletter.

### **"OBLATE RETREATS," MAY 16-18 and JUNE 6-8**

It is still not too late to register for this year's retreats. Use the retreat brochure that you received in the mail, and register directly with the St. Vincent Retreat Program. Fr. Maurus Mount, O.S.B., will be the retreat master on May 16-18, and Fr. Vincent Zidek, O.S.B., will be the retreat master on June 6-8 for a silent retreat. (The retreat brochure did not refer to "Oblate retreat" or "Benedictine spirituality" in the titles, but in fact both retreats are for Oblates and others interested in Benedictine spirituality.) At 10:00 A.M. on May 17, all retreatants will attend the Mass for the ordination to the priesthood of Br. Michael Gabler, O.S.B. On the afternoon of that day, there will be a meeting of representatives of Oblate deaneries, and Oblation ceremonies will also be held later in the afternoon.

### **FEAST OF ST. BENEDICT AND CELEBRATION OF JUBILEES OF OBLATION, JULY 11**

All Oblates, Oblate novices, and their guests are welcome to attend the festive Mass for the Feast of St. Benedict, including ceremonies for the profession of solemn vows, at the Archabbey Basilica at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, July 11. Oblates are invited to stay for lunch and for a 2:30 meeting, Evening Prayer at 5:00, and supper. If you are coming for Mass, lunch, or supper, please fill out the form on the insert and send it to Christine Karem by July 4. (Even if you are coming only for Mass, it is good for the sacristans to know how many pews to reserve for the Oblates.) This year for the third time the meeting at 2:30 will include a ceremony to honor Oblates who this year celebrate 5, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, or 60 or more years of Oblation. **(All who have been Oblates for over 30 years are welcome to come and be honored if they did not come and receive a certificate during the past two years.)** At the suggestion of the Oblate Board of Advisors, there will be time for photographs after the jubilarian ceremonies.

Those needing overnight room reservations should call Fr. Donald at the Oblate Office (724-805-2291).

### **OBLATE DAY 2008 - September 28**

Fr. Boniface Hicks, O.S.B., instructor in Computer Science at St. Vincent College and moderator of the St. Joseph (State College) Deanery of Oblates, has agreed to serve as the guest speaker on Oblate Day, Sunday, September 28, 2008. A schedule and a registration form for the event will appear in the August newsletter.

### **OBLATE DAY OF RECOLLECTION - October 12**

The past three years' fall days of recollection at the Archabbey were quite successful, and so another similar day of recollection will be offered this fall on Saturday, October 12. Fr. Edward Mazich, O.S.B., who teaches Biblical languages at St. Vincent Seminary and who will soon earn a doctorate in systematic theology, will serve as the retreat master.

### **OBLATE RADIO PROGRAM**

Radio station WEDO, 810 AM, offers an almost daily program of reflections especially geared for Oblates. Oblate John James manages the station and arranges for this program. The program is scheduled at 8:45 A.M., Monday through Friday.

### **EASTER PROJECT FOR 2008: REFLECTION ON MY FAVORITE VERSE(S) OF THE HOLY RULE**

As a possible project for Easter, you may wish to submit to the Oblate Office a reflection on a verse (or several verses) of the *Rule* of St. Benedict. The submitted reflections are not likely to be published in the

immediate future, but they will be saved for a possible future publication. See the flier for the form for submitting an entry. We are still saving the reflections from Lent, 2007.

### **ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS**

Oblates in the Latrobe/Greensburg area are welcome to participate in Eucharistic adoration in the Archabbey Basilica on designated Sundays from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. to pray for vocations to the religious life and the priesthood, especially for vocations to St. Vincent Archabbey. The following Sundays have been designated so far: May 4, June 1, June 15, and June 29. Beginning in September, adoration will be held in Mary, Mother of Wisdom Chapel on Sundays of Latrobe Oblate meetings if there is no adoration in the basilica on that particular Sunday.

### **RECRUITING FOR PRAYER CHAIN FOR OBLATES IN LATROBE/GREENSBURG/JEANNETTE/WHEELING/LIGONIER AREA CONTINUES**

If you are interested in joining this prayer chain, please contact Anthony and Donna Sunseri at 146 Janyce Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601 (phone: 724-832-0868; e-mail: ajsdms@verison.net).

### **RENEWALS OF OBLATION**

I am grateful for the many Oblates who, as of the end of April, had renewed their Oblation by using the form in the last newsletter. If you have not recently been in contact with the Oblate Office or your local deanery and have not renewed your Oblation at St. Vincent during the past year, please renew your Oblation privately and send in the renewal form.

### **RECOMMENDED READING** (volumes available in the Oblate Library)

- (1) Pope Benedict XVI, *The Sacrament of Charity* (Ijamsville, MD: The Word Among Us Press, 2007)
- (2) Fr. Thomas Dubay, S.M., *Happy Are You Poor* (Denville, NJ: Dimension Books, 1981)
- (3) Scott Hahn, *Swear to God: The Promise and Power of the Sacraments* (N.Y.: Doubleday, 2004)

### **VISIT TO OBLATES IN LANCASTER**

On April 24 Fr. Donald, accompanied by Oblate George Bordell of Murrysville, visited the Oblate group in Lancaster, PA. At the monthly meeting at St. Joseph Church, Fr. Donald delivered a talk on "Joy in Benedictine Life." Most of the Oblates in Lancaster are affiliated with St. Meinrad Archabbey, but a few are affiliated with St. Vincent.

### **OBLATE BOARD OF ADVISORS**

The Oblate Board of Advisors met at the Archabbey on April 18. They discussed various issues, including plans for ongoing Eucharistic adoration for vocations and the hope to contact all Oblates and Oblate novices in the Latrobe / Greensburg / Jeannette / Ligonier areas about their needs and desires concerning the Oblate Program.

### **MENTORING PROGRAM**

The recently established Mentoring Program for guiding inquirers and Oblate novices in Benedictine spirituality is still in need of volunteers to be mentors. If you would like to serve as a mentor or if you are an inquirer or an Oblate novice (or even an Oblate) who would like to have an Oblate mentor, please contact the Oblate Office. Those who offer to be mentors receive a booklet of guidelines.

### **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.

### **PREPARATION OF DEANERY HISTORIES**

Lay leaders and moderators of our Oblate deaneries are urged to undertake writing histories of their respective deaneries if they have not yet done so. It would be best if the histories are as detailed as possible. (It would be good to have at least a few paragraphs with some exact dates and names.) Thoroughness and quality will be valued over promptness of submission. For those deaneries that have been in existence for many years, older members might be interviewed or reached by letter for their historical input. As of April 26, eight out of twenty possible histories have been submitted, but the rest have yet to come in. There is no hurry, but it would be good if all the histories could be turned in by the fall of 2008.

### **OBLATE DIRECTORY BEING PREPARED FOR 2009 – if enough Oblates are interested**

A 2009 edition of the biennial Oblate *Directory* will be prepared by Oblate Bill O'Neil of Pittsburgh. This time we are starting from scratch to make sure that everyone's information is correct. If you wish to submit your

entry early, you may contact Bill with your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address at: Mr. William O'Neil, 4122 Beehner Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15217-2811, or 412-422-1313, or [boneil2@peoplepc.com](mailto:boneil2@peoplepc.com).

### **FOUR-VOLUME "ROMAN BREVIARY" NOW COMES IN LARGE-PRINT VERSION**

The four-volume version of the Liturgy of the Hours published by Catholic Book Publishing Company is now available in a large-print edition. The cost is \$198.00 (minus a 10% discount if ordered through the Oblate Office). Copies may be ordered from the St. Vincent College Book Center via the Oblate Office.

### **DONATIONS WELCOME FOR PURCHASE OF *THE PRISONER FOR OBLATES IN PRISON***

Fr. Donald recently became aware of the book *The Prisoner: An Invitation to Hope*, which concerns a convict who reformed his life and became a Capuchin friar, Br. James Townsend. Those who minister in prisons highly recommend this book as a message of hope for those who are incarcerated, and it is said that the book *has* given hope to those in prisons and other dark situations. The cost of each book is \$16.95, but Paulist Press will offer a 20% discount on purchases of more than \$100.00. Anyone who would like to donate toward the purchase of a supply of these books for inmates may send a contribution to the Oblate Office. (You may also wish to order a copy for yourself. Those who wish to read the book may appreciate knowing that the first half of the book is very graphic in its description of evil situations.)

### **INFORMATION ABOUT MEALS SERVED BY ST. VINCENT DINING SERVICE**

Oblates often inquire about the cost of meals served in the guest dining room; so Fr. Donald inquired of the food service as to the actual charges to the monastery. As of April 25, whether a meal is served by a waitress or picked up in the college dining room, the costs are as follows: breakfast - \$4.75, lunch - \$6.50, supper - \$8.00. Oblates who eat at St. Vincent are guests and are not required to pay any fixed amount, but donations certainly help to cover the costs that the monastery incurs in hosting many visitors.

### **HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE, January 12-21, 2009**

Oblate Scott "Dusty" Warner of Mt. Desert, ME, and his wife, Anne, are sponsoring a pilgrimage to the Holy Land this coming January. (They made a similar pilgrimage this past January and benefited greatly from it.) For more information you may write to the Oblate Office or contact MTS Travel, 124 E. Main St., 4<sup>th</sup> fl., Ephrata, PA 17522. The cost (with sharing a double room) is \$2,650 (before August 1, 2008).

### **LITURGY OF THE HOURS ON-LINE**

Oblate Phil Engle of Greensburg has suggested that Oblates may wish to pray the Liturgy of the Hours from the *Mundelein Psalter*, which can be found on the Internet at [www.mundeleinpsalter.com](http://www.mundeleinpsalter.com).

### **BOOKS AUTHORED BY OBLATE PHIL ENGLE**

Members of the Oblate community may be interested in the four books by Phil Engle, offered at his **Laurel Highlands Media** website ([www.laurelhighlandsmedia.com](http://www.laurelhighlandsmedia.com)). The latest book, entitled *Scapegoat Theology*, both presents and critiques the theories of René Girard, including mimetic theory and the scapegoat theory of culture. It also discusses issues relating to the problem of human violence from a Christian perspective, including the issues of anarchism, pacifism, self-defense, and the just-war theory. To see the ideas in all four of Phil's books in a unified context, you may access his **Fellowship of St. Benedict** website ([www.fellowshipofstbenedict.org](http://www.fellowshipofstbenedict.org)).

### **OBLATE MEETINGS AND CLASSES IN LATROBE**

All Oblates and their guests are welcome to monthly meetings of the Latrobe Deanery, held at 6:45 P.M. on Sundays in Brownfield 202 at St. Vincent, and also to the classes on Benedictine spirituality that begin in the same place at 3:00 P.M. The next four meetings will be on May 18, June 22, July 20, and August 17. (Note the change to the fourth Sunday in June.) Those wishing to come early for Vespers and supper should phone Fr. Donald (724-805-2291) in advance.

### **PRAYER INTENTIONS AND PERSONAL NOTES**

- OMITTED FROM THE INTERNET VERSION

### **CONDOLENCES**

Let us together offer prayers for those of our Oblate Community who have lost loved ones, that they may

receive consolation and new strength from our risen Lord:

- Oblate Thomas Angelo of Latrobe, whose brother-in-law William J. Melago died on Feb. 13 (please also pray for Bill's widow Mafalda "Muffy") and whose cousin Rita Bryga died on Apr. 2
- Oblate John C. Henry of Melbourne, FL, whose granddaughter Jennifer died on Feb. 25
- Oblate novice Rose Werner of St. Marys, PA, whose husband, George, died on Feb. 26 [see below]
- Oblate novice Dunstan Jayasekera of Wheeling, WV, whose wife, Salomi, died on Feb. 27
- Oblate moderator Fr. Paschal Kneip, O.S.B., of Chincoteague, VA, whose sister Mae Wynne on Feb. 28
- Oblate Dennis Cessar of Pittsburgh, whose cousin Cheryl Heim (of Dublin, OH) died on Mar. 14
- Oblate Elmer Furman of East Pittsburgh, whose brother Robert Furman died on Apr. 3
- Oblate Karlin Grapes of Latrobe, one of whose aunts died in April
- Oblate Cheryl Matta of Greensburg, whose great-aunt Mayna Price died on Apr. 27.

### **CONDELENCES TO THE SISTERS OF ST. GERTRUDE MONASTERY IN RIDGELY, MD**

On March 5 Sister Mary Paul McLaughlin, O.S.B., of the Benedictine sisters in Ridgely died from injuries suffered when she was struck by a pick-up truck while she was crossing a street to go to care for AIDS patients in Wilmington, DE, the day before. Sister Mary Paul, 64, a former prioress of the community, had long served as Director of Oblates and had agreed to serve on the planning team for the 2009 biennial meeting of North American Oblate Directors to be held at St. Vincent Archabbey. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Sister Mary Paul and for the consolation of her community as they bear with this great loss.

**OBLATE DEATHS** - Let us be united in prayer for recently deceased members of our Oblate Community, that they may enjoy the fullness of life with the risen Christ and all the saints:

- 06 Jan 2006 – James (John) Delconte of Clairton, PA (Oblate since July, 1969)
- 18 Feb 2008 – Rita C. Geitner of St. Marys, PA (Oblate since Oct., 1992)
- 26 Feb 2008 – George (John) Werner of St. Marys, PA (Oblate since Nov., 1966)
- 30 Mar 2008 – Matthew G. Grasha of Pittsburgh, PA (Oblate since July, 1955)
- 26 Apr 2008 – Philomena (Lucy) Rich of Latrobe, PA (Oblate since March, 1990).

### **NEWS FROM OBLATE DEANERIES**

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

Deacon leader Ralph DeCecco wrote on February 26. At the meeting on January 14, after Vespers, the group had a brief study of *RB 2*. Then they practiced group *lectio divina* on the readings for Mass on the upcoming Sunday. As always, the meeting closed with Compline. *(continued on next page)*

At the meeting on February 25, after Vespers, Oblate Janet DeCecco led a discussion on humility using the principles of Twelve-Step programs. The exchange was so interesting that the group did not go beyond the sixth step and so decided to continue at the next meeting. During March Deacon Ralph and others were involved with an all-day Metanoia Ultreya, a St. Joseph Day celebration, and a four-day Metanoia retreat; so there was no Oblate meeting.

**Ann Arbor, MI** -- *monthly meetings at Old St. Patrick's Church*

There was no report.

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

Secretary Gabriele Terrill wrote on February 6 and March 10. The meeting on January 27 began, as usual, with Evening Prayer in the church followed by a social. Oblate Lisa Kayser spoke about the time she had spent in a Carmelite monastery. Fr. John Peck, moderator, brought in sweat shirts embroidered with "Oblate of St. Benedict" as gifts. He suggested that the group read a book *Heart Whisperers* by Elizabeth Canham and discuss it at the next two meetings. The group read a history of the deanery written by Oblate Margaret Bott before the article was sent to Fr. Donald. Finally, the group read *RB 49* on the observance of Lent and discussed how it could be applied. At the suggestion of Oblate Margaret Connor, the group agreed to donate money saved from not buying snacks to the Benedictine Health and Welfare fund.

The meeting on February 24, attended by Fr. John and eight others, began with Vespers and very simple refreshments. After a reading from the *Rule*, Fr. John showed the movie *The Great Silence*. Gabriele commented, "The movie is very long and pretty much self-explanatory. It shows the life of monks belonging to the Carthusian Order living in one of the world's most ascetic monasteries in the French Alps. Their life is very hard. We have so many conveniences today; however, they [the monks] seem to be much closer to God (in union with Him), and I think they are happier."

**Asheboro, NC (Guardian Angels/St. Joseph Deanery)** -- *monthly meetings at Lillian Hazelwood's home, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of each month, 10:30 A.M.*

Secretary Robert O'Brien wrote on February 17. Apparently, because of the illnesses of Doris Blase and Lillian Hazelwood, regular meetings were not held for a few months. Oblation ceremonies were tentatively planned for March

30, "Divine Mercy Sunday."

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

Oblate Dale Dombrosky wrote on March 17, and Fr. Paschal Morlino, moderator, reported via e-mail on February 10. At the meeting on January 20, several inquirers were in attendance. During Vespers, which followed the meeting, Fr. Paschal invested

**Joseph W. Bezilla** of Ellicott City, MD,  
as an Oblate novice.

On February 1 Oblates served as hosts for a Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Presentation with Urban Vicar Bishop Denis Madden; ten concelebrants joined parishioners and Oblates for the candlelight procession.

Before the meeting on March 16, Dale Dombrosky led a third mentoring session with inquirers. At the meeting Fr. Paschal spoke about stability, the Mass on Holy Thursday, and the time of adoration after the Mass. During Vespers Fr. Paschal received

**James Harvey** of Halethorpe, MD,  
as an Oblate novice.

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

Lay leader Ethel Galli wrote on February 22 and April 9. The meeting on February 19 was led by Fr. Brian, moderator, and 15 other attended. He spoke about *RB49* concerning Lent, with emphasis on Lent as time of conversion, penance, and joy in anticipation of Christ's resurrection. Fr. Brian also differentiated between Lenten joy (*laetare*) and Easter joy (*gaudete*) and urged that people talk to spiritual directors about their Lenten penances. Also, 11 of the Oblates planned to spend time in Eucharistic adoration to pray for vocations.

Fifteen people attended the meeting on March 25. Fr. Brian gave a talk on the observance of Easter. He recommended that Oblates meditate on Christ's saving mysteries to come to a deeper relationship with God, to strive to live their baptismal promises, to trust in Christ's presence in His Church, and to spread Easter joy to others.

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

Secretary Mary Catherine Hoover reported by phone on March 13 and April 19. At the meeting on February 5, after Evening Prayer in the church, the group went to the Boniface Wimmer Room to discuss Chapter 1 of *The Path of Life*. There would be no meeting in March because of too many other activities.

At the meeting on April 7, an inquirer, Nancy Yauneridge, led a discussion on Chapter 2, "Stability," of the text. Fr. Jude had to be away because of a wake service. The deanery was planning to come to St. Vincent for Vespers and dinner on May 5.

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

Fr. Paschal Kneip, moderator, wrote on March 15, and lay leader Mary Hoffken wrote in early April. The meeting on January 3, conducted by Oblate Lorraine Kodjak, concerned the relationship between the *Rule* and the Eucharist. The lesson by Sr. M. Dolores Dowling, O.S.B., was reviewed, with emphasis on unity and the sacredness of the meal. St. Benedict, Lorraine stated, referred to the graces flowing from the Eucharist, such as love of humility, forgiveness, and a sharing in Christ's sufferings. The meeting concluded with Evening Prayer.

The meeting on February 4, led by Oblate novice Pauline Hoppe, concerned "work." The group discussed work as a part of "continual prayer" and as a means to serve Christ as well as to furnish our material needs. Then the group discussed the Oblation ceremonies planned for March 11.

The meeting on March 11, led by Oblate novice Mary Pauls, concerned "hospitality." Visitors are to be seen as a gift of God and the very presence of Christ. Mary cited the examples of Abraham and his three visitors and the disciples on the road to Emmaus, who encountered Christ in disguise as a stranger.

At the ceremonies on March 11 at St. Andrew Church, the following made final Oblation in the presence of Fr. Paschal:

**Ellen (Marah) Barkman** of Greenbackville, VA

**Mary (Irene) Detwiler** of Chincoteague, VA

**Barbara (Joan) Gray** of New Church, VA

**Pauline (Rita) Hoppe** of Atlantic, VA

**Patricia (Anastasia) O'Donnell** of Atlantic, VA

**Mary (Rose) Pauls** of Chincoteague, VA.

Since several members could not be present on March 11, they made their Oblation separately with Fr. Paschal. These were:

**Donald (Joseph) Barkman** of Greenbackville, VA - March 13

**Daniel Hoppe** of Atlantic, VA - March 15

**David (Urban) Loeschel** of Parksley, VA - March 9.

At the joyful occasion each new Oblate received a new medal of St. Benedict. Photographs of the occasion were sent to the Archabbey.

**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 February 14, March 11, and April 17. At the meeting on February 11, the group prayed Evening Prayer and then finished discussing the chapter "Peace and Justice" from the book *How to Be a Monastic and Not Leave your Day Job*. The session was brief because of a parish Lenten event that followed the Oblate meeting.

The monthly meeting on March 10 was attended by three guests. Msgr. Michael Becker, moderator, led a discussion about hospitality. After half the group left to attend another Lenten meeting, the attendees who remained shared their views about hospitality.

Msgr. Becker could not attend the meeting on April 13, but the group still gathered for Evening Prayer and a discussion on Benedictine hospitality. The group brought up the difficulties of opening doors to strangers in today's dangerous society. They also discussed the possibility of doing something special when an Oblate of the deanery dies.

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

At the well-attended meeting on February 17, Fr. Donald led a discussion on obedience as "Antecedent Willingness" based on Chapter 7 of *Strangers to the City*. Obedience is a blessing because it is the way to God. Obedience is essential to all Christian discipleship because it is aimed at the search for God's will. When the "bell" rings for communal prayer or any other divine call, the monk or Oblate should respond promptly and cheerfully and without murmuring. The love of Christ and the desire for eternal life keeps us moving forward in obedience so that we become more and more freed from self-will.

On March 16 the group continued to discuss "Antecedent Willingness" and began the chapter "Mutuality." Obedience to those who are not superior to us is a special benefit since we must surrender to Christ in one who gives us no advantages. The group also prepared for the celebration on April 1, and quite a few registered for the event.

The meeting on April 20 began with a brief presentation by Mr. Ed Nemanic of the Office of Institutional Advancement at St. Vincent College. Ed spoke about the "Oblate Scholarship" established five years ago. Then the group continued a discussion of "Mutuality" and then discussed the chapter "Generativity" from *Strangers to the City*. Connections were made with Gospels from the Easter Season in which Christ invites believers to enter into His own communion of love with the Father and sends His disciples forth to pass on to others the tradition that He has given them - the Good News of His love, His teachings, and His intimate knowledge of the Father.

On April 29 Oblates gathered together at a funeral home in Latrobe to lead a wake service for deceased Oblate Philomena Rich, who had died on April 26.

**Lay leader Chris Karem would like to gather a directory of all Oblates and Oblate novices in the Latrobe/Greensburg area and of others who attend meetings and other events, such as wake services, in Latrobe. Having a list of phone numbers and especially of e-mail addresses would be helpful when there is need to contact people on short notice, as when an Oblate dies. If you live in the Latrobe/Greensburg area or regularly attend events at the Archabbey, please complete the form on the flier (or send it to Chris by e-mail).**

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

On February 17 Br. Bruno Heisey gave an insightful teaching on silence based on scripture, the *Rule*, and other notable authorities. Monastic silence keeps one open to the presence of God and is linked closely with stability and obedience. People who are always "on the go" are running away from the truth and tend to focus on their own needs and wants. Silence, on the other hand, assists one to be humble. References in Scripture show that silence is a prerequisite of prayer, liturgy, and communion with God.

On March 16 Fr. Shawn Matthew Anderson spoke about St. Benedict and the *Rule*. He reviewed the history of Christian monasticism and cited the need for rules to give direction to our pilgrimage of faith and the call of all Christians to become holy. Furthermore, it is the special vocation of every lay Christian to evangelize the world.

On April 20 Fr. Maurus Mount presented a lesson about "Conversation Morum," which he described in terms of the baptismal commitment to turn away from Satan and to turn toward Christ. This ongoing conversion is linked to faith, which begins with an act of will and must continue with a deepening relationship with God, moral conversion, and complete self-surrender to Christ. This journey of conversion requires an ongoing disposition of humility, bolstered by intense prayer in times of temptation. **The next lesson, "Prayer in Benedictine Spirituality," will be taught by Fr. Philip on May 18.**

### **Minersville, PA (St. Malachy Deanery)**

Lay leader Paul Mangiardi wrote on February 2, February 20, March 12, March 24, and April 22. At the meeting on February 1, the nine attendees prayed a novena to Jesus, King of all Nations, with intercessions for many needs. The group then celebrated a communion service and had a social for Oblate Ken Samuelson, who was soon to depart. Also, the group discussed a letter from the bishop of Allentown, who was planning to visit the community early in the spring.

The meeting on February 19 began with prayers for the Oblates and their families and continued with the Stations of the Cross, the reading of a letter from Fr. Donald, and a discussion about promoting the Oblate Program.

During Mass in the chapel at Minersville on February 20, Rev. Robert J. Potts invested as Oblate novices:

**Joseph Modenski** of Minersville, PA, and

**Enrico Nardini** of Minersville, PA.

The Oblate group met again on Good Friday, March 21, after the Commemoration of the Passion and the evening meal. The group reviewed topics from the previous meeting, read a letter from Fr. Donald, and prayed through the "Seven Last

Words” of Christ and the “Via Matris” of the Blessed Mother. The meeting closed with prayers for all Oblates, monks, families of Oblates, and others in need.

The meeting on April 15 consisted of prayers for various intentions entrusted to the group and a continuation of a study of the *Rule*. A new inquirer attended and submitted his application for investiture.

**Niagara Area, Ontario, Canada (St. Henry/St. Gertrude Deanery)** -- meetings on 4th Friday of each month, St. Patrick's Church, St. Catharines, Ont.

Secretary Trudy Bretzler wrote on February 16 and 23, March 9, and April 15, and lay leader Brian Chisholm reported by phone on April 15. At the meeting on January 25, after devotions in the church, the group discussed preparations for a Lenten day of recollection. Brian reported that he and Roy McKenzie had met with a Fr. Francis, a Philippino Benedictine priest in Hamilton who might be speaking to the deanery in the future. A grave-side prayer service was planned for Oblate Joe Roberts, who had died on December 10. Murray and Kathy Barrett agreed to prepare a history of the deanery. Then Msgr. Charles Gagné, moderator, led a discussion based on *The Rule of Benedict for Beginners*, pages 34-43, covering the topics of murmuring (and the need to avoid it) and the practice of *lectio divina*.

The day of recollection on February 2 included Morning Prayer, Mass, a rosary, a Divine Mercy chaplet, confessions, Eucharistic adoration, and Benediction. The event lasted from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

The meeting scheduled for February 22 was changed to February 29 because of other groups' use of St. Patrick's Church. However, bad weather caused the meeting on February 29 to be cancelled. A few members did show up, and they joined parishioners for the Stations of the Cross and the rosary.

The meeting on March 28, attended by nine people, began with Evening Prayer, a rosary, and a Litany of St. Benedict. Then Brian spoke about the Benedictine retreat at the Archabbey on May 16-18. Also, the members discussed their sponsorship of devotions for Divine Mercy Sunday on March 30. Brian led a meditation with the spreading of light from a candle to show the importance of mutual support on journeys of Oblation. A monthly prayer list was distributed. The meeting closed with a prayer and a singing of “Salve Regina.”

The Oblate-sponsored Divine Mercy devotion at St. Patrick's Church on March 30 drew some 70-100 people. The meeting scheduled for February 22 was changed to February 29 because of other groups' use of St. Patrick's Church. However, bad weather caused the meeting on February 29 to be cancelled. A few members did show up, and they joined parishioners for the Stations of the Cross and the rosary.

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

Lay leader Bill O'Neil wrote on March 30. At the meeting on March 26, attended by 12 people, Evening Prayer was followed by a discussion of Psalms 1, 29, 78, and 117 under the direction of Fr. Ralph, moderator. Copies of Br. Benedict's book on the psalms were distributed to those who did not yet have a copy.

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

Secretary Peggi Gabler mailed a report on April 11 although she had been too ill to attend the meeting on April 3. That meeting had included exposition, Vespers, renewals of Oblation, and Benediction. Fr. Michael Ferrick, moderator, led a brief session in the Queen of the World Library and spoke about putting a high priority on prayer in people's fast-paced lives.

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

A day of recollection was scheduled for Saturday, April 26. The day was to include two retreat talks by Fr. Ronald Gatman, O.S.B.; exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; the Sacrament of Reconciliation; the Vigil Mass for Sunday, and a covered-dish supper.

Lay leader Ben Perez reported on April 19 that since December the deanery had had four special events, two focused on Masses and two involving excellent guest speakers. The Oblate Council was soon to prepare a schedule of events for 2008-2009.

**St. Vincent College** – monthly meetings during the school year, usually in Mary, Mother of Wisdom Chapel

Lay leader Katie Wojtunik wrote on April 3. At the meeting on January 28, the group discussed the topic “Prayer in the Rule of St. Benedict” under the direction of Fr. Vincent Zidek, moderator. The meeting ended with Compline.

On March 13 Fr. Donald gave a presentation about the Oblates of St. Benedict to a college class as part of the course “The Benedictine Heritage” at the invitation of the teacher, Fr. Nathan Munsch, O.S.B.

At the meeting on March 31, Fr. Donald gave a presentation on the notion of community in Benedictine life. The group is still seeking a patron saint.

On April 28 the group gathered in the infirmary room of Fr. Omer Kline, O.S.B., retired archivist for the Archabbey, to hear him speak about the history of St. Vincent. As usual, the meeting ended with the praying of Compline.

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

Lay leader Gretchen Meyers wrote on February 16, March 25, and April 21. The meeting on February 15, attended by six people, began with a discussion of materials in the latest Oblate newsletter: the renewal of Oblation, the self-evaluation, and the importance of Eucharistic adoration and prayers for vocations. The attendees were encouraged to make a novena to St. Benedict before April 1. Then Sister Bridget, P.V.M.I., led the group through a Jesuit prayer call "Consciousness Examen," which evaluates one's openness to God's will. The group discussed the role of discernment in Benedictine life. The meeting on March 14 began with a conversation about a notice placed in the parish's first-Friday newsletter by Oblate Bill Flynn. That led to a discussion about who Oblates are and then about the Scranton Diocese's evaluation of parishes, especially in terms of listening to the Word of God, and the role of Oblates in faith-formation and promotion of vocations. Finally, there was some discussion from the book *The Path of Life* and then Night Prayer.

At the meeting on April 18, the group continued its discussion from *The Path of Life*, with a focus on "listening" and "stability." All who were present contributed something worthwhile to the lively exchange.

#### **State College, PA (St. Joseph Deanery)** -- meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, Benedictine residence.

Secretary Ashley Leggett wrote on February 21, and lay leader Laura Schneider wrote on March 15 and April 18. The meeting on February 18 was attended by Fr. Boniface, moderator, and 14 other people. After Evening Prayer, the group entered into a discussion of RB 8-20. The exchange involved the Roman and monastic origins of St. Benedict's Liturgy of the Hours and the importance of the Hours in the individual's striving for continual prayer.

The meeting on March 10, attended by eight people besides Fr. Boniface, involved a discussion of RB 21-37. Highlighted were the degrees of excommunication, the forbidding of private ownership, and the goods of the monastery. Fr. Boniface closed the meeting with a "prayer after meetings," the "Ultima," prayers for those in special need, and a blessing.

At the meeting on April 14, attend by Fr. Boniface and nine others, the group continued its study of the *Rule*, with a focus on interior silence. Fr. Boniface also spoke about Fr. Simon Toth, O.S.B., who had died on April 10. The group hoped to complete its study of the *Rule* at its meeting in May

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

Lay leader Delina Pauls wrote on March 9 and April 15. Because it was Ash Wednesday, Fr. Cristiano, moderator, could not make the meeting on February 6, but he gave articles about Lent to Dee Pauls, and the group discussed the meaning of Lent. There was much participation, and the exchange focused on doing more in the ways of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Dee also led the meeting on March 5 since Fr. Cristiano was away in Brazil. She used pamphlets on prayer and *lectio divina* to generate some discussion. One point was that *lectio* is not necessarily as difficult as people make it out to be; one needs only to reflect prayerfully on a short passage of Scripture.

On April 2 Fr. Cristiano had to attend a diocesan meeting, but he left Dee with an article entitled "Dying to Defeat Death." There result was a lively discussion that lasted over an hour.

#### **Williamsport, PA (Ss. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus Deanery)** -- meetings on last Sunday of each month, 1 P.M., St. Boniface Church (or rectory) meeting room

Lay leader Ted Richardson wrote on April 22 and 28. The meeting on January 27, attended by five Oblates, consisted of a study of three chapters of *Benedict's Way*: "Words," "Pleasures," and "Marking Time." As has been customary at deanery meetings, the text was read; time was taken for recollection; comments were made on the text; parallel experiences were shared; and the ideas were summarized. The meeting ended with the praying of Evening Prayer.

On February 24 only Ted and Oblate Will Edwards appeared for the scheduled meeting. After waiting for a while they closed with prayer. At the meeting on March 30, the group discussed "Listening Again" from *Benedict's Way*, had a brief business session, and closed with the Liturgy of the Hours.

At the meeting on April 27, attended by five Oblates, Fr. Donald's visit on May 29 was discussed. Then there was a study taken from the introduction of the book *Preferring Christ*, with a review and application of *lectio, meditatio, oratio*, and *contemplatio*. This was discussed in the context of Luke 5 and Psalm 63, and the lively exchange continued into the parking lot. The 100-minute meeting concluded with the "Regina Coeli."

#### **Various Locations**

On January 27 in the chapel in Mercer, PA,

**Miguel (John of the Cross) Such** of Mercer, PA,

made his final Oblation in the presence of Deacon Ralph A. DeCecco.

On April 13, at the chapel in Somerset, PA, Rev. James M. Dugan invested as Oblate novices:

**Eric Brown** of Somerset, PA, and

**John Bushyager** of Somerset, PA.

On April 14, after Mass at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Huffman, TX, Rev. Richard Barker invested

**Ricardo B. Gonzales** of Humble, TX,

as an Oblate novice.

On April 15, at St. Paul Church in Norristown, PA, Rev. Harry E. McCreedy, pastor, invested **Thomas J. Walsh** of Plymouth Meeting PA, as an Oblate novice.

On April 18 at the Archabbey Basilica, **Jeffrey E. (Columba) Fountaine** of Exton, PA, made his final Oblation in the presence Fr. Donald, his family (wife Dorothy and Daughters Erin, Katie and Anna), and the Oblates gathered for the April meeting of the Oblate Board of Advisors.

**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: Br. Gerard Klaric, Fr. Thomas Devereux, and Fr. Paul Rubadue.

**DECEASED MONK**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of the recently deceased monk of the Archabbey, Fr. Simon Toth, 76, who died on April 10. (Copies of his official obituary are available from the Oblate Office.)

**OVERDUE OR MISSING LIBRARY BOOKS: PLEASE RESPOND!**

During the past few 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.** Also, if anyone would like to donate a copy of any of the lost books, such a donation would be welcome. (We are grateful for four recent donations of missing books.)

- 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*
- Sr. Rachel Callahan, C.S.C., & ..., *Harvest Us Home: Good News As We Age*
- André Gozier, O.S.B., *Fifteen Days of Prayer with Saint Benedict*
- Richard J. Hauser, S.J., *Finding God in Troubled Times*
- Rev. Bernard Head, *Blessed Marmion: A 21st-Century Appreciation* (pamphlet)
- 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*
- Mark Plaiss, *The Inner Room*
- Pseudo Macarius, *The Fifty Spiritual Homilies and the Great Letter*
- Fr. Michael Scanlon, O.F.M., *Let the Fire Fall*

**Reservation for Feast of St. Benedict on July 11, 2008**

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

\_\_\_ I plan to come to St. Vincent for \_\_\_ lunch, \_\_\_ supper along with \_\_\_ guests;  
I enclose \_\_\_\_\_ (\$5.75 for lunch, \$6.75 for supper, per person).

\_\_\_ I plan to come only for 10:00 A.M. Mass on July 11.

\_\_\_ I hope to be invested as an \_\_\_ Oblate, \_\_\_ Oblate novice on July 11. (If becoming a full Oblate, I choose \_\_\_\_\_ as an Oblate name. **An application form is required.**)

\_\_\_ I am a jubilarian Oblate and hope to be present to receive a certificate. (Please contact Fr. Donald.)

Please send this form and a check made out to **ST. VINCENT ARCHABBAY** for meals before July 4 to: **Mrs. Christine Karem, 2012 Souli St., Greensburg, PA 15601 (phone: 724-216-5830).**

If you would like overnight accommodations, please phone Fr. Donald at 742-805-2291. Please also contact Fr. Donald if you plan to be invested as an Oblate novice or to make your final Oblation on July 11.

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**Schedule for Oblates, Feast of St. Benedict, July 11, 2008**

10:00 A.M. Mass, Basilica

12:00 P.M. Dinner, Placid B (1st floor, Placid Hall)  
(approximate)

- 2:30 P.M. Oblation ceremonies (investitures, Oblations), Basilica choir area
- 5:00 P.M. Evening Prayer, Basilica choir area
- 5:40 P.M. Supper, Placid B (1<sup>st</sup> floor, Placid Hall)
- 

**Information Form for Oblates in the Latrobe / Greensburg / Ligonier / Jeannette / Wheeling areas**

I would like to have my information included in a collection of names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of members of the Oblate community who regularly attend events at the Archabbey. My information is as follows:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send this information to: Mrs. Christine Karem, 2012 Souli St., Greensburg, PA 15601 (phone: 724-216-583); e-mail: ckarem@comcast.net.**

**OBLATE PROJECT FOR SUMMER, 2008:**

A suggested project for this summer for Oblates or Oblate novices affiliated with St. Vincent Archabbey is to make a written contribution to a possible future book of reflections on the *Rule* of St. Benedict. This summer, if you are an Oblate or an Oblate novice, you are invited to submit a reflection with the theme “A Reflection on One [or Several] of My Favorite Verses of the *Holy Rule*.” Please indicate which verses you are using. The length of the reflection is to be fewer than 250 words.

If you are making a written contribution, you are welcome to use the bottom and the back of this form. You are welcome to make another contribution even if you wrote one during Lent, 2007. Please make a copy of your submission if you want one for yourself, since we cannot return the original. Please make your submission by September 30, 2008, to **Oblate Office, St. Vincent Archabbey, 300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650-2690**. You may remain anonymous if you do not wish your name to be included with your entry.

**RELEASE:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please sign.)*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, give my permission to the Oblate Office to publish my reflection (enclosed) in a future book or booklet. I understand that my reflection may be edited for grammar or length.

Anonymity:

\_\_\_\_\_ I would be glad to have my name included with my reflection.

\_\_\_\_\_ I prefer not to have my name printed with my reflection.