



THE SAINT VINCENT OBLATE NEWS
Saint Vincent Archabbey
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Please see the flier for ordering Saint Benedict and Saint Thérèse.

**“YOU CHOOSE THE WEAK AND MAKE THEM STRONG”:
GOD HASTENS US ON TO PERFECTION THROUGH OUR HUMILITY**

Dear Oblates, Oblate novices, and Friends,

As someone who is fortunately able to attend our community's daily Mass and Liturgy of the Hours almost always, I am also very aware of the flaws that can occur from time to time. Aside from the graces to refocus on prayer and to overlook or forgive quickly, some of the failings contain hidden lessons for our journeys of faith. I have noticed that one frequently misstated phrase in the Mass occurs in the preface for martyrs, which includes the words, “You choose the weak and make the strong.” Having often heard the error “You chose the weak,” I wonder if this misstatement reflects a common human tendency to think of God's marvelous actions as only in the past and not in the present. Perhaps the error points to the misguided attitude that although God may have chosen me (or our ancestors in faith) in a wonderful way in the past, He seems no longer to work so powerfully in the present. Lingering in this mindset, one can lapse into spiritual inertia or indifference instead of nurturing a sense of discovery of what God is doing here and now and of joyful expectation over what He is about to do in the future in fulfillment of His generous promises. In order to see better how God is acting, however, I need to develop the virtue of humility.

The *Rule* of St. Benedict abounds in situations in which God uses the weakness of monks for a good purpose; through the monks' humble acknowledgment of these weaknesses, He can make them strong in graces that they would otherwise not receive. At certain points in one's spiritual life one comes to realize that much “is not possible to us by nature,” and so one must “ask the Lord to supply [what will move one forward] by the help of His grace” (*RB* Prol: 41). The monk knows that he needs some strict regulations “in order to amend faults and to safeguard love” (Prol:47); these restrictions are ultimately gifts from God conveyed through the community. The abbot himself must be keenly aware of his own limitations and of those of his monks. Such consciousness is to move him to be gentle and compassionate; “he is to distrust his own frailty and remember not to crush the bruised reed” (*RB* 64:13, quoting Is 42:3). The abbot should prune away the monks' faults “with prudence and love as he sees best for each individual” (64:14) and “strive to be loved rather

than feared” (64:15). The monks, for their part, as they strive to implement the “instruments of good works” (*RB* 4), come to see how far they fall short; at the same time, however, they must not grow discouraged but must, above all, observe the 74th instrument: “Never lose hope in God's mercy” (4:74). Perhaps this is the most significant of the instruments.

The human authors of Scripture, many Church fathers, and St. Benedict himself knew how easily an abundance of talk could lead to sin; so quoting Psalm 39, he extols the value of silence and reminds the monks “that there are times when good words are to be left unsaid out of esteem for silence” (6:30). Restraining the tongue, in turn, helps one “to be silent and listen” (6:6) to superiors and others. Knowing one's tendency to be excessively talkative can help one to restrain his speech.

Thus, in the situations cited above, the monk's humble acknowledgment of weaknesses, limitations, and sinful tendencies can lead him to embrace salutary regulations, to trust in God rather in himself, and to show patience and charity to others who manifest weaknesses.

In our culture we tend to shrink from any form of personal restriction. We may think of strict rules as only for children. We may think of “freedom” as the capacity to do whatever we please. On the contrary, from a Christian perspective, true freedom involves the capacity to serve others in the self-emptying love of Christ (cf. Gal 5:13), which flows from our capacity to receive that love. Living in such readiness to receive and extend Christ's love requires a great deal of discipline and healthful regulation. Without discipline I might not make enough time for prayer. Without discipline I might not take proper care of my body in terms of diet and exercise (cf. 1 Cor 9:26-27). Without discipline I could never run the “race” of living an intensely Christian life or proclaim the Gospel unceasingly to others. Love-filled discipline works together with humility to produce the good fruit that arises from honest recognition of my weaknesses.

Weakness can also help us to trust in God and His plan for us, which is often very different from what we would imagine. Recently, as I was speaking with a lay

person in the hallway, we both referred to our compulsive tendencies to try to accomplish a given pile of tasks on one particular day and leave nothing for tomorrow. (Our over-ambitious aims are almost never fulfilled!) This way of thinking may seem to be a strength, but it is really a weakness, based on the illusions that we function best when we hasten to get “everything” done right away and that all that we plan can be done today. Furthermore, a rigid determination to complete something today might not be in accord with God’s will. Perhaps He wishes us to be interrupted or delayed. Only God can give meaning to our work, not our feelings of pride over achievement or the affirmation that others may give us. An over-zealous desire never to postpone to tomorrow what can be done today could be a dysfunctional way of working, leading one to drivenness and inattention to the needs of others. If we acknowledge in ourselves an addictive tendency to squeeze too much work into too small an interval of time, it may open us to put the whole issue of our work into God’s hands. After all, He should be Lord of our work! Only He can put good order, the order of love, into our self-centered disorder. He can open our hearts to do something that is far more important in His mind and to let others’ needs override our determination to push forward relentlessly to do what we have chosen.

Humble ownership of our weaknesses can also motivate us to become more compassionate to others. If we realize how difficult it is to overcome our own weaknesses, who are we to judge others whose faults annoy us? St. Benedict’s admonition that the abbot, precisely because he himself needs compassion and forgiveness, strive to be loved rather than feared thus applies to all of us, especially those of us with some authority over others.

One unique form of weakness is sin. Of course, we are to avoid sin at all costs, and we are to strive with great determination not to give in to our sinful tendencies. On the other hand, we need to be realistic, gentle, and forgiving with ourselves just as we should be with others. Most of us are bogged down with some sinful inclinations that have been with us since childhood and are, therefore, deeply rooted in us. Although it is possible that God at some point in our lives may simply remove a sinful pattern all at once, He usually works slowly and patiently in cooperation with our free will. He invites us to participate in the process of healing our disordered desires as we learn to be less and less attached to the objects of those desires. Humility demands that we not push ourselves beyond our God-given strength. We are not to grow discouraged at the slowness of the process. Even when we see no progress, we need relentlessly to turn to Christ for mercy and forgiveness. With grace, we can learn to be patient with ourselves in our helplessness. We can focus and

refocus on the truth that God chooses us even in the weakness of our sin and makes us strong against sin in His time and in His way.

How, then, can we better deal with our multitude of weaknesses in a Christ-centered way? We might first recognize our unhealthy responses to weaknesses and avoid such tendencies. It is not helpful or Christian to deny our weaknesses. It is not right to murmur. It is not constructive to blame other people, past or present, or even to blame ourselves. Blaming ourselves may seem to be virtuous, but if it is not coupled with a hope-filled trust in God, then it can lead to a self-created depression and despair. God can forgive and heal, and He wants to. If one finds himself falling into any of these hopeless patterns, which can be sinful if deliberately fostered, one must quickly “dash them against Christ” (cf. *RB* Prol: 28 and 4:50) and open oneself to the grace of God to overcome these destructive ways.

In contrast to such tendencies, we can learn to welcome the spiritual growth that can result from humble, faith-filled acceptance of a given weakness. If the weakness, for example, is a chronic medical problem, then we can embrace the disciplines that will help us to cope, such as exercise, a change of diet, and the taking of prescribed medications. Such practices might give us a new lease on life and also offer us an opportunity to make up for previous lack of care for our bodies. Furthermore, physical weaknesses may help us to accept the inevitable fact that we are growing older and that someday we shall die. No longer can we do whatever we fancy. At the same time, however, we can learn that God loves us amid our growing limitations and opens to us new avenues of functioning. If we have to slow down in one way or another, then we might find more time to pray, grow in the capacity to appreciate little things as gifts of God, and let go of compulsive tendencies always to be in a hurry and to be urgently in demand. Finally, our physical defects can stimulate us to grow in compassion for others, especially regarding their physical limitations. Suffering from chronic problems about which we can do little might make us stronger in sympathy for others, less inclined to ignore or devalue people who annoy us because of their defects, and more inclined to encounter Christ in fellow members of His Body who share in His Cross in marked ways.

Yes, God chooses the weak and makes them strong. Perhaps this very day He will reveal to us our poverty, our emptiness, our inadequacy, our lack of trust, or our sinfulness in some new way. Rather than cringe at the possibility, we can pray with the tax collector in the temple, “Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner” (Lk 18:13). We can say with St. Peter, “Tell me to come to You across the [turbulent] water” (Mt 14:28). We can kneel before Jesus and plead, “Lord, take pity on my son [or another loved one]” (Mt 17:15). We can seek the healing

of our spiritual blindness and cry out with Bartimaeus, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!" (Mk 10:47). In whatever way we turn to the Lord, we can be sure that He will respond; He will encourage, exhort, forgive, and/or heal, according to what He knows is best. Christ is indeed our true abbot; insofar as we allow Him, He will "so arrange everything that the strong have something to yearn for and the weak nothing to run from" (*RB* 64:19). (And the "strong" who receive His graces learn, in all humility, that they are also weak in many ways and can do nothing without graces that flow freely and generously from the hand of God.) Let us, then, see in our weaknesses opportunities to keep our eyes fixed

steadfastly on Christ, to yearn more ardently for the joy of eternal life, to grow in humility and in compassion for our fellow pilgrims with all their deficiencies, and to welcome Christ persistently to hasten us on to perfection (cr. *RB* 73:2).

In the peace of Christ and St. Benedict,

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

A MESSAGE FROM ARCHABBOT DOUGLAS

November, 2010

Dear Oblates and Friends of Saint Vincent,

Each year the Church sets aside the month of November to commemorate all family members and other loved ones who have departed from this life. Here at Saint Vincent, we remember in our daily Masses and at the Divine Office all of the deceased Oblates, along with their families and friends. You play an important role in the life of the Saint Vincent Community by sharing in our commitment to daily prayer and our Benedictine spirituality.

November also prepares the way for the Advent Season – the period when we wait in joyful expectation to celebrate God's love made visible in the birth of our Lord Jesus. "*Maranatha!* Come, Lord Jesus!" is the prayer on our lips and in our hearts during this season of hope. Be assured of our continued prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,

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

P.S.: Fr. Donald and Br. Jeremiah join Archabbot Douglas and the monastic community in wishing all Oblates, Oblate novices, and other readers of this newsletter a joyful Advent and a grace-filled Christmas Season.

OBLATE DAY 2010 – SEPTEMBER 26

Some 40 people, Oblates and family members and other guests, came to the Archabbey for our 23rd annual Oblate Day. Father Prior Earl Henry celebrated Mass at 10:30 A.M. for the group, and Oblate Mary Ellen Lang of Lower Burrell played the organ for the Mass.

After Midday Prayer, lunch, and some free time, Oblation ceremonies were held in the basilica at 1:45, during which Fr. Donald received the following:

Oblate: **Jeanne Marie (Vianney) Le Fay** of Ferndale, MI
Oblate novices: **Cathy Mayled** of Ayr, Ontario, Canada
Julie Kay Sousa of Ayr, Ontario, Canada .

After confessions in the basilica, there was a social in the Parish Assembly Room. Then at 3:45 Br. Jeremiah Lange, O.S.B., assistant Director of Oblates, made a power-point presentation about the Oblate Program and Benedictine spirituality. He emphasized that being an Oblate is a vocation, a commitment to a way of life that has been time-tested for almost 1500 years. Oblation, he said, involves a challenge to be stretched through participation in the mission of the monastery of one's affiliation. Br. Jeremiah's talk included reflections on the three monastic vows: stability (making oneself available to God day after day and not giving in to whims of spirituality), *conversatio morum* (looking at one's life every day with eagerness for reform), and obedience (listening always for the will of God).

Then the Oblates joined the monastic community for Vespers. The day's events ended with supper and the singing of the Benedictine "Ultima."

OBLATE DAY 2011

Next year's Oblate Day has been scheduled for September 25, 2011 since facilities will be available on that day. Oblate Deacon Michael L. Russo, moderator of the St. John Gualbert Deanery in Johnstown, has agreed to be the guest speaker.

SIXTH FALL OBLATE DAY OF RECOLLECTION AT THE ARCHABBEY - October 16, 2010

A record number of 41 people, mostly Oblates, attended this annual event, with conferences in St. Gregory Chapel. Fr. Boniface Hicks, O.S.B., the retreat master, delivered conferences on the theological virtues of faith, hope, and love. Faith, he said, gives us a different way of seeing; it does not diminish natural sight but enhances it. An example is Mother Teresa's seeing Jesus in the poor. Pope Benedict said that one who has hope lives differently. The *Rule* teaches us to place our hope in God alone and never to lose hope in God's mercy. Hope is closely related to spiritual poverty – poverty of the commonplace, of misery and neediness, of uniqueness and superiority, of our provisional nature, of our finiteness, and of death. The *Rule* teaches to love in various ways, such as loving Christ before all else, loving our enemies, not loving quarreling or immoderate laughter, never giving a hollow greeting of peace, and never turning someone away who needs our love. We are to do little things with great love.

During ceremonies at 1:30 P.M. in St. Gregory Chapel, Fr. Donald received the following:
Oblates: **Dennis M. Flowers** of Summerfield, OH

Katharine S. "Kay" (Mary) Tittmann of State College, PA

Oblate novices: **Beth R. Grabiak** of Latrobe, PA

Vernon W. Knight, Jr., of Warner Robins, GA .

Vernon is a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Atlanta studying at St. Vincent.

DAY OF RECOLLECTION IN 2011

The October day of recollection for next year has been tentatively scheduled for October 15, 2011.

St. Benedict and St. Thérèse TO BE ORDERED AT A DISCOUNT

Within not too many months the Latrobe Deanery will begin to use a new book for monthly discussions, namely *St. Benedict and St. Thérèse: The Little Rule & the Little Way* by Fr. Dwight Longenecker. Our Sunday Visitor, the publisher, has offered us a discount of 25%; so the cost will be \$9.00 instead of \$11.95. Please use the form on the flier to order one or more copies, and indicate if you wish the book(s) to be mailed to you; if so, please add money for postage.

OBLATES AFFILIATED WITH ARCHABBEY ATTENDED PLANNING SESSION FOR NEXT WORLD CONGRESS IN 2013

Oblates Joyce Collins of West Newton, PA, and Mary Lynn Nicklas of St. Marys, PA, were among three Oblates representing Oblates of the United States at a planning session in Montserrat, Spain, from October 22 to 25. Thirty Oblates from around the world were to attend the meeting. We await a report from Lynn and Joyce regarding the results of the meeting and the topics chosen for the 2013 World Congress.

REPORTS AVAILABLE FROM 2009 WORLD CONGRESS OF OBLATES

In October, 2009, at the Second World Congress of Oblates, our Oblate community was represented by nine Oblates, and seven of them have submitted reports which were subsequently edited by Fr. Donald and photocopied. Anyone who would like a report by Joyce Collins (2), Ethel Galli, Liz Hart, Bernard Hughes, Grace Kolander, Mary Lynn Nicklas, or Nancy Premoshis may contact the Oblate Office.

RETREAT SCHEDULE FOR 2011

The retreats at St. Vincent for summer, 2011, have been scheduled. The retreats on Benedictine spirituality are to be held on May 20-22, 2011, and June 3-5, 2011. The first, to be directed by Fr. Maurus Mount, will probably include a Mass for priestly ordination. The second, to be directed by Fr. Donald, will be a silent retreat with the topic of humility.

BASILICA GIFT SHOP OFFERS 10% DISCOUNT TO OBLATES

Oblates who purchase items in the Basilica Gift Shop may receive a discount of 10% on all purchases, according to a policy continued by the store's current manager, Fr. Jean-Luc Zadroga, O.S.B.

REFLECTIONS BY OBLATES ON VERSES FROM THE RULE AVAILABLE

During Lent of 2007 and during the summer of 2008, a number of Oblates submitted entries to this office regarding their favorite verses of the *Rule* of St. Benedict. With the help of Oblate Anthony Sunseri and computer assistance from Br. Isidore, the booklets became available last year. Let the Oblate Office know if you would like one or more booklets. You may pick them up at the Oblate Office or request copies by mail; in the latter case, please send a donation for postage.

Thank you.

MEETING OF OBLATE BOARD OF ADVISORS, October 29, 2010

Members of the Board assembled for their 29th regular meeting at 6:30 P.M. on October 29 in Brownfield 203. Only six members, along with two guests, were able to be present. Among the issues discussed were the possibility of a *Directory* of Oblates in 2011 (we do plan to have one), the new system of financing the Oblate Program, the forthcoming Oblate website, and the publication of a book with essays from Oblate newsletters. The group adjourned early so that they could attend a lecture by Bishop J. Peter Sartain in the Rogers Center. (He spoke on the topic "The Sacred Liturgy and the New Evangelization.") The next meeting, barring inclement weather, has been scheduled for January 14, 2011.

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR OBLATE OFFICE

Instead of Br. Jeremiah's personal e-mail address, Oblates who wish to contact the Oblate Office by e-mail should use the address svoblates@email.stvincent.edu. Br. Jeremiah will try to respond as best he can or give the messages to Fr. Donald. Both of us have much other work to do; so we cannot guarantee a quick response. Please be patient with us.

MENTORS NEEDED!

Several people who are Oblate novices or inquirers have requested Oblate mentors, but we have run out of people who have already volunteered. If you are a full Oblate and think that you could serve as a mentor for someone new to the program, please contact the Oblate Office.

DEANERY HISTORIES: THE BOOK IS FINALLY AVAILABLE

A 96-page book with the histories of our 20 Oblate deaneries has finally received a final editing and been printed at St. Vincent. Many thanks are due to Oblate Anthony Sunseri of Greensburg for typing in the original accounts and putting the histories into a handsome booklet form. Anyone who wants a copy (or multiple copies for his or her deanery) should contact the Oblate Office. Deanery leaders might consider reviewing and revising their histories for a possible future edition several years down the road, God willing.

OTHER ITEMS AVAILABLE FROM THE OBLATE OFFICE

- (1) book *Life and Miracles of St. Benedict* - \$6.76 each, plus postage
- (2) pamphlet "God's Love for You" with subtle evangelization - free
- (3) 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) Br. Isidore's presentation "Holiness and Benedictine Spirituality" - single-spaced or double-spaced
- (6) booklets formerly used for Compline for events at St. Vincent Parish or (a different version) by Oblates in Latrobe for monthly meetings (a new version was printed in March, 2010)

OBLATES INVITED TO ATTEND LECTURE BY DR. SCOTT HAHN

Dr. Scott Hahn, who holds the Pope Benedict XVI Chair in Biblical Theology and Homiletics for Excellence in Preaching at St. Vincent Seminary, will deliver a talk "Many Are Called: Rediscovering the Glory of the Priesthood" on Monday, November 15, 2010, at 7:30 P.M. at the Carey Center auditorium at St. Vincent. It is free and open to the public. Seating is limited; so call 724-805-2177 for reservations.

UPDATE ON THE ST. VINCENT OBLATES SCHOLARSHIP

On October 30 President Br. Norman Hipps, O.S.B., of St. Vincent College sent a letter to Fr. Donald regarding the Saint Vincent Oblates Scholarship as of June 30, 2010. As of that date the fund had a book value of \$10,395.00, and two students, Austen Fradeneck of Hollidaysburg, PA, and Anne Roslonski of Pittsburgh, had received awards during the 2009-2010 academic year. Br. Norman added a personal note: "This is very generous of the Oblates. Thanks so much."

A REMINDER: OBLATES SHOULD NOT USE INITIALS

Since Oblates of St. Benedict are a "pious association of the faithful" and not a canonical order of the Catholic Church, Oblates should not use such initials after their names as "O.S.B.Obl.," despite the fact that some Oblates have developed this custom. Using such an appendage is contrary to Catholic tradition and practice.

OBLATE LIBRARY: FEEL FREE TO USE IT WELL!

Members of the Oblate community are always welcome to borrow books from the Oblate Library, either by mail or by personal visits to the Oblate Office (or by attendance at Oblate meetings in Latrobe). Those who would like a list of books in the library are welcome to write to Fr. Donald. If you have any library books that you have had for six months or more,

please return them to the Oblate Office as soon as possible.

RECOMMENDED READING (available for borrowing from the Oblate Library)

- Stephen J. Binz, *Conversing with God in Scripture: A Contemporary Approach to Lectio Divina* (Ijamsville, MD: The Word Among Us Press, 2008)

BENEDICTINE OBLATE PROGRAM ON RADIO WEDO, 810 AM:

This program, hosted by Oblate John James of North Huntingdon, is broadcast from 8:45 A.M. to 9:00 A.M., Monday through Friday. Also, homilies on Benedictine spirituality from the radio station are now available on the web site wedoradio@comcast.net . One may also access these homilies at www.frdonald.wedo810.com. John James has made this service available, and we thank him for his generosity.

SOME CHANGES IN FINANCING THE OBLATE PROGRAM

Oblates share in their monastic community's spirituality, and their vocation as Oblates is primarily spiritual. We should not detract from that, and in no way do we wish to regard Oblates as objects of fund-raising. No Oblate or Oblate novice, for example, is ever required to pay dues. However, as participants in the mission of the Archabbey, Oblates have often been asked to help to finance various projects, and they have responded generously as a whole. Now there are several particular initiatives in which the Oblates are invited to participate financially:

(1) restructuring of the finances of the Oblate Program at St. Vincent

For years the Director of Oblates has been in charge of two financial accounts considered part of the Archabbey's funds, an expense account and a donation account. The expense account has been supplied by the monastery with \$1,700.00 each year in recent years, and whatever has not been spent by June 30 has gone back to the Archabbey. The donation account usually builds up to \$3,000 to \$3,500 each year, and whatever is in the account on June 30 also has been going back to the Archabbey. As a result of Br. Jeremiah's consultation with the Director of Oblates at St. Meinrad Archabbey and of a meeting among Archabbot Douglas, Br. Jeremiah, and Fr. Donald, we have devised a new approach of finances that has been approved by Archabbot Douglas:

- The Oblate Program will become self-financing, i.e., rely on donations from members of the Oblate community. What is already in the Oblate accounts will remain but under new account numbers, under which the funds will no longer go back to the Archabbey at the end of each fiscal year.
- Oblates have been asked each year to donate, if possible, at the time of renewal of Oblation and have been generous; now, however, these funds will accumulate. Donations at the time of renewal and at other times will be welcome.
- It is hoped that with a build-up of funds, the Oblate Program can better finance additional projects, such as sending monks to speak at the various deaneries, having special meetings and workshops at the Archabbey, and helping Oblates, the Director of Oblates, and the assistant Director to travel to various events for Oblates and Oblate directors.

(2) contributions regarding the guest house planned for the future

Plans are underway to construct a guest house on the grounds of St. Vincent. Some consideration is being given to have several rooms and a meeting place designated for the Oblates affiliated with St. Vincent Archabbey. If Oblates are interested, a special fund-raiser will be held among the Oblate community to help to pay for a part of the building that could be used for meeting space, sleeping accommodations, etc.

For more information contact Paul Whiteside, Director of Development, at 724-532-6740.

(3) St. Benedict Educational Foundation

This foundation, which supports Sant'Anselmo, the Benedictine college in Rome, is soliciting funds both for the physical renovation of the buildings, which are in urgent need of repair, and for the creation of scholarships that would assist Benedictines from poor countries. In the near future Oblates will be asked if they can donate to this foundation.

(4) the issue of photocopies

Currently, the cost of photocopying four newsletters per year is about \$4,608.00, and other photocopies made for the Oblate Office probably cost about \$5,000.00 annually. These costs are currently met by the Archabbey and will continue to be financed by the Archabbey until or unless the Oblate account has sufficient funds. The Oblate Program needs to be grateful for this subsidy by the monastery; there is no way in which the current Oblate budget could cover such expenses.

OBLATE MEETINGS IN LATROBE

Oblates from all locations and their guests are invited to monthly meetings at the Archabbey. The forthcoming meetings will be on Sundays Nov. 21, Dec. 19, Jan. 16, and Feb. 20 at 6:45 P.M. in Brownfield Room 202. (The March meeting is scheduled for March 13 because of the celebration of the Solemnity of St. Benedict on Monday, March 21.) Those wishing to come early for Evening Prayer (at 5:00) and supper should phone Fr. Donald (724-805-2291) in advance.

CLASSES IN BENEDICTINE SPIRITUALITY AT ST. VINCENT

On the same days as Oblate meetings in Latrobe, classes in Benedictine spirituality are being held in Brownfield 202 from 3:00 to 4:25. They are taught by monks or Oblates. All are welcome to attend. The class in November, to be taught

by Fr. Thomas More Sikora, O.S.B., will address the topic "The Liturgy of the Hours," and the class in December, to be taught by Fr. Jean-Luc Zadroga, O.S.B., will be about "Prayer in Benedictine Spirituality."

ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS IN ST. GREGORY CHAPEL AND ON THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

Two parishioners of St. Vincent Archabbey Basilica and their families have arranged to have the Blessed Sacrament exposed every Sunday from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. in St. Gregory Chapel during the renovation of the Basilica Crypt. Oblates are urged to use these times for Eucharistic adoration, if possible, especially on the Sundays of Oblate classes and meetings, to pray for vocations, and especially for vocations to the Archabbey. **On the Solemnity of Christ the King, November 21, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed after the 11:30 Mass, and adoration will end with Solemn Vespers, starting at 5:00 and ending with Benediction. All are welcome.**

NEWS FROM OBLATE DEANERIES

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

Moderator Ralph DeCecco wrote on August 30. The meeting on August 30, attended by eight people in addition to Deacon Ralph and his wife Janet, began with the Divine Office. Then Oblate novice Michael Bolos led a lesson on Chapter 70 of the *Rule*, "The Presumption of Striking Another Monk at Will." The resulting discussion was unexpectedly long. The session ended with a shared "Prayer of Humility."

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

Lay leader Gabriele Terrill wrote on October 27. Fourteen people joined Fr. John Peck, moderator, for the monthly meeting on September 26. One attendee was an inquirer. The meeting in March, 2011, was scheduled to take place at St. Joseph's Church in Mechanicsburg. The group talked about the influence of Benedictine monasteries in the Middle Ages in the areas of education, prayer, good works, and the love of Christ. Fr. John read a short article he had written about the influence of culture and secular values on the pace of life. There was some discussion about St. Benedict's attitude toward secular influences and the influence that monasteries exert today to stabilize their locales and the Oblates' role in extending monastic values to the world through stability, obedience, and *conversatio morum*.

Asheboro, NC (St. Joseph / St. Gabriel Deanery) -- *meetings at Lillian Hazelwoods' home, 4th Sat. of month*

Lay leader Robert O'Brien reported on June 8, and lay leader Doris Blasé wrote on October 29. At the meeting on May 22, three Oblates, one Oblate novice, and one inquirer were present. After an opening prayer the group discussed RB 40-44 and reflected on how those regulations helped to prevent chaos in the monasteries of St. Benedict's day and how they can be applied today to help to create peace and order in our communities. The group also discussed how to publicize the Oblate Program in St. Joseph Parish, which has about 800 families. The meeting closed with the Liturgy of the Hours and a Litany of St. Benedict.

Four people attended the meeting on October 23. Bob O'Brien was absent because of serious illness. The group shared about their experiences of God and the Holy Spirit. They also discussed ways of publicizing Oblate meetings and attracting new members.

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

Secretary James Wells reported by e-mail on August 11, and Fr. Paschal Morlino, moderator, wrote on August 16. A special meeting was held in the parish center on August 2, after Vespers at 6:00 at St. Benedict Church. Fr. Paschal began the meeting and introduced Br. Jeremiah, assistant Director of Oblates, who led a discussion about what defines an Oblate. He emphasized that being an Oblate is a particular vocation that involves carrying the Benedictine charism into the world. He also spoke about his current visitation of various groups of Oblates and people interested in the Oblates and about the possibility of helping Oblates to interact through Internet social media, such as Face book. Then Br. Jeremiah and Fr. Paschal fielded questions from the other ten attendees; Finally, Fr. Paschal spoke about future Oblations and other special events. The evening ended with dinner, which included a birthday cake to celebrate one person's birthday.

At the meeting on August 15, Fr. Paschal reflected on an article in an Oblate newsletter from St. Meinrad Archabbey. The Oblates present also commented on the topic, and there was a very fruitful discussion.

Then about 35 people attended a Vespers service in the church. During Vespers Fr. Paschal received the following:

Oblates: **Helen (Scholastica) Kazlauski** of Linthicum, MD
 Robert (Francis Seelos) Kazlauski of Linthicum, MD
 James T. (Placid) Wells of Baltimore, MD
 Robin (Scholastica) Wells of Baltimore, MD
Oblate novices: **Mary Patricia Mohler** of Halethorpe, MD
 Paul A. Nicholas of Hagerstown, MD

Bob & Helen and "Jay" & Robin are married couples.

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

Lay leader Ethel Galli wrote on September 22; Oblate novice Jean Schweikart wrote on September 28.

The meeting on August 26 began with Evening Prayer. Then Br. Frances Ehnat, O.S.B., gave a talk on hospitality based on *RB 53*. He stated that there are two parts of hospitality - the obligation to prepare and the moment of availing oneself to a guest. After citing examples of Hindu, Buddhist, and Jewish hospitality to strangers, he pointed out the uniqueness of Christianity in recognizing Christ in the guest. Those who serve guests should be humble, charitable, and obedient.

At the meeting on September 23, after the praying of Vespers, Jean led a discussion based on sections of Fr. Demetrius' book *Flowers in the Desert*. First the group read and discussed "The Psalms - Praising God in All Things," with reflections on God's presence in tragedies as well as joyful events. Then they explored "Sin as a Failure to Respond to God's Love," with reflections on pride, bitterness, selfishness, and ingratitude.

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 reported by phone on November 1. Several of the Carrolltown Oblates attended Oblate Day at the Archabbey on September 26. On Sunday, October 17, a special meeting was held after the last Mass at St. Benedict Church, especially to introduce interested people to the Oblate Program. About six Oblates and two inquirers attended, along with Fr. Jude, moderator. The group enjoyed brunch together, and then Fr. Jude made a presentation about the Oblate Program.

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 on October 22. On September 20 this new deanery had its first meeting for Oblates and those interested in discerning their call to become Oblates. Two Oblates and seven others attended. The meeting began with Vespers led by Fr. Gregory Wilson, moderator and rector of the cathedral. At the actual meeting the attendees discussed various business issues, including the most convenient times for meetings, the possibility of meeting for weekly Vespers, and ways to publicize the new community. It was decided to publish announcements in the *Miscellany* and to ask various local parishes to publish announcements for meetings in their bulletins. Additionally, the group decided to meet each Tuesday for Vespers. As a fledgling group, they also discussed Lesson One: "On Holiness and Being an Oblate of St. Benedict" from the standard packet of 10 lessons on Benedictine values. The meeting closed with Compline.

Nine people, including one Oblate, attended the meeting on October 19. After Vespers the group discussed methods of staying in touch, ways of handling emergency cancellations, a way to obtain copies of the *Rule* and Pope St. Gregory's *Dialogues*. The meeting also included questions regarding the Liturgy of the Hours, various formats for praying the Office, and information about where to obtain various breviaries. The group also reviewed Lesson One and discussed Lesson Two: "St. Benedict and His Rule." The discussion focused on humility, the challenges faced in the work force, and the need for interior and exterior silence in our lives. The meeting ended with the praying of Compline.

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

No report was submitted.

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 August 11, September 16, and October 14. The meeting on August 9 began with Evening Prayer led by Deacon Michael Russo. He then offered some reflections on his role as a deacon at St. John Gualbert Cathedral. The group then began a discussion of Chapter 1 of the book *A Blessed Life* by Wil Derkse, an Oblate.

Since Msgr. Becker has been reassigned to the Altoona area, he can no longer serve as the deanery's moderator. Deacon Michael has agreed to serve in that capacity. We thank Msgr. Becker for his several years of zealous service to the deanery, and we thank Deacon Michael for generously offering to serve as the new moderator.

The meeting on September 13 consisted of Evening Prayer followed by a corn-and-wiener roast in a spirit of Benedictine hospitality. Deacon Mike was congratulated for receiving a Spirit of Stephen Award from Stephen Ministries.

The meeting on October 13 began with Evening Prayer. In the absence of Deacon Mike, Oblate Kathy Kristofko spoke about some of the changes in the Mass that will take place in 2011, and Oblate Frank Albacete spoke about the Stephen Ministry program that he had recently completed at St. Benedict Parish.

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

On August 15 a full classroom of people met to discuss several chapters of *Life and Miracles of St. Benedict* with Fr. Donald. The group reflected on the Devil's efforts to thwart the construction of Montecassino and on the episode of the monks who ate away from the monastery. Among the lessons drawn from the stories were the need to overcome discouragement and the importance of thwarting evil influences as soon as they become apparent.

On September 19 some 20 people gathered to discuss Chapters 12-15 of the text, with reflections on St. Benedict's gift of clairvoyance and the challenge to hold fast to spiritual disciplines. The Oblates also made some preparations for Oblate Day (September 26) and mentioned possibilities for the next book to be used for monthly discussions.

Over 20 people gathered on October 17 to reflect on Chapters 16 and 17 of *Life and Miracles*. Time was spent discussing St. Benedict's gift of prophecy as something temporary and his weeping over the future destruction of

Montecassino as a sign of his humanness. After the meeting the group assembled in the Archabbey Basilica, where **Diana (Joseph Pio) Martin** of Dillner, PA (P.O. Box in Madsville, WV) made her final Oblation in the presence of Fr. Donald and the Oblates gathered there. Her son Kyle was also present. Then the group concluded the evening with Compline.

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

On August 15 Br. Hugh spoke to a group of some 24 attendees about “Hospitality in Benedictine Spirituality.” He referred to the books *Radical Hospitality* and *Community and Growth* and to the Last Judgment from Matthew 25. He emphasized that hospitality in the Christian context is far more than accommodating needs; it is an *urgent* matter because in serving others, we serve Christ. He cited three key elements of hospitality as gratitude, listening, and boundaries. Br. Hugh then went on to describe a “spectrum of hospitality” from serving friends, to serving guests, to serving strangers, to serving those in need, and to serving people under oppression. In all cases the Christian element requires that the host give himself with self-emptying love with openness to Christ in the person who is needy.

On September 19 Fr. Wulfstan spoke to 25 attendees about “Silence in Benedictine Spirituality.” He mentioned that there is both internal and external silence. The internal is more important; the external cannot always be achieved. Silence enables us to listen to the Lord, to obey Him, and thus to welcome Him to take charge of our lives. When we silence our turbulent thoughts, we can also listen better to others. The *Rule* urges us to “cultivate silence” at all times (42:1). Perhaps we can turn off the television, phone, radio, and cell phone at times. In our society there seems to be a “war on silence,” especially among young people. It seems that silence frightens many people because they fear looking inside of themselves.

On October 17 Br. Michael Antonacci, a junior monk, gave a very thorough explanation of the vow of *conversatio morum* to some 13 people. He began by explaining the role of vows in the history of salvation. He also showed how the three Benedictine vows work together, reflected - with Oblates’ input - on how *conversatio* can apply to non-monastics, and listed some challenges in trying to live the promise of *conversatio*. Finally, Br. Michael cited examples of *conversatio* from the Gospels and the Old Testament. In sum, *conversatio morum* can be described as a lifelong process of growth in one’s Christian faith, in particular according to the *Holy Rule*.

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

Lay leader William Sedoma reported on October 14 and 29. In the first letter he stated that deanery meetings had been sporadic and not so well attended and that some Oblates and Oblate novices had left the area. However, Bill hoped to “continue to try to recruit new members” and asked that we “pray for [them] to reconnect as a group and return [their] membership back to a working order.”

Bill’s second letter began with, “PRAISE THE LORD!” When he was called to a meeting to discuss a forthcoming Catholic meal in December, he decided to mention the Oblate Program at that meeting, and about 15 men showed interest. Then on October 26 Bill held a meeting to introduce the inquirers to monthly meetings. The group prayed for the Oblate community and family members. There was also a meaningful discussion, and ideas were offered about ways to help those in need. Bill concluded, “Just when you think things won’t happen, our Lord surprises us with His kindness.”

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 phoned on October 27 since secretary Trudy Bretzler had not been able to attend two meetings. Also, moderator Fr. Francis Hubilla had been unable to attend. At the meeting on September 24, Brian showed the vocational D.V.D. from the Archabbey, and there was some discussion.

The meeting on October 22 was attended by two new Oblate novices from Ayr, Julie Sousa and Cathy Mayled, in addition to people from the St. Catharines and Welland areas. Brian introduced the attendees to the commentary on the *Rule* by Dom Paul Delatte, O.S. B., and the group read the introduction. Brian assigned the first seven pages of the preface for the November meeting and suggested that the Oblates take turns in leading discussions while Fr. Francis is away in the Philippines.

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 August 31 from notes of Pat Kammersell. At the meeting on August 25, led by Fr. Ralph, moderator, the group completed its series of discussions on *Introduction to the Devout Life* by St. Francis de Sales. There was a very personal and lively interchange about sadness and spiritual aridity, with a conclusion concerning the need to center oneself on the Lord, surrender to Him, and avoid self-seeking goals. A final review was scheduled for September, and then the group planned to begin discussing *Strangers to the City* by Fr. Michael Casey, O.C.S.O.

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

Secretary Peggi Gabler wrote on August 10, September 7, and October 14. Eight Oblates joined Fr. Michael Ferrick, moderator, for a meeting on August 5, which began with Evening Prayer and Benediction. After a reading of minutes and letters and the announcement of prayer requests, there was a reading of and a discussion on *RB* 53:15-23, on the care shown to guests. Then Fr. Michael offered some reflections on Our Lord’s words “Who do you say that I am?” from the

day's Gospel. Plans were made for the next meeting, and the session closed with the "Oblate Prayer."

The meeting on September 2 began in the church for Evening Prayer and Benediction. Also, Fr. Michael invested

Mary Lee Gabor of St. Marys, PA,

as an Oblate novice during Vespers. Then the meeting moved to the school cafeteria. *(continued)*

Fr. Michael Gabler, Peggi's son, visiting as a guest, gave some words of guidance. Mary Lee shared about how she became interested in the Oblate Program. Then there followed a reflection on the Gospel for the day, Oblate Ben's Hoffman's relating of a story from a recent Cursillo, Eileen Brennan's reading of *RB Prol: 8-13*, and a closing with the "Oblate Prayer."

Ten people attended the meeting on October 4. Because of construction in Queen of the World Church, there was no Vespers or Benediction. After a prayer to St. Benedict and the reading of minutes from September, Oblate Eileen Brennan read *RB 7: 56-88* (on the ninth step of humility), and Fr. Michael Ferrick spoke about the need for persistence in prayer. Oblate Mary Lynn Nicklas talked about her forthcoming trip to Montserrat, Spain, to plan for the 2013 World Congress of Oblates. Those present agreed to contribute from the deanery's treasury a sum of money to help Lynn with her travels. The meeting closed with prayers for Oblates and their families in need and with the "Oblate Prayer."

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

Meetings were held during September, October, and November. Each meeting was attended by a few students besides Fr. Jean-Luc, moderator, and the Benedictine monks who were the guest speakers. Each session ended with the praying of Compline.

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

Fr. Ronald Gatman, moderator, wrote on October 25. He mentioned that every large-group meeting ends with a covered-dish supper, at which donations are collected for charitable causes.

The meeting on October 24 began with Vespers, along with a presentation by Kevin O'Keefe, a third-year seminarian for the Savannah Diocese. Kevin spoke about his call to the priesthood, with emphasis on how God summoned him into His service in a slow, steady, non-spectacular ways. Also, during Vespers Fr. Ronald invested

Sundi Keeling of Savannah, GA,

as an Oblate novice. Another person in the Savannah area is interested in transferring her Oblation from a monastery in California to St. Vincent Archabbey.

Plans for coming months were as follows. In November Fr. Mark Van Alstine, an alumnus of St. Vincent Seminary, was to celebrate Mass for the Oblates. In December Oblates will be invited to the priory's Christmas party. In January Fr. Ronald plans to lead Vespers and conduct the group in some *lectio divina*. In February Fr. Frank, prior, will offer Mass for the group. In March there will be an annual day of recollection. In April the end of the season will be marked with Mass celebrated by Fr. Ronald.

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

Lay leader Gretchen Meyers wrote on September 21. A group of three met on September 19. They discussed the chapter on holiness from *Strangers to the City* and chose as the next book for discussion *Engaging Benedict* by Sister Laura Swan, O.S.B.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Secretary Ashley Leggett wrote on August 12 and September 20, and Oblate Phyllis Austin wrote on October 14. An extraordinary meeting was held on August 11 to discuss selecting a new lay leader to replace Laura Schneider. Six

people attended. The group decided to try to distribute the lay leader's responsibilities among several Oblates. Ashley, his wife Becky, and Laura were working together to compile a list of responsibilities. The first meeting for the 2010-2011 season was held on September 13, and eight Oblates and two Oblate novices attended along with Fr. David, moderator. It began with Evening Prayer, and then most of the time was spent with administrative matters. Various Oblates offered to take on various tasks which Laura had performed as lay leader. (continued)

The book *Go to Joseph* by Fr. Richard W. Gilsdorf was distributed, with plans to discuss it from October through December. The meeting ended with the singing of the "Ultima" and with prayers of intercession and thanksgiving.

At the meeting on October 11, 12 Oblates and Oblate novices met with Fr. David for Evening Prayer and a discussion of the first three chapters of *Go to Joseph*. The exchange revealed how much can be learned from St. Joseph and addressed reasons for honoring him, God's choice of him, and his title as a "just man" (in right relationship with God). The group also decided to have a final memorial collection for former moderator Fr. Conan, who died last June.

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

Lay leader Dee Pauls wrote on August 10. On August 4 Br. Jeremiah came to speak to a gathering which attracted six inquirers. Also present were Fr. Cristiano, moderator, and Br. Michael Antonacci. (There had been much publicity about this meeting.) Br. Jeremiah spoke about what it means to be an Oblate, explained *lectio divina*, and recommended the Liturgy of the Hours and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. He also expressed some ideas about the use of Internet to make resources about Benedictine spirituality more available to Oblates.

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

Oblate Sue Wykoff reported by e-mail on October 24. The meeting on that date, attended by three people, opened with news from the Archabbey. Sue gave a brief overview of the day of recollection on October 16, and Oblates were asked to pray for the success of the "Come and See Weekend" event (for vocation guests) at the Archabbey on October 29-31. The group also discussed ways to pray for those discerning vocations, with the letter on the Vocations Blog Site from Pope Benedict to seminarians (www.svamons.org) used as a starting point. Copies of *Oblate Deanery Histories* were distributed. The group then prayed Evening Prayer and finished reading the chapter "The Liturgy of the Hours" in *The Path of Life*. The subsequent discussion involved ways to make time for prayer. Then they prayed the Angelus, and Sue shared a prayer she had written for the deanery. Oblate Helen Sammarco concluded the meeting with a tour of the church library.

Various Locations

On August 17 in the Archabbey Basilica, Fr. Donald invested as Oblate novices:

The Rev. Dr. Jeff Loach of Nobleton, Ontario, Canada.

Sister Marie Teresa Tellier, C.H., of Cumberland, MD .

Jeff is pastor of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Nobleton. Sr. Marie Teresa is a consecrated hermit who lives in St. Gemma's Hermitage. Three local Oblates were also present for the ceremony.

On August 22 in St. Gregory Chapel at St. Vincent, Fr. Donald invested:

Richard T. Rutkowski of Erie, PA,

as an Oblate novice. Richard's wife, Dorothy, was also present for the ceremony.

On August 24, in the Archabbey Basilica,

Scott E. (Boniface) Schul of Gettysburg, PA,

made his final Oblation before Fr. Donald, Br. Jeremiah, and eight other Oblates, mostly from the Butler area. Scott has begun his last year at the Lutheran seminary in Gettysburg, and during 2009-10 he spent a pastoral year in Butler and attended Oblate meetings there as part of the Oblate community.

On August 23 at Infant of Prague Church in Jacksonville, NC,

Joseph B. (Jerome) Pierce, Jr., of Jacksonville, NC,

made his final Oblation in the presence of Rev. Anthony V. DeCandia.

On August 27 at St. Pius X Church in Selinsgrove, PA, Rev. Edward J. "Ted" Keating invested

Pastor Douglas B. Schader of Selinsgrove, PA,

as an Oblate novice. Pastor Doug is the pastor of Paradise United Church of Christ in Milton, PA. There is some hope of starting a deanery at St. Pius X Church.

On September 1 at St. Gregory Chapel at St. Vincent,

Kathryn E. (Grace Marie) Stuart of Coshocton, OH,

made her Oblation in the presence Fr. Donald. Also present were her sisters Sue and Joann, Oblate Joyce Collins, Oblate Don Lieberknecht, and Oblate novice John Hudak.

On September 2 at the chapel in Somerset,

Barry L. J. (Benedict) Boyer of Somerset, PA,
made his final Oblation in the presence of Rev. James M. Dugan and Deacon Joseph Visinsky.
On October 5 at the chapel in Morgan, GA, Deacon John "Jay" Dallas invested
John C. Evans of Morgan, GA,
as an Oblate novice right before the celebration of Mass.

SICK & INFIRM MONKS

The following monks of the Archabbey have been hospitalized or otherwise especially ill during the past three months and could use our prayers: Fr. Robert Roche (suffering pains after a fall) and Fr. Lee Yoakam. Please also pray for all the monks in our infirmary: Fr. Wilfred Dumm, Fr. Omer Kline, Fr. Demetrius Dumm, and Fr. Jeremy Bolha.

DECEASED MONKS

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Br. Patrick Lacey, who died on August 14 at the age of 79, and of Fr. Leo Rothrauff, who died on September 19 at the age of 82. Please also remember in prayer retired Abbot Timothy Kelly of St. John's Abbey, who died on October 7; he was the Abbot President of the American Cassinese Congregation from 2001 to 2010.

OVERDUE OR MISSING LIBRARY BOOKS AND TAPES: 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. (In October two Oblates generously donated copies of *To Pray and To Love* by Roberta Bondi (Oblate), which had been missing for well over 10 years!)

- Rozanne Elder (ed.), *The Contemplative Path: Reflections on Recovering a Lost Tradition*
- Rev. Bernard Head, *Blessed Marmion: A 21st-Century Appreciation* (pamphlet)
- Fr. Thomas Keating, O.C.S.O., *Intimacy with God*
- Fr. George A. Maloney, S.J., *The Jesus Prayer* (pamphlet)
- John Moschos, *The Spiritual Meadow*
- Susan Annette Muto, *Meditation in Motion*
- Fr. Guy-Marie Oury, O.S.B., *A Monastic Pilgrimage: Following the Footsteps of St. Benedict*
- Abbot David Parry, O.S.B., *Household of God*
- Pseudo Macarius, *The Fifty Spiritual Homilies and the Great Letter*
- Fr. Michael Scanlon, O.F.M., *Let the Fire Fall*

Cassette Tapes and Compact Disks:

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

NEW (OR NEWLY DISCOVERED) BOOKS ON BENEDICTINE SPIRITUALITY

- (1) Fr. Luke Bell, O.S.B., *A Deep and Subtle Joy: Life at Quarr Abbey* (Mahwah, NJ: HiddenSpring, 2006)
- (2) Robert Benson, *A Good Neighbor: Benedict's Guide to Community* (Brewster, MA: Paraclete Press, 2009)
- (3) Sister Mary Margaret Funk, O.S.B., *Lectio Matters: Before the Burning Bush* (New York: Continuum Press, 2010)
- (4) Pastor David Robinson, *Ancient Paths: Discover Christian Formation: the Benedictine Way* (Brewster, MA: Paraclete Press, 2010)
- (5) Saint Meinrad Archabbey, *Rituals and Prayers for Benedictine Oblates*, (St. Meinrad, IN: St. Meinrad Archabbey, 2010)
- (6) Sister Judith Sutera, O.S.B., *Advent and Christmas: Wisdom from St. Benedict* (Liguori, MO: Liguori Publications, 2010)

MUSICAL COMPOSITION BASED ON POPE ST. GREGORY'S *Life and Miracles of St. Benedict*

"Br. Abraham's music publisher, John Webber, has written a three-movement orchestral setting of Gregory the Great's *Life of Benedict*. A pdf of the full score, Br. Abraham's thoughts on the music, an essay by the composer, and mp3 files of each movement are available at **webbermusic.com** (type in "Benedict" in the search box). All files are free, but donations in appreciation of the composition can be made at the website or sent to St. Gregory's (all donations are shared equally with the monastery and the composer)." (from St. Gregory's [Episcopalian] Abbey in Three Rivers, MI, *Abbey Letter*, Fall 2010). **Address of St. Gregory's Abbey: 56500 Abbey Rd., Three Rivers, MI 49093-9595.**

Purchase of St. Benedict and St. Thérèse at \$9.00 each

If any Oblate or Oblate novice wishes to purchase one or more copies of *St. Benedict and St. Thérèse* by Fr. Dwight Longenecker (published by Our Sunday Visitor), please make out a check to ST. VINCENT ARCHABBEY for **\$9.00** for each copy, and mail the check to the Oblate Office. If you wish to have the book(s) mailed to you, please add money for postage. Orders should be submitted before January 10. The book will soon be used at monthly meetings of the St. Gregory the Great (Latrobe) Deanery.

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ e-mail address _____

Form for Oblates who wish to be on an e-mail mailing list for updated information about the Archabbey or Oblate events

I would like to have my information included in a collection of names and e-mail addresses of members of the Oblate community who would like regularly to receive updated information from St. Vincent. 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: 724-216-5830); e-mail: ckarem@comcast.net. N.B.: The list of Oblates' e-mail addresses is *not* to be used for solicitations or personal purposes.

N.B.: Oblates who also wish to be included in the 2011 *Directory* (to be issued sometime next July or August) might wish to include the above information in contacting Chris.