



# THE SAINT VINCENT OBLATE NEWS

## Saint Vincent Archabbey

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Please note flier with forms for registration for July 11 and for 2011 Directory.

### OVERCOMING THE "BEAST" IN US: BANISHING EVIL FROM OUR MIDST WITH THERAPEUTIC DESTRUCTION

Dear Oblates, Oblate novices, and Friends,

This past fall I was doing my *lectio divina* with the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah. Praying over this prophet's words can be difficult for me because the text frequently seems to portray God as upset, angry, and even destructive. Jeremiah includes such prophecies as, "See now, says the Lord God, my anger and my wrath I will pour out upon this place, upon man and beast, upon the trees of the field and the fruits of the earth; it will burn without being quenched" (Jer 7:20). He also proclaims, "For the Lord has wrought our destruction, he has given us poison to drink, because we have sinned against the Lord" (Jer 8:14). How can this be? What can it mean for us? Perhaps we would like to dismiss these words as a distorted or exaggerated description of God from the Old Testament or would prefer to apply God's destructive wrath to genuinely wicked people (or our "enemies"), not to ourselves. Still, such prophecies are God's living word. We might note further that Our Lord also, in the Gospels, has plenty of "hard sayings" that refer to the destructive power of God. How can we better interpret this "destructive" inclination of God as applied to our journeys of Christian faith?

Not many months ago I drove by a billboard which exhibited an ugly cartoon character about to devour some food with a caption that read something like "Feed your hungry beast." That advertisement for a fast-food restaurant embodied much that is wrong with our secularistic world. Disordered appetites, including gluttony, are promoted as healthy. Ugly, self-indulgent behavior is viewed as normal. Lowering our expectations of human beings to beastly standards is considered inevitable; there seems to be a line of thought that we humans are no more than intellectual beasts who cannot refrain from indulging in every sensual appetite. This attitude leaves no room for the conscience, the soul, or God. In his book *Dogma and Preaching* (quoted in *Benedictus*, page 377), Pope Benedict XVI asserts, "In Jesus Christ the creation of man first attains its true goal; in him the Creator's conception of man finds its full expression; in him the beast that lurks in all of us is overcome for the first time, and the human in its fullness come on the stage of history." Thus this beast-like dimension in us is not to be encouraged but rather to be overcome and eventually destroyed in order to give way to "newness of life in Christ," our saintly dimension.

St. Benedict is rightly called a "master of moderation," but that title must be rightly interpreted. To say that he was "moderate" does not mean that he compromised with evil; rather it acknowledges that he made room for human weakness and tolerated less-than-ideal conditions so as to motivate his monks to aspire to higher standards. In Chapter 28 St. Benedict gives a series of measures to be taken to discipline a "sick brother" (wayward monk). If encouragement, the use of Scriptures, reproof, "excommunication," strokes of the rod, and systematic communal prayer do not serve to correct the monk's serious disorders, then "the abbot must use the knife and amputate" (*RB* 28:6). Seriously disordered behavior can be tolerated only so long; to allow it to continue beyond a certain point would cause significant damage to the community. In Chapters 23 to 28 St. Benedict specifies how a misbehaving monk is to be excommunicated from the common table (for lesser faults) or excommunicated also from the oratory (for more serious faults). Regarding a monk who departs from the monastery and then seeks to come back, the *Rule* stipulates that he cannot return more than three times; after that he "will be denied all prospect of return" (*RB* 29:3). St. Benedict also warns his monks that chronic disobedience can incur disinheritance by God; rebellious behavior might lead the perpetrator to face "the dread lord, enraged by our sins, who punishes us forever as worthless servants for refusing to follow him to glory" (Prol: 7). To avoid falling into evil, one must nip temptations in the bud; "while these temptations [from the evil one] were still young, he [the monk] dashed them against Christ" (Prol: 28). Sarabaites and gyrovagues are considered to lead a "disgraceful way of life" (1:12), which is to be utterly shunned. A visiting monk is to be welcomed, as long as "he is content with the life as he finds it, and does not make excessive demands that upset the monastery" (61:2). In fact, if he makes "some reasonable criticism or observations, one may reason that "the Lord guided him to the monastery for this very purpose" (61:4). However, if "he has been found excessive in his demands or full of faults" (61:6), then "he should be politely told to depart, lest his wretched way contaminate others" (61:7). Likewise, if a priest-monk becomes proud, rebels against the rules of the monastery, and fails to amend, "he is to be dismissed" if "his faults become notorious" (62:10). Also, a prior who is proud and contemptuous and "does not reform" (65:20), after other measures are taken, "should ... be expelled from the monastery" (65:21). Even in the

case of an abbot, if “a whole community should conspire to elect a man who goes along with its own evil ways” (64:3), then there must be efforts to “block the success of this wicked conspiracy” (64:5).

The theme of therapeutic destruction is very relevant to the Easter Season. In the preface for the Octave of Easter, we hear the phrase, “By dying He [Christ] destroyed our death; by rising He restored our life.” Yes, Christ came among us to show us the love of the Father, but in that process His mission was also to destroy forces of evil. Coming to free us from sin and death, He has invited us to live a new, transformed life, which is a prelude to the life of perfect joy in heaven; but to attain that goal we need to join Our Lord in His battle against evil and in His work to destroy the powers that conspire to defeat His Kingdom on earth. Thus we are more and more to put aside the “old man,” the beastly, unredeemed part of us that still lurks within. St. Paul exhorts us, “Clear out the old yeast” (1 Cor 5:7). He also reminds us that “our old self was crucified with Him [Christ] so that the sinful body might be destroyed and we might be slaves to sin no longer” (Rom 6:6). Insofar as we are still sinners, we need to hand over our sinful inclinations again and again for forgiveness and for the gradual destruction of the self-centered impulses in us. By the power of the Cross, St. Paul proclaims, quoting Isaiah 19:12, that God “will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and thwart the cleverness of the clever” (1 Cor 1:10). In that spirit of banishing what is evil, St. Paul said of a notorious public sinner, “I hand him over to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord” (1 Cor 5:5).

In his book *Come and See: The Monastic Way for Today* (Cistercian Publications, 2010), Abbot Brendan Freeman O.C.S.O., of New Melleray Abbey states, “We close the doors of our hearts to everything that pulls us out of our recollection, everything that stirs up our anger or passions. If we stop temptations in their infancy when they are only thoughts, they will never give birth to actions. These practices are meant to free us for the one thing necessary. Here in the monastery we have everything we need, and the interior atmosphere is one of peace. Let the abbot arrange things so that no one is troubled in the house of God, exhorts St. Benedict” (page 90). The notion of closing doors to harmful things makes much sense. Lot and his guests firmly shut the door to lustful intruders (Gen 19: 10-11). Our Lord’s parable of the ten bridesmaids states that the door was barred to those who did not have oil in their torches. (Apparently they were lukewarm in their desire to welcome the groom and did not prepare well.) Jesus Himself will close the door of the Kingdom to those who cry out, “Lord, Lord,” but do not do the will of the Father (cf. Mt 7: 21-23). (We hope that such challenging injunctions will motivate us to strive to do the Father’s will and not just talk about it!) All of us need to close the doors of our hearts and minds to impulses that tend to destroy our desire to live in Christ; we must in turn welcome Him to destroy all that reduces us to a beast-like existence. An act of consecration to the Sacred Heart includes the phrase, “Destroy in me all that is

displeasing to You. Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like unto Yours.”

How, then, can the Gospel and the *Rule* help us to deal more firmly and effectively with the evil forces that inhibit our spiritual progress? If our hearts are to become like that of Our Lord (and that is one way of summarizing the whole Christian journey), then we need to acknowledge that there is much in us that needs to be destroyed, and much to be improved and transformed. Vigilance is a key virtue in this endeavor. St. Benedict says that a monk should “[guard] himself at every moment from sins and vices of thought or tongue, of head or foot, of self-will or bodily desire” (*RB* 7:12). Recognizing that one is always in God’s presence is a great benefit; St. Benedict urges the monk, “Let him recall that he is always seen by God in heaven, that his actions everywhere are in God’s sight and are reported by angels at every hour” (7:13). In sum, out of love for Christ a monk or Oblate should seek to please God in every detail of life and thus seek to destroy every inclination that does not please God. This healthy type of destruction, or “trimming” and “pruning” (see Jn 15:2), is an essential element of the path to holiness.

There are many practical opportunities each day to overcome the “beast” in us and thus to leave behind our slavery to sin and to embrace life in the Spirit. We need to withdraw quickly from occasions of sin and perhaps totally eliminate sources of chronic temptation. Overuse of television and the wrongful use of the Internet can bring out the worst in people. All of us need to shun every indecent image; we must put strict limits on the use of the computer because even its legitimate, ordinary use can be addictive; we may even resolve to do without television altogether, as some people have done, because of Christian convictions. If we tend to become impatient while driving, we should make special efforts to pray at the wheel and methodically to bless other drivers, especially those who drive recklessly or get in our way. (Thus they become a blessing to us by helping us to grow in patience and charity; when others drive in a “beastly” way, we need not respond in kind!) Eating meals can also provide opportunities to overcome the beast within us. We may be tempted to rush, to overeat, to dawdle unnecessarily, or to lack charity or dignified restraint in our conversation. To oppose such tendencies, the grace we pray before meals should be uttered with a firm intention of affecting the way we behave during the meal. The prayer should help us to dine in a grace-filled way – to choose food according to God’s will (which depends on our particular physical condition), to avoid unnecessary haste, to communicate with others with attentive concern, and to avoid excessive attachment to pleasure or emotional gratification, which can easily get us into trouble. Resisting the temptation to gobble down food like animals, we can learn to eat with graceful restraint, gratitude, and joy. As the Bible narrates, the Christians of the early Jerusalem community “ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people” (Acts 2:46-47). Does the way we eat nurture joy in our hearts? Does it give

praise to God? Does it give witness to others, especially those who may wonder what makes us special as Christians? Every experience of dining can help us to be more conformed to Christ rather than to the beast that lurks within. As St. Paul reminds, "whether you eat or drink – whatever you do – you should do all for the glory of God" (1 Cor 10:31). We might also consider whether, if our Lenten penances helped us to give greater glory to God and to grow in charity, we should continue them during the Easter Season and beyond.

As the word "discipleship" implies, the life of a Christian disciple requires much discipline. A life governed by the values of the *Holy Rule* requires that we wage war against the Devil and the "beast" within us. It requires the therapeutic destruction of evil tendencies and the banishment of thoughts that keep us from following Christ. It requires that we catch sinful impulses

quickly and offer them to God for elimination (usually gradual) and transformation. Then, little by little, whether we are praying, eating, driving, doing creative work, bearing with dull routine, or dealing with others, we can, with the power of the risen Lord, overcome the beast that lurks within us and make more room for Christ to dwell in our entire beings. We can learn to please God always and everywhere as a preparation for enjoying our eternal inheritance in heaven, "so that [even on this troubled earth] in all things God may be glorified" (*RB* 57:9, quoting 1 Pt 4:11).

Your brother in Christ and Saint Benedict,

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

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

April 28, 2011

Dear Oblates and Friends,

On May 1, 2011, the Church celebrates the Second Sunday of Easter (Mercy Sunday) and the beatification of Pope John Paul II. It is a wonderful occasion and serves as a reminder of the promise which our Lord made to His disciples: "Behold, I am with you always." It is a day of great hope!

The Church, the world, and each one of us face tremendous challenges. The battle between the forces of light and those of darkness, which Christ encountered in His life on earth, continues. Because of His victory over the forces of darkness and death in the Resurrection, we live in hope. "O death, where is your victory?"

Blessed Pope John Paul II remains a model of faith and a prophet of hope for our age. As we celebrate his beatification, let us pray for a renewal of hope and faith for all of the Church and for each of us in our personal lives.

May the blessings of the Risen Lord be with you always!

Sincerely in Christ,

Archabbot Douglas

### **SOLEMNITY OF ST. BENEDICT AT THE ARCHABBAY, MONDAY, MARCH 21**

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 concelebrated Mass at 4:00 P.M., Archabbot Douglas presided, received the transfer of stability of Fr. Stephen Concordia, O.S.B., and cited the Benedictine Nuns of St. Emma Monastery, who were present as a body and who this year are celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their founders' arrival at St. Vincent on February 25, 1931.

After dinner Oblation ceremonies were held at 6:30 P.M. in the Archabbey Basilica, during which Fr. Donald received the following:

Oblates: **James M. (Daniel) Bell, Jr.**, of North Huntingdon, PA  
**John G. Hudak** of York, PA  
**Timothy A. (Nicholas) O'Brockta** of Fredericktown, PA  
**Ronald Stachoni** of Latrobe, PA

Oblate novices: **Deacon Robert D. Bailey** of Hollidaysburg, PA  
**Gregory J. Dober** of Pittsburgh, PA  
**Pastor Joel B. Hummel** of Hanover, PA  
**Carolyn Macha** of Latrobe, PA .

Deacon Robert is a permanent deacon of the Altoona/Johnstown Diocese. Pastor Hummel is a minister in the United Church of Christ and chaplain at a large nursing complex in the Hanover area. (continued)

Next the group prayed Vespers with the monks at 7:30. After that they enjoyed a social in Placid Dining Room B, where Fr. Cyprian and Fr. Donald provided some music on the piano and viola.

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

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 will be the retreat master on May 20-22, and Fr. Donald will be the retreat master on June 3-5 for a silent retreat. On the afternoon of May 21, there will be a meeting of representatives of Oblate deaneries, and Oblation ceremonies will also be held that 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 at the Archabbey Basilica at 10:00 A.M. on Monday, July 11. The Mass should include the profession of solemn vows by several of the monks. Oblates are invited to stay for lunch and for a meeting at 2:30, for Evening Prayer at 5:00, and for 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 sixth time the meeting at 2:30 will include a ceremony to honor Oblates who this year celebrate 5, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 55, or 60 or more years of Oblation. At the suggestion of the Oblate Board of Advisors, there will be time for photographs after the jubilant ceremonies.

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

### **NOVICES TO PROFESS FIRST VOWS ON SUNDAY, JULY 10, 5:00 P.M.**

Oblates are welcome to attend the ceremony for the profession of first vows at Evening Prayer in the Archabbey Basilica on July 10. Those wishing to stay for supper should contact Fr. Donald.

### **OBLATE DAY 2011 - September 25**

Oblate Deacon Michael L. Russo of Johnstown has agreed to serve as the guest speaker on Oblate Day, Sunday, September 25, 2011. Deacon Michael is moderator of the Oblate deanery in Johnstown, directs the deacon formation program for the Altoona/Johnstown Diocese, and teaches at St. Vincent Seminary. A schedule and a registration form for the event will appear in the August newsletter.

### **OBLATE DAY OF RECOLLECTION - October 15**

The past six 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 15. Fr. Jacques Daley, O.S.B., part-time Catholic chaplain at Latrobe Hospital and well-known speaker on E.W.T.N., will serve as the retreat master.

### **ITEMS AVAILABLE FROM THE OBLATE OFFICE**

- (1) one remaining book *Life and Miracles of St. Benedict* - \$6.76 each, plus postage
- (2) pamphlet "God's Love for You" with message of evangelization - free
- (3) booklet *St. Benedict for Busy Parents* - \$.40 each
- (4) booklet of Oblates' reflections on verses of the *Rule* - free or with donation for postage
- (5) booklet of history of Oblate deaneries - free or with donation for postage
- (6) cards with colored picture of St. Benedict and with prayer for a happy death
- (7) copies of the new book *Lessons from Saint Benedict* (from Oblate newsletters), \$10.00 each if picked up at St. Vincent (see below)

### **PHONE PRAYER CHAIN AND E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN:**

Oblates in the Latrobe/Greensburg area have had a prayer chain by telephone facilitated by Oblate Anthony Sunseri since 2009, and last year there was begun a prayer chain that transmits intentions by e-mail facilitated by Oblate Maryann Cherubini. If any Oblate or Oblate novice in the area would like to join the weekly prayer chain by phone, please contact **Anthony Sunseri** at (724) 832-0868 or (by e-mail) at [ajsds@verizon.net](mailto:ajsds@verizon.net). If you wish to be a part

of a weekly e-mail prayer chain, please contact **Maryann Cherubini** at [macherubini@comcast.net](mailto:macherubini@comcast.net) or (by phone) at **(724) 837-3142**.

### **DIRECTORY OF OBLATES: PREPARING FOR 2011 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 via the form on the flier. Likewise, if you were not included in the 2009 *Directory* but wish to be listed in this summer's revision, please send to Chris **before July 1** 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 2011 version should be ready for distribution by July 11. 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. (See the form on the flier.)

Note: All moderators, lay leaders, and secretaries of deaneries will be included in the *Directory* unless an individual contacts the Oblate Office and states that he or she does not wish to be included.

### **NAABOD CONFERENCE AT ST. MEINRAD ARCHABBEY ON JULY 1-6, 2011**

The 2011 biennial meeting of the North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors will take place at St. Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad, Indiana, on July 1-6, 2011. Besides the Oblate director, two Oblates from each participating monastery are invited to attend. Oblates Mary Catherine Hoover of the Sacred Heart Deanery in Carrolltown and Joyce Collins of the St. Gregory the Great Deanery in Latrobe have agreed to attend this conference. Fr. Paschal Morlino, moderator of the St. Walburga Deanery in Baltimore, is the current vice-president of NAABOD and will also represent St. Vincent at the meeting. Please pray that this event will be grace-filled and fruitful.

### **COLLECTION OF ESSAYS FROM OBLATE NEWSLETTERS IN BOOK FORM TO BE AVAILABLE**

A book *Lessons from Saint Benedict: Finding Joy in Daily Life* has been published by Sotina Publishing, operated by Joseph Reidhead of Augusta, MO, son of Oblates Van and Mary Reidhead of East Stroudsburg, PA. Joe formed the company last year and, in looking through Oblate newsletters, thought that a collection of essays (properly edited) from the newsletters could form a marketable book.

The publicity for the book states, "Part of a collection written over twenty years, *Lessons from Saint Benedict* contains 26 letters .... Using the 1500-year-old *Rule* of Benedict and Benedictine spirituality as his foundation, Father Donald offers words of spiritual encouragement and guidance for persevering through the journey of daily life. With the Gospel and *Rule* of Benedict as guides ... we can learn to see God's graces in every dimension of our lives, even the most seemingly mundane. [The book] provides both serious and light-hearted examples from [daily] life to demonstrate how we can renew and strengthen our spirituality through the daily grind, and perhaps even find joy in the process.

"*Lessons from Saint Benedict* will be in select bookstores on May 20<sup>th</sup> and available from online bookstores and [www.sacredwindspress.com](http://www.sacredwindspress.com) at \$14.95."

Oblates, Oblate novices, and other readers of this newsletter will be given a discount on books purchased before June 20. If you come to St. Vincent Archabbey, you can pick up a book from the Oblate Office at **\$10.00**. If you would like to order online from Joe Reidhead, use product code **STBEN123** with the above website, and the cost will be **\$12.95** with free shipping. If you prefer to order by phone or U.S. mail, you may phone Sacred Winds Press at 636-987-2677 or 314-724-0949 (Joe's cell phone) or write to him with a check at P.O. Box 1, Augusta, MO 63332.

### **NEW BOOK BY FR. RENE KOLLAR, O.S.B., AVAILABLE**

Fr. Rene, who is a Professor of History at St. Vincent College and Dean of the School of Humanities and Fine Arts, has recently written a book *A Foreign and Wicked Institution? The Campaign against Convents in Victorian England*. Publicity for the book states, "Many in Victorian England harbored deep suspicion of convent life. In addition to looking at anti-Catholicism and the fear of both Anglican and Catholic sisterhoods that were established during the nineteenth century, this work explores the prejudice that existed against women in Victorian England who joined sisterhoods and worked in orphanages and in education and were committed to social work among the urban poor. ... The accomplishments of the nineteenth-century nuns and the opposition they overcame should serve as both an example and encouragement to all men and women committed to the Gospel."

The paperback book of 318 pages, ISBN 978-1-60608-336-9, can be ordered from Pickwick Publications (199 West 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 3, Eugene, OR 97401) by phone at (541) 344-1528, by FAX at (541) 344-1506, or

by e-mail at [orders@wipfandstock.com](mailto:orders@wipfandstock.com) . The cost is \$35.00 each. Copies are also available at the St. Vincent College Book Center.

### **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.

### **RENEWALS OF OBLATION**

Fr. Donald and Br. Jeremiah are grateful for the many Oblates (some 110) 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.

### **SPIRITUAL NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE FROM ABBAYE SAINT-JOSEPH de CLAIRVAL IN FRANCE**

An excellent 4-page monthly newsletter with biographies of notable Catholics, usually canonized saints who are not generally well known, is issued by Abbaye Saint-Joseph de Clairval in France. If you are interested in receiving this newsletter, you may contact the abbey by mail at 21150 Flavigny-sur-Ozerain, FRANCE, or by e-mail at [abbey@clairval.com](mailto:abbey@clairval.com).

### **ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS**

Oblates in the Latrobe/Greensburg area are welcome to participate in Eucharistic adoration in St. Gregory Chapel on every Sunday 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. Oblates are encouraged to participate especially on those Sundays of Oblate meetings.

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

- Pope Benedict XVI, *On the Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church (Verbum Domini)* (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2010)
- Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, O.F.M.Cap., *Mary: Mirror of the Church* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1992)
- Sister Anne Fields, O.S.B., *Blessed in Our Brokenness: by Finding Peace in the Challenges of Aging and Illness* (Ijamsville, MD: The Word Among Us Press, 2007)

### **NEW (OR NEWLY DISCOVERED) BOOKS ON BENEDICTINE SPIRITUALITY**

- (1) Robert Benson, *In Constant Prayer* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2008)
- (2) Robert Benson, *A Good Neighbor: Benedict's Guide to Community* (Brewster, MA: Paraclete Press, 2009)
- (3) Abbot Brendan Freeman, O.C.S.O., *Come and See: The Monastic Way for Today* (Trappist, KY: Cistercian Publications, 2010)

### **OBLATE BOARD OF ADVISORS**

The Oblate Board of Advisors met at the Archabbey on Friday, April 15. They discussed various issues, including the forming of an Oblate Ongoing Formation Committee, the forming of an Oblate Retreat Committee, the assembling of a book of photographs, the possibility of term limits for members of the Board, and representation at the NAABOD meeting in July. Oblate Deborah Johnston, who was present, was invited to join the Board, and she accepted. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Friday, June 17, at 6:30 P.M. in Brownfield 203.

### **MENTORING PROGRAM AND PRAYER-PARTNER PROGRAM**

The Mentoring Program for guiding inquirers and Oblate novices in Benedictine spirituality is 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. Also, if you would like to have another Oblate (novice) or a monk as a prayer partner, please contact the Oblate Office or Anthony and Donna Sunseri at (724) 832-0868.

### **BENEDICTINE STUDY GROUP FORMED IN CAMBRIDGE, ONTARIO, CANADA**

Oblate novice Julie Sousa of Ayr, Ontario, reports that several people in her area have been meeting informally at her parish and will begin regular monthly meetings to study the *Rule* and Benedictine spirituality in June. The first meeting will be on Thursday, June 23, at 7:00 P.M. in the Parish Centre of St. Gregory the Great Church at 10 St. Gregory's Drive

in Cambridge, Ontario. Four Oblate novices are among the group; so it may develop into a deanery.

### **PILGRIMAGE TO TURKEY, OCTOBER 10-21**

A pilgrimage to Turkey especially for Oblates and their friends is being prepared by Pastor Keith E.O. Homstad, an Oblate affiliated with St. John's Abbey in Minnesota. The title of the pilgrimage is "Saint Paul + Our Monastic Heritage + The Spirituality of Icons," and the cost is \$2,590 per person, double occupancy, excluding international airfare between the U.S.A. and Turkey. More information can be found at <http://webpages.charter.net/keithhomstad/2011%20Turkey.htm>

One may contact Pastor Homstad at 311 Manitou St., Northfield, MN 55057; phone: 507-645-5111; e-mail: [keithhomstad@charter.net](mailto:keithhomstad@charter.net). The deadline to sign up is the middle of July.

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

All Oblates and their guests are welcome to attend monthly meetings of the Latrobe (St. Gregory the Great) 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 sessions will be held on May 15, June 12, July 17, and August 21. (Note the change to the second Sunday in June.) Those wishing to come early for Vespers and supper should phone Fr. Donald (724-805-2291) in advance.

**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.

### **NEWS FROM OBLATE DEANERIES**

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

Last year the newsletter failed to report the following. During a Saturday Vigil Mass on February 6, 2010, at the chapel in Albion, **Michael E. (Jerome) Sullivan** of Albion, PA, made his final Oblation in the presence of Msgr. James Peterson and Deacon Ralph DeCecco.

Deacon Ralph, moderator, wrote on March 21. The meeting on March 19, attended by 12 members of the Oblate community and two inquirers, began with Daytime Prayer. Oblate Craig Knepper led a discussion based on *RB 40*, concerning the proper amount of drink. Amid a lively exchange, Craig emphasized that centering our lives on Jesus Christ requires detachment from alcohol and all worldly possessions. Deacon Ralph then updated the group about a new Oblate website and distributed a hand-out about the Liturgy of the Hours. The meeting closed with the Litany of Humility.

#### **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 reported by e-mail on January 26, March 10, and April 11. The meeting on January 16, attended by 13 people, began with Evening Prayer and continued with a discussion from Chapter 2 of Fr. Michael Casey's book *A Guide to Living in the Truth*. The chapter concerns humility as truth - truth within oneself, truth in relations with others, and truth with regard to God. The discussion covered the descriptions of human beings as "not divine," as "creatures," as "sinners," and as "stalled."

Fr. John Peck, moderator, and 16 others attended the meeting on February 27. After Evening Prayer the group welcomed a new member (Jan Lamberski, originally from Latrobe) and an inquirer. The group read *RB 49*, and Fr. John talked about the sadness and joy of Lent and the challenges of being focused in our prayer and of "living in the moment" in all of life. The group planned to meet in March at St. Joseph Church in Mechanicsburg.

Two inquirers joined Fr. John and nine members of the Oblate community for a meeting in Mechanicsburg on March 27. After Evening Prayer Gabriele reported on a book that she had been reading for Lent, *The Challenge of Silence*. The book spoke of silence as therapeutic, as a means to self-encounter, and as a way to abandon oneself to God. Then Fr. John spoke about the theme "We Are Sinners" from the book *A Guide to Living in the Truth*. The next meeting was scheduled for May 22 at the office building of St. Joseph Church in Mechanicsburg.

#### **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 March 2 and April 1. A meeting was planned for February 26, but illness prevented the group from coming together.

Three Oblates did meet on March 26. The session opened and closed with the Liturgy of the Hours. In-between the attendees discussed the gifts of the Holy Spirit and their opposites. There was some thought about arranging joint meetings with Oblate groups in Southern Pines and Greensboro.

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

Secretary James "Jay" Wells reported by e-mail on February 21. The meeting on February 20 was led by a guest speaker, Fr. Charles Benoit, O.S.B., and 14 others attended. Fr. Charles spoke about *RB 49*, "The Observance of Lent," with reference to the early Church's views of Lent and with a careful reading and analysis of *RB 49* along with some discussion. Then there were questions with further discussion. The group then prayed Vespers in the church at 5:00.

At the meeting on March 20 during Vespers,

**Larina "Kay" (Antony Hildegard) Volo** of Gaithersburg, MD, made her final Oblation in the presence of Fr. Paschal Morlino, moderator, and the Oblates who were gathered.

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

Lay leader Ethel Galli wrote on February 7, March 14, and April 4. The meeting on January 28 began, as usual, with Vespers and continued with a discussion of Chapters 6, 7, and 8 of *Seeking God* by Esther de Waal. The conversation addressed the Christian's need to seek wholeness through countercultural choices, the call to ascend to God through humility and self-abandonment, the importance of regarding material things with respect and detachment, and the need to show respect to each person regardless of status. Then a written interview on "interior prayer" with Fr. Jacques Phillippe was read and discussed. Interior prayer, it was stated, is not a matter of thinking much but of loving much; it is a meeting with God founded on His desire to reveal Himself.

At the meeting on February 24, after the praying of Vespers, Jean Schweikart led a discussion on the sections of *RB 4* related to restraint of speech. Then Ethel led a discussion on Chapters 9 and 10 of *Seeking God*. The first chapter spoke of the need to balance interdependence and responsibility in community life and of the principles of solidarity, pluralism, authority, and subsidiarity. Chapter 10 on prayer emphasized the importance of silence and listening and asserted that the final purpose of monastic life was uninterrupted prayer, or the search for God in all things. *(continued)*

At the meeting on March 24, after Vespers, Ethel gave a presentation on the introduction to the book *The Life of Holy Hildegard*. St. Hildegard was known for her books about creation and redemption, her poetry, her musical compositions, her travels, her preaching, and her service as prioress of two Benedictine communities. Then Oblate Bernard Hughes summarized the book *The Life of Saint Gemma Galgani*.

**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 February 20. The meeting on February 20, held in the Boniface Wimmer Room, began with the Divine Office and continued with a discussion of *RB 3* and *RB 4*. Fr. Jude, moderator, summarized the notion of the monks' being summoned for counsel, and then a discussion led to some practical applications for lay people. Regarding *RB 4*, Fr. Jude called it a blueprint for Christian living which touches almost every aspect of life. The group also talked about the difficulties of applying the "tools of good works." Finally, it was announced that Fr. Jude's homilies were to be posted on the parish's website.

Several of the Oblates came to the Archabbey on April 17 for Fr. Jude's presentation on obedience, and that constituted their monthly meeting.

**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 April 29. At the regular monthly meeting on February 15, Rev. Gregory B. Wilson, moderator, led Vespers and gave a presentation on "The History of Praying the Liturgy of the Hours in the Benedictine Tradition." Ten people, including two visitors, were present. The evening closed with Compline at 8:15 P.M.

The meeting on March 15 began with Vespers at 6:30 P.M. Seven people attended, including one new inquirer. Light refreshments were served before the meeting. The session opened with a discussion of forthcoming events: an Oblation ceremony on March 21 and a visit of Fr. Cassian Folsom, O.S.B., the prior of the Benedictine monastery in Norcia, Italy, on April 8-10. For the latter the Oblates planned to host a Lenten soup dinner. Then Marsha gave a presentation on *RB 49*, "The Observance of Lent," which was followed by a period of questions and answers. Finally, the group gathered for Compline in the cathedral sanctuary.

To observe the Solemnity of the Passing of Our Holy Father St. Benedict on March 21, the deanery held a solemn sung Vespers service at 6:30 P.M. Fr. Wilson led Vespers, during which he invested

**Cheryl LaRose** of Charleston, SC, as an Oblate novice. Also, Oblate Marsha Boles renewed her Oblation. Fourteen people attended, including six visitors. A small reception followed the ceremony, and the praying of Compline ended the evening.

On April 8 the Oblates sponsored a Lenten soup dinner and a Lenten talk given by Fr. Cassian Folsom, entitled "Enriching Your Spiritual Life – Lent and Beyond." Fr. Cassian's presentation dealt with *lectio divina*: the need for it, the method, and ways to incorporate it into one's life. About sixty people from the area were in attendance.

The Oblates did not meet for a regular monthly meeting during April because of time constraints involving Holy Week.



As of May, it was decided that the group would take a few months off for the summer before the resumption of meetings.

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

Lay leader Mary Hoffken wrote on February 11. The meeting on February 10 was attended by Fr. Richard Chirichiello, O.S.B., the new pastor, and six Oblates. After an invocation to Our Lady of Guadalupe and the distribution of copies of *Oblate Deanery Histories*, the group decided to meet on second Thursdays and discussed the possibility of going to the Archabbey for the retreat on May 20-22. For the topic for future meetings they decided to study the *Rule* from beginning to end. Fr. Richard then gave some reflections on being a Benedictine, and one Oblate informed the group about a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe donated to the Oblates by Fr. Paschal Kneip, the former pastor. (It was placed in the parish garden.) The meeting concluded with Evening Prayer.

We are grateful to Fr. Paschal Kneip, recently retired at the Archabbey, for his founding of the deanery in Chincoteague and for his directing it for its first years.

**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 17, March 16, and April 12. The meeting on February 14 began with Evening Prayer and continued with a discussion based on Chapter 3, "Humility: The Courage to Serve," from *A Blessed Life* by Wil Derkse. The group disagreed with several points from the chapter and concluded that humility does not demand perfection but calls for honesty and patient helpfulness. They were informed that Deacon Michael Russo, their moderator, had been transferred to St. Benedict Parish for his diaconal service.

The meeting on March 14, after Vespers, involved a discussion about St. Benedict's views of daily work. Leading the session, Deacon Michael spoke about the need for all monks to contribute to the work of the community according to their capacity and the urgency of avoiding murmuring. Communication should be achieved with cheerful, well-spoken words that have a healing effect and that generate life and blessings.

The meeting on April 11 began with Evening Prayer and continued with a discussion led by Deacon Michael about what the Oblate group could do to serve the parish community. The practices of daily study and daily work were also treated. The aim of *lectio* is not to know more but to gain more life; it involves slow and repeated reading with an affectionate heart. The group also considered having a final-Oblation ceremony on June 20, with an invitation to the parish community to participate so that more parishioners can learn about the Oblate Program.

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

Some 20 people attended the regular meeting on February 20. Chapters 30-32 of *Life and Miracles* were discussed, with the culmination of St. Benedict's raising a child from the dead. Then the group began to consider the many lessons flowing from the encounter between St. Benedict and St. Scholastica in Chapter 33. Also, copies of *St. Benedict and St. Thérèse*, the next book for discussion, were distributed, and there were some plans made for the celebration on March 21. As usual, the meeting ended with the praying of Compline in the basilica at 8:30.

The meeting on March 13, attended by some 15 people, involved a continuation of the discussion about the final encounter between St. Scholastica and St. Benedict and about her death. The exchange included such topics as the primacy of love and the importance of praying for the dead. Also, plans were made for the Oblates' roles in the celebration on March 21. (continued)

On April 17 some 20 people joined Fr. Donald to discuss the final four chapters of *Life and Miracles*. The topics included St. Benedict's mystical experience of light, the characteristics of his *Rule*, his death, and the miracles that he performed after his death. Plans were made to begin a discussion of *St. Benedict and St. Thérèse* at the meeting on May 15, which will also include a report by Joyce Collins about her participation at the planning session for the 2013 World Congress last October in Spain.

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

On February 20 Br. Jeremiah, assistant Director of Oblates, gave a power-point presentation on *lectio divina* with many personal comments. Over 20 people attended. He described the basic elements of *lectio* as an alternating rhythm of reading and prayer, with a cultivation of the ability to listen deeply and a gentle attunement to the presence of God. After describing the four traditional dimensions of *lectio*, Br. Jeremiah reflected on the oscillation between activity and receptivity, on the concrete practice of *lectio*, on the need for fidelity through difficulties, on four keys to the healthy practice of *lectio*, and on the importance of reverence. There were many comments and questions after the presentation.

On March 13 Fr. Edward Mazich, Master of Novices, gave a thorough presentation on St. Benedict and the *Rule*. He emphasized that Benedictines are part of the living Body of Christ and that all Christians are called to grow into full maturity in Christ. In writing the *Rule*, St. Benedict drew on many sources. The *Rule* is not so much a set of restrictions

as a plan for our daily lives; such a rule of life can be a source of inspiration and grace for us, and it can help us to bear our part of the “yoke” of Christ. The *Rule* can also inspire monks and Oblates alike to live in dedicated poverty, chastity, and obedience and to make progress toward life in eternity.

On April 17 Fr. Jude Brady, moderator of the Sacred Heart Deanery in Carrolltown, gave a presentation on “Obedience in Benedictine Spirituality” to a full classroom of 24 people. Beginning with the fall of Adam and Eve, he spoke about our tendency to choose evil, God’s call to us to return to Him, and the aim of spiritual theology to pull us out of egocentrism. Obedience requires that we become silent and listen. St. Benedict called for obedience to the abbot and community as means of obeying God. Lay people obey God through family members and people at work. Our Lord’s Passion teaches us the connection between obedience and self-emptying, or poverty of spirit. With God’s grace we can over and over again say “Yes” to God in little decisions and thus prepare ourselves to obey God in larger matters. The *Rule* calls us to live our ordinary lives in continued surrender to God’s will and even to embrace life as a total self-offering to God.

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

Lay leader William Sedoma wrote on March 6 and March 21. At ceremonies on February 9 at the chapel in Minersville,

**William (Joseph) Sedoma** of Minersville, PA, made his final Oblation in the presence of Rev. Robert J. Potts.

On March 2 in the same chapel, Fr. Potts invested

**Joseph Nacchio** of Minersville, PA, as an Oblate novice.

Eight people attended the meeting on March 5. The group prayed for intentions from the Archabbey, discussed local business, and thanked those who had participated in the good-will bag. With the Catholic community growing, there have been efforts to inform others about the Oblate program. The possibility of having a Mass for former lay leader Paul Mangiardi on the first anniversary of his death was considered.

On March 9 at the chapel in Minersville,

**Jeffrey J. Coleman** of Minersville, PA, made his final Oblation in the presence of Fr. Potts.

**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 March 10. A bad snow storm limited attendance at the meeting on February 25. The six people who attended began, as usual, with Evening Prayer, a rosary, the litany of St. Benedict, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. There was some discussion of forthcoming events, and the ongoing series of discussions on the *Rule* were postponed until March.

The Oblates sponsored a Lenten day of recollection at St. Thomas Aquinas Church on Saturday, March 5. About 30 people attended altogether. The events included Mass at 10:00 A.M., exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Morning Prayer, the rosary, Stations of the Cross, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Benediction.

**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 March 14. The meeting on March 16 involved a discussion of Chapters 9 and 10 of *Strangers to the City*. The meeting followed Stations of the Cross at 6:30 at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Church.

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

There was no report.

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

Meetings were held on February 3, March 10, and April 14. Attendance in each case was small. In February Br. Michael Rumpf spoke about “Benedictine Spirituality”; in March Oblate Joyce Collins reflected on “What It Means to Be an Oblate”; and in April Oblate Deacon Michael Russo gave a presentation on “Prayer.” Each meeting concluded with Compline.

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

Oblate novice Sundi Keeling reported on April 22. The meeting on April 10 consisted of a day of recollection, which was well-attended and well-received. The speakers were moderator Fr. Ronald, Anne Antol, and Sundi. Then there was a community meal. The deanery’s Advisory Council was to meet on May 10 to plan events for the 2011-12 year. Sundi is working on a website for the deanery.

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

Lay leader Gretchen Meyers wrote on February 20, March 27, and April 18 (with Easter greetings). There was no

meeting in February because of illness and a difficult family situation.

Three Oblates did meet on March 18 for conversation and prayer. Concern was expressed about one absent member, who turned out to be in the hospital. Three Oblates met again on April 15.

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

During March and April secretary Marcia La Bant reported by e-mail on the meetings in February, March, and April.

Six people attended the meeting on February 13. Right before the meeting, Rev. Edward “Ted” Keating, moderator, invested

**Marcia La Bant** of Liverpool, PA,

as an Oblate novice. After a short discussion in the meeting room, the group returned to the chapel for Vespers. They also discussed the summer retreats at the Archabbey, and Oblate Bob Kurland suggested the reading of *RB* Prol. and Chapters 1, 2, and 4 for the next meeting.

Nine people attended the meeting on March 6. After an opening prayer and the praying of Vespers, the group discussed a possible patron saint for the deanery, and St. Anselm was chosen by vote. Then Fr. Ted came and invested

**Robert F. Sager** of Trevorton, PA,

as an Oblate novice. Also, the three full Oblates who were present renewed their promises.

Five people attended the meeting on April 10. After the praying of Vespers in the chapel, there was a discussion about *RB* 4, on the “instruments of good works,” and there was talk about the group’s reading *Seeking God* by Esther de Waal.

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

Secretary Laura Lowder reported by e-mail on February 11 and April 15. Four people attended the meeting on February 10; others were ill with the flu. After the praying of Vespers the group discussed *RB* 36-37 on the sick, the elderly, and children. The conversation was animated.

Four people were present at the meeting on March 10. After the praying of Vespers, the group continued a discussion of the *Rule*. Fr. Deacon Stephen Dozier presented copies of *Shorter Christian Prayer* to the others as a gift, to be used for common Vespers (as opposed to photocopies from various breviaries).

At the meeting on April 14, the six people present prayed Vespers and continued a discussion of the *Rule*. They also talked about possibilities for a group retreat, which they hoped to do as soon as possible after Easter.

**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.*

Secretary Phyllis Austin wrote on February 22 and March 23, and Oblate Kay Tittmann wrote on April 13. At the meeting on February 14, the Oblates met with Fr. David, moderator, for Evening Prayer and a first discussion of the book *To Whom Shall We Go?* by Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan. In the introduction and Chapter 1, the author follows the statements of St. Peter and shows us such essential lessons as keeping one’s eyes fixed on Jesus and living in the presence of God. After a discussion of business matters the meeting closed with prayer and the singing of the “Ultima.”

On March 14 eleven members of the deanery met with Fr. David to pray Vespers and discuss Chapters 2 and 3 of the book. A major point of exchange was the difficulty of sitting quietly and listening to the Lord versus letting our own opinions and petitions dominate us. The meeting ended with business matters, a prayer, and the “Ultima.”

Thirteen people, including three inquirers, attended the meeting on April 11. After Vespers the group discussed Chapter 4, “Embracing Our Cross,” of their text. They commented that Christians experience the Cross in the simple, ordinary adversities of life and that there is no way to avoid the Cross. Christ reminds us that it is a sign of victory. The group planned to discuss Chapters 6 and 7 in May, with the theme of loving the Lord and trusting in Him.

**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 February 11 and March 27. At the meeting on February 2, attended by nine people, Fr. Michael Gabler, moderator, offered reflections on *RB* 1, “The Kinds of Monks.” Then he answered some questions about fasting and Lenten sacrifices.

The next evening five Oblates joined the parish’s Young Adult Group for an hour of Eucharistic adoration.

Eleven Oblates attended the meeting on March 2. After the prayers to St. Benedict and intercessory prayers, Fr. Michael gave a teaching on “excommunication” in the *Rule*. The group also discussed forthcoming changes in the English translation of the Mass.

**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*

Secretary Susan Wykoff reported by e-mail on February 27, April 6, and May 2. Four people attended the meeting on February 27, led by lay leader Ted Richardson. After some conversation and the mention of prayer requests, the group finished reading Chapter 7, “Humility,” from *The Path of Life*. Sue shared an article from St. Vincent regarding the

Archabbey's mission efforts and college students' trips to the missions. The meeting closed with the Angelus.

There was no meeting in March because of illnesses. It was hoped that a meeting to share information about the Oblate Program could be arranged for July or August. It was reported on May 2 that Ted Richardson had been in critical condition in a hospital and was now in a skilled nursing facility in Muncy. Please pray for him.

### **Various Locations**

On January 30 at the chapel in Waynesburg,

**Robert G. (Francis) Frey** of Waynesburg, PA,

made his final Oblation in the presence of Rev. Francis Frazer.

On March 4 at the chapel in Lisbon, OH, Rev. Robert Edwards of St. George Church in Lisbon invested

**Daniel M. Schaff** of Lisbon, OH,

as an Oblate novice.

On February 10 Rev. Robert Cushing, pastor of St. Theresa Church in Cordele, GA, invested

**Matthew D. Ebeling** of Abbeville, GA,

as an Oblate novice in the chapel at Abbeville.

On February 10 at St. Joseph/St. Patrick Church in Utica, NY, after the praying of Vespers,

**Michael R. (Maximilian) Patterson** of New York Mills, NY,

made his final Oblation before Rev. Richard Dellos, pastor of the church. Michael is the son of Oblate Robert Patterson and the brother of Fr. Alfred, O.S.B. Michael reports that a number of people meet regularly with Fr. Dellos at the parish for *lectio*, prayer, and conferences on Benedictine spirituality. Some of these people, including Fr. Dellos, are Oblates affiliated with other monasteries.

On March 20 at St. James Church in Conway, SC,

**Paul N. (Simeon) Fling** of Myrtle Beach, SC,

made his final Oblation in the presence of Rev. Frederick "Rick" La Brecque, pastor. The ceremony was held during a 7:00 A.M. Sunday Mass, and all of Paul's family in the area attended.

On April 15 during Mass in the chapel at St. Gabriel, LA,

**Mark (Frederick) Dittmer** of St. Gabriel, LA,

made his final Oblation in the presence of Fr. Michael L. Thompson, S.S.J., two deacons, and others who were attending the Mass. Mark was also invited to assist in distributing the Eucharist.

### **SICK & INFIRM MONKS**

Please pray for the following monks of St. Vincent Archabbey, who have been hospitalized or otherwise seriously ill during the past three months: Br. Benedict Janecko, Fr. Jacques Daley, Fr. William Beaver, Fr. Lee Yoakam.

### **DECEASED MONK**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Br. Frederic Supek, 75, who died on April 17, Passion Sunday.

### **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.** Those books whose borrowers are known are not listed below; but if you are one of these borrowers, please respond to the phone calls and/or letters that you receive from the Oblate Office. Thank you!

- 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 for Feast of St. Benedict on July 11, 2011**

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

\_\_\_ I plan to come to St. Vincent for \_\_\_ lunch, \_\_\_ supper along with \_\_\_ guests;  
I enclose \_\_\_\_\_ (\$5.50 for lunch, \$6.50 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 ARCHABBEY** for meals before July 4 to:

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

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, 2011**

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, honoring of jubilarians), St. Gregory Chapel

5:00 P.M. Evening Prayer, Basilica choir area

5:40 P.M. Supper, Placid B (1<sup>st</sup> floor, Placid Hall)

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**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 724-216-5830.

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

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

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**ORDER FORM FOR THE BOOK LESSONS FROM ST. BENEDICT (by mail)**

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ copies of *Lessons from Saint Benedict* at \$10.00 each before June 20. Enclosed is a check for \_\_\_\_\_. (The book can also be ordered from [www.sacredwindspress.com](http://www.sacredwindspress.com) by use of the product code STBEN123.) Please send checks to Sacred Winds Press at P.O. Box 1, Augusta, MO 63332.

