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OBLATES OF SAINT BENEDICT

Saint Vincent Archabbey

300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650-2690

August - October 2007

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

ASPIRING TO "LOFTIER SUMMITS":

PURSUING THE GOAL IN LITTLE STEPS AND AVOIDING A SLIDE INTO MEDIOCRITY

Dear Oblates, Oblate novices, and Friends,

My current wrist watch, like some of my previous watches, tends to lose time gradually, perhaps a fraction of a second each day. I measure its accuracy by our church bells since when I am at the organ I must finish playing the prelude before the 5:00 bell for Vespers. Now, I can easily grow accustomed to the watch's being slow; one day the bell will ring at 4:59:55, then a few days later at 4:45:50, and some days later at 4:59:30. Of course, I could move the hands up a minute at any time, but I become so used to the inaccurately slow time that a part of me prefers it. Besides, if I set the watch forward, I might forget that I have done something new. Making such a change could be risky!

So can it be with our spiritual life. It can "run down" so gradually and imperceptibly that we can become comfortable with a mediocre regime of prayer and a less-than-intense relationship with God. At any stage in the slide into mediocrity, we could resolve to do something about it, but it can be easier to muse, "Perhaps tomorrow something will motivate me to go back to a more energetic practice of prayer." We forget that God is calling out to us daily, if not moment by moment, "If you hear His voice today, do not harden your hearts" (Ps 95:8; *RB* Prol: 10).

The week of July 10 to 15 at Saint Vincent was a hectic one for us monks. On July 10-11 we celebrated the investiture of four novices, the first profession of one monk, and the solemn profession of two monks. (Also, many Oblates, their guests, and many other guests were here on July 11.) Then on July 12 and 13 our monastic community gathered for an intensive annual meeting. Then on July 14 one of our monks was ordained a priest, and two were ordained deacons. Finally, on July 15 Fr. Shawn Matthew, the newly ordained priest, offered a Mass of thanksgiving in the basilica. That was also the day

of our monthly Oblate meeting for the St. Gregory the Great Deanery.

After those six days of almost relentless activity and less private prayer than I would have liked, I was tempted to plunge into my backlog of work with violent ferocity so that I might put everything back in order—my order—quickly. Fortunately, Fr. Fred's homily at the Mass of thanksgiving powerfully reminded me that the love of Jesus Christ must come before else. In every Christian vocation our love of one another and our mutual service become dry, empty, and self-centered unless such deeds are rooted in the love of Christ. Rooting ourselves in Christ means, of course, that we need to spend ample time in prayer and to strive for continual recollection. Our spiritual life must have top priority; and if an emergency calls us away from our normal regimen of prayer for one day or several days, we must return promptly to "keeping our little rule" (cf. *RB* 73:8). Otherwise, we can almost imperceptibly lose our initial fervor, slip into mediocrity, and become enslaved to a dull, somewhat hopeless existence that is basically less than Christian.

The *Rule* of St. Benedict boldly stirs us out of such complacency. The urgency of remaining focused on God pervades the *Rule*. Again and again the monk needs to admit that he has fallen away from God, but "the labor of obedience will bring you back to Him" (Prol:2). In fact, "with His good gifts which are in us, we must obey Him at all times" (Prol: 6; emphasis mine). St. Benedict's frequent use of the word "run" highlights the importance of the goal of doing everything in communion with Christ and for God's glory: "we must run and do now what will profit us forever"; "we shall run on the path of God's commandments" (Prol: 44, 49). The abbot himself is challenged always to "seek first the kingdom of God and His justice" (Mt 6:33; *RB* 2:35). "It is love" that must impel everyone "to pursue everlasting life" (5:10), primarily through the narrow path of

cheerful, unhesitating obedience in all things. A monk must “constantly remember everything God has commanded” (7:11) and should seek to “arrive at that perfect love of God that casts out fear” (7:67). St. Benedict grants that we are only beginners, and as such we tend to “blush for shame at being so slothful, so unobservant, so negligent” (73:7) when we look to the high standards of the Church fathers and monastic spiritual masters. Nonetheless, he exhorts the monk and the Oblate to “[hasten] on to the perfection of monastic [or Christian] life” (73:2), to [hasten] toward [our] heavenly home” (73:8), and to “set out for loftier summits” (73:9) after having mastered the rudiments of Christian spirituality. All are to seek “the very heights of perfection” (73:2), and to do that one must put “the love of Christ ... before all else” (4:21), “cherish Christ above all” (5:2), and “prefer nothing whatever to Christ” (72:11).

Yes, St. Benedict is known as a “master of moderation; as he says in various places and in various ways, “All things are to be done with moderation on account of the fainthearted” (48:9). Our holy father does not wish to set such impossibly high standards for us fragile earthen vessels that we become discouraged and give up on the spiritual life. However, he does not want the fainthearted to remain fainthearted, and moderation does not mean mediocrity in the spiritual life. Like Our Lord Himself, St. Benedict challenges every monk and every person to aim for perfection and aspire to the loftier summits of doctrine and virtue. In this essay I am stressing the importance of aiming for loftier summits because we are so prone to set our standards too low, to backslide, and to settle for dull mediocrity.

At the same time, however, we must acknowledge that the heights are reached through the taking of small, undramatic steps in response to grace. About Easter time this year I received a letter from a cousin in Lithuania. Since my competence in the Lithuanian language is minimal, a part of me dreads the arduous process of writing back although I know that to respond promptly is good for me and for my cousin and her family. Initially, to motivate myself I placed the letter on an empty space on the desk in my monastic cell. Well, the letter remained in that place for over two months without my feeling much motivation to tackle the project of responding. I finally realized that my mere looking at the letter was not leading me to the “loftier

heights” of actually writing a reply. Therefore, I took the letter, along with two dictionaries and a grammar book, to my office and began to translate the letter, bit by bit, and to formulate a response. The process took over a week, I think. I learned once again that to achieve a “great task” (like writing a letter in a foreign language) we need to aim high but also to take small steps each day to achieve our goal, however imperfectly; and we are not to give in to discouragement at the lamentable slowness of our progress or lack of proficiency. The same holds for progress in prayer.

How, then, are we to advance toward the “loftier heights” in the concrete choices in daily life? Wherever we are, whatever we are doing, no matter how much or how little we have progressed in the spiritual life, we must respond to the call of “forgetting what lies behind [and] straining forward to what lies ahead, ... the prize of God’s upward calling, in Christ Jesus” (Phil 3:13-14). Yes, we must continually “strain forward” in response to grace, albeit usually in little steps. What are some little steps that we can take each day? Keep custody over your thoughts and words. Dash all disordered thoughts and feeling against Christ as quickly as possible. Strive especially to turn away from murmuring. Savor a small portion of the *Rule* at a certain time each day. Practice *lectio divina*, daily if possible, for at least 15 minutes. Pray as much of the Liturgy of the Hours as you can, daily if possible; invite other family members to pray with you. Make at least one retreat or several days of recollection each year. Whenever you feel annoyed at someone or something, pray instantly and say inwardly, “Praise God!” or “Thank You, Lord, for this little cross!” Whenever you encounter a disagreeable person, pray before you speak. Look for opportunities to pause by the Blessed Sacrament at least for a few minutes. If you are Catholic, go to confession often; also examine your conscience daily. Avoid mindless entertainment. Do not watch television unless the program is definitely edifying and moral. Avoid unnecessary shopping trips. Be careful to limit time spent on the computer, and flee quickly from anything indecent on it. Listen to the Lord continually as to where He wishes you to extend His love. Whenever you find yourself failing to meet your standards or slipping into discouragement, remember quickly “never [to] lose hope in God’s mercy” (*RB* 4:74).

Some pertinent pieces of wisdom from Fr. Thomas Dubay’s *Prayer Primer: Igniting a Fire Within* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2003) are as follows. “Even if you are now on the lowest rung of sanctity, but are faithful to the light and love given you there, God will raise you to the next rung, and then the next, and the next” (page 150). “Growth in divine intimacy is not automatic,

not simply a matter of getting on in years with no significant changes in how we live day by day” (page 176). “We need to keep our eyes wide open to avoid the gradual slide into mediocrity. ... The question to ask is: What must I do to remain determined? No one else can do it for me” (page 177).

“Straining forward,” as St. Paul says we must do, does not mean, of course, that we are to push ourselves forward in spiritual growth so that we “strain ourselves.” It means rather that we continually and prayerfully listen for the ways in which God is summoning us to put away the old self and to be clothed anew with Christ. It means that we daily “open our eyes” as best as we can “to the deifying light” and that “with thunderstruck ears” we hear the divine voice calling us (*RB* Prol: 9-10, Fr. Demetrius Dumm’s translation). Rather than laboring in vain or trying to keep guard over our lives by our own efforts (cf. Ps 127:1), we

learn that God “pours gifts on His beloved while they slumber” (Ps 127:2). Yes, we must do our part with all the energy and good zeal that we can muster, but it must be always in God’s will and in response to His grace. By aspiring to the loftier summits under God’s guidance, we come to possess the peace which is Christ’s gift to us (Jn 14:27), the peace that includes acceptance of the pitifully unremarkable progress we make each day and joyful hope in reaching toward what “God has prepared for those who love Him” (1 Cor 2:9). Thus “under God’s protection” (*RB* 73:9) we shall attain these lofty and incomparably beautiful heights!

In the peace of Christ and Saint Benedict,

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

A MESSAGE FROM ARCHABBOT DOUGLAS

August 3, 2007

Dear Oblates and Friends of Saint Vincent,

This past month has been a very exciting month here at Saint Vincent, with the solemn profession of two monks, the ordination of one monk to the priesthood, the ordination of two monks to the diaconate, the first profession of our novice, and the admission of four men to the novitiate. The latter half of July consisted of a visitation to our foundation in Brazil, where we currently have 18 monks. Pope Benedict XVI visited Brazil in May and stayed at the nearby Benedictine monastery in São Paulo. He spoke of Brazil and the other countries of South America as the “continent of hope.” His visit provided an opportunity for the renewal of the faith throughout the country. This past year, our campus ministry under the leadership of Father Brian Boosel took more than 30 students to Brazil during the spring break to work among the poor and needy. It was a life-changing experience for our students.

This past week, we also welcomed the Pittsburgh Steelers to the Saint Vincent Campus and dedicated the Chuck Noll Field and Grandstand. Chuck Noll is a man of deep faith, and we are honored to have the grandstand and field dedicated in his honor. We are now preparing for the beginning of a new academic year. We will have our largest enrollment in history at Saint Vincent College this fall.

Know that the Oblates are remembered in the prayers of the Benedictine Community at Saint Vincent throughout the year. May God’s blessings be yours in great abundance.

Faithfully in Christ,

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

OBLATE DAY 2007 - September 23

All Oblates, Oblate novices, and their guests are welcome to attend Oblate Day on Sunday, September 23, from 9:00 A.M. to 6:30 P.M. The guest speaker will be Fr. Cyprian Constantine, O.S.B., Director of Monastery Music and professor at Saint Vincent Seminary. See the registration form on the insert, and send in a completed form before September 18 if you plan to attend. Note that Mass will be offered in Mary, Mother of Wisdom Chapel at 10:30 A.M. Those who would like overnight accommodations should notify Fr. Donald in advance since guest rooms are limited. Be sure to indicate if you plan to be received as an Oblate novice or Oblate; a completed application form is required of those invested as Oblate novices after January 1, 1996.

ADDITIONAL OBLATE DAY OF RECOLLECTION - October 20

A day of recollection for Oblates, Oblate novices, and other interested persons will be held at the Archabbey on Saturday, October 20, from 8:30 A.M. to 6:30 P.M. **Registration will be on the first floor of Leander Hall from 8:30 to 9:00.** The day will include conferences by Fr. Thomas More Sikora, O.S.B.; Saturday morning Mass; the opportunity for confession; Midday Prayer and Evening Prayer with the monastic community; and lunch and supper. The cost will be \$32.00 (or \$25.00 for lunch only); one may send a check with registration or pay on arrival; those who cannot pay the full price can request a discount. Please send the registration form [see the flier] to Chris Karem by October 15.

OBLATE RETREAT, May 18-20

Some 42 people attended this year's first retreat on Benedictine spirituality, entitled "Opening Our Hearts to God's Presence and Love" and directed by Fr. Thomas Acklin, O.S.B. During Oblation ceremonies on May 19 in St. Gregory Chapel, Fr. Donald received the following:

Oblates: **Barbara K. (Odilia) Kristufek** of Harrisville, PA

Oblate novices: **John V. Kristufek, Jr.**, of Harrisville, PA

Donald G. Mahlandt of East Petersburg, PA

Teresa Z. Mahlandt of East Petersburg, PA

George R. Ponticello, Jr., of Pittsburgh, PA .

Barb and John, and Don and Teresa are both married couples.

SECOND OBLATE RETREAT, June 1- 3

This year's second retreat on Benedictine spirituality, attended by some 27 persons, was silent and was directed by Fr. Donald, who preached on the theme "Distinctiveness: Life in Christ Means Being a Stranger to This Age." During Oblation ceremonies on June 2 in Saint Gregory Chapel

James G. Zaher of Charleston, SC,

made his final Oblation before Fr. Donald and the assembled retreatants.

MEETING OF DEANERY REPRESENTATIVES, May 19

At 1:00 P.M. on May 19, representatives of the various Oblate deaneries based in Annville, Butler, the Niagara Area, and Virginia Beach met with Fr. Donald. After he summarized the projects that the Oblate Board of Advisors had been considering or implementing, mostly for the Latrobe area, each attendee described what his or her Oblate deanery had been doing, especially in terms of monthly meetings.

JULY 11 - FEAST OF ST. BENEDICT

Oblates and their guests, numbering about 80 people, participated in the Archabbey's celebration of the Feast of St. Benedict, Patriarch of Western Monasticism. At the concelebrated Mass at 10:00, Benedictine monks Br. Matthias Martinez and Br. Michael Miller professed their solemn vows.

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

Oblates: **James A. "Jack" Cherubini** of Greensburg, PA

Mary Ann Cherubini of Greensburg, PA

V. Ann Orosz of Bedford, PA

Richard (Arnold) Trabold of Johnstown, PA

Vera (Patricia) Trabold of Johnstown, PA

Oblate novices: **Msgr. Michael A. Becker** of Johnstown, PA

Katherine "Kay" Calabrace of Greensburg, PA

Ximena De Broeck of Greensburg, PA

Christopher J. Engle of Greensburg, PA

Joanne Gasper of St. Marys, PA

Emma Margaret "Peg" Palfy of Penn, PA

The Cherubinis and Trabolds are married couples. Ann is the wife of Oblate Josef Orosz. Msgr. Becker is parochial vicar at Saint Benedict Church in Johnstown and also the moderator of the Saint John Gualbert Deanery of Oblates. Father Karenbauer is pastor of Saint Mary of Czestochowa Church in New Kensington.

After the Oblations the following Oblate jubilarians were honored: Christine (Benedicta) Miller of Pittsburgh (59 years), Paul (Dismas) Sauer of Lancaster (53 years), Elmer (Placid) Furman of East Pittsburgh (47 years), William P. Venneri of Belle Vernon (47 years), Nello (Gregory) Tineri of Monessen (45 years), J. Pat Dodaro of Monessen (44 years), James G. Patrick of Pittsburgh (43 years), Marie (Frances) Sauer of Lancaster (42 years), Thomas (Joseph) Angelo of Latrobe (20 years), Rita (Cecilia) Mayercsik of Johnstown (20 years), Jean (Rachel) Hammer of Johnstown (15 years), Emmett (Joseph) Henry of Greensburg (15 years), Mary Elizabeth (Pio) Henry of Greensburg (15 years), Donald (Michael) Neill of Fayette City (15 years), Gloria (Philip Neri) Neill of Fayette City (15 years), Judith M. Dzyak of Belle Vernon (5 years), and Michael L. (Stephen) Russo of Johnstown (5 years). Some of the group also stayed for Evening Prayer with the monastic community and then for supper.

OBLATE LIBRARY

Oblates and Oblate novices are always welcome to borrow books from the Oblate Library in person or by mail. You may contact Fr. Donald for a list of books that are in the library. Please do not keep books out for more than six months. A few weeks ago letters were sent out to those who had kept borrowed books for more than six months. If you are one of these people and have not returned the books that you borrowed, please return them soon. Saving the Oblate Office from additional paperwork and frustration will help!

RECOMMENDED READING: The following recommended books are in the Oblate Library.

- Fr. Thomas Dubay, S.J., *Prayer Primer: Igniting a Fire Within* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2002)
- Rev. Stephen J. Rossetti, *When the Lion Roars: A Primer for the Unsuspecting Mystic* (Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2003)

OBLATE DIRECTORY FOR 2007 TO BE READY IN AUGUST

Thanks to Oblate Bill O'Neil of Pittsburgh, the 2007 *Directory* of Oblates will soon be available for distribution. Only those who have entries will receive copies. This year, because of the high cost of postage, copies will not be mailed out unless an individual requests that his or her copy be sent by mail. Copies will be given out at the August 19 and September 16 meetings of the Latrobe Deanery and then on Oblate Day on September 23. Please plan to pick up your *Directory* and copies for others in your deanery whenever you visit the Archabbey.

OBLATES/OBLATE NOVICES WHO HAVE BEEN INACTIVE ARE WELCOME TO BE RENEWED

During May and June form letters were sent out to almost 100 Oblates and Oblate novices who, according to our records, had not been in touch with the Oblate Office for three years or more. This mailing was not intended as an effort to eliminate people from the Oblate Program but to exhort and encourage people to renew their commitment to live the Benedictine way and to maintain contact with the Oblate Office. (Unfortunately, if some Oblates or Oblate novices have contacts with St. Vincent outside the Oblate Program, Fr. Donald has no way of knowing.) However, those who received these reminders and who do not contact us before October 15 will be removed from their status as Oblates or Oblate novices because of apparent lack of interest. If you received one of the letters, have not yet responded, and wish to renew your status, please write to the Oblate Office or phone 724-805-2291. Although Fr. Donald does not have e-mail, you may also renew your commitment by sending an e-mail message to Oblate Phil Engle at phillip.engle@comcast.net

DONATIONS REQUESTED FOR 10 BREVIARIES

About 10 inmates who wish to pray the Liturgy of the Hours do not have access to breviaries. Donations toward the purchase of *Shorter Christian Prayer* for these men would be appreciated.

COPIES OF *The Path of Life* AVAILABLE AT 20% DISCOUNT

During the silent retreat on June 1-3, the book *The Path of Life: Benedictine Spirituality for Monks & Lay People*, by Fr. Cyprian Smith, O.S.B., was used for readings during meals, and the retreatants were very much impressed by the passages that were read. Some deaneries may wish to use the book for discussion at monthly meetings. Morehouse Publishing, the U.S. distributor, and Ampleforth Abbey Press in England are offering a 20% discount for an order of 25 or more copies of the book. If you wish to participate in this bulk order by Oblates, please use the form on the flier and send \$16.00 for each book purchased. **Please submit this before September 10.**

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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS BEFORE OBLATE MEETINGS IN LATROBE

Please see the flier to sign up for Eucharistic adoration in Mary, Mother of Wisdom Chapel from 1:30 to 4:15 on the third Sunday of each month, beginning on September 16. This devotion sponsored by the Oblates is intended to encourage monastic vocations to St. Vincent Archabbey.

OBLATE MEETINGS IN LATROBE (and one in Jeannette)

Oblates from all locations are welcome to the monthly meetings of the Latrobe Deanery of Oblates at 6:45 P.M. in Room Brownfield 202 on Sundays. The next four meetings will be on Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Oct. 21 (in Jeannette), and Nov. 18. **The meeting on October 21 will take place at 6:30 P.M. at Sacred Heart Church in Jeannette. Those planning to attend Vespers at the Archabbey (and/or attend the class at 3:00) may arrange to eat supper at 4:20 in the guest dining room at St. Vincent.** Before any meeting those wishing to pray Vespers with the monks at 5:00 and to have supper in the guest refectory should phone Fr. Donald (724-805-2291) a day or so in advance.

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN JustFaith

Just Faith® is a conversion-based process that seeks to provide a context in which participants can grow in their commitment to care for the vulnerable and to become advocates for justice. The program is sponsored by Catholic Charities USA, receives support from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and Catholic Relief Services, and serves to strengthen the growing commitment of parishes and churches to be tools of social transformation. JustFaith is an extended justice education process that consists of weekly meetings, and it employs books, videos, lectures, discussion, prayer, retreats and border-crossing experiences. The intent is to provide a tapestry of learning opportunities that expose the participants to the remarkable justice tradition of the Church.

For more information about JustFaith, feel free to contact **Joseph A. Bizup at 301-260-8091 (MD) or 724-593-5570 (PA).**

OBLATE CONDOLENCES

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

- Oblate Ronald Menia of Virginia Beach, VA, whose father, Otto Menia, died on October 23, 2004, and whose mother, Celestine Menia, died in January, 2007
- Oblate Vincent Niederberger of East Pittsburgh, who mother died on October 7, 2006
- Oblate Ursula Koenig of Smithville, Ont., who lost two of her sisters earlier in 2007
- Oblate Dale Dombrosky of Catonsville, MD, and her husband Thomas, whose brother Michael died suddenly on June 7
- Oblate DeSales Karawsky of Vandergrift, PA, whose sister Clare "Pat" Richards died on July 19 (Pat was also the sister of deceased Oblate Leonarda Karawsky and deceased Fr. Clarence Karawsky, O.S.B.)
- Mary Van Schie of Welland, Ont., whose brother Henry Nan died on July 29 .

OBLATE DEATHS

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

- 23 Oct 2004 - Otto Menia of Virginia Beach, VA (Oblate since August, 1959)
- Feb 2006 – Martha (Jane Marie) Dudenhoefer of Carnegie, PA (originally Girard, PA; Oblate since March, 1967)
- 3 May 2007 – Jacqueline "Jackie" (Scholastica) Milko, of Latrobe, PA (Oblate since August, 1961; she was also the daughter of deceased Oblate Mary Milko and the sister of deceased Oblate Dorothy Valore)
- 13 May 2007 – Edward R. Sobek of Erie, PA (Oblate since June, 1958)
- 16 May 2007 – Ruth (Cecilia) Ullrich of Virginia Beach, VA (Oblate since April, 1990)
- 3 Jun 2007 – Carmella "Carm" (Scholastica) Hamerski of Latrobe, PA (Oblate since February, 1987; she was also the wife of deceased Oblate Theodore Hamerski)

NEWS FROM OBLATE DEANERIES

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

There was no report.

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

Lay leader James Durka wrote on May 18. The meeting in April, attended by only three people, was brief. Jim gave a reflection on *RB 42*, on "Silence after Compline," and suggested that Oblates might reflect on each day in terms of fulfilling God's will.

During the meeting on June 16, Rev. Gerald Gawronski, moderator, invested

Neil C. Galbraith of Ann Arbor, MI,
as an Oblate novice.

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

Secretary Gabriele Terrill wrote on April 30, June 4, and July 1. At the meeting on April 25, after Evening Prayer the group entered into a discussion about respect for the environment since it was Earth Day. Fr. John Peck, moderator, pointed out that St. Benedict called for treating all material things with the same respect as sacred vessels. Monks were to recycle used clothing, take good care of all tools, and waste nothing. In the history of monasteries, monks typically raised their own food with the help of local farmers, and they were careful to rotate crops to keep the ground fertile. It was concluded that we should all be good stewards of the earth, which was given to us by God.

At the meeting on May 27, after Evening Prayer and a social with refreshments, Fr. John asked an Oblate guest who had moved from California to introduce herself. Then Oblate Kathleen Lockhart read from a letter from St. Vincent College thanking the deanery for a donation to the St. Vincent Oblate Scholarship Fund. Oblate Jeanette Van Skike reported about her experiences at the retreat at the Archabbey on May 18-20. Oblate novice Lauren Little gave a personal review of the book *Crossings*. Finally, before a closing prayer, Fr. John spoke of the impact of St. Benedict's *Rule* and the abbey at Montecassino on the whole Church.

The meeting on June 24 began with Evening Prayer and refreshments. Then at the request of one Oblate, the chapters from the *Rule* on corporal punishment (and other kinds of punishment) were read. The group discussed whether corporal punishments were helpful or not.

No meeting was scheduled for July because many members were likely to be on vacation.

Asheboro, NC (Guardian Angels/St. Joseph Deanery) -- *monthly meetings at St. Joseph Church, 4th Sat. of each month, 10:00-11:00 A.M.*

Secretary Robert O'Brien wrote on May 17 and June 12. The meeting on April 28 was held in the home of Lillian Hazelwood because of the shortage of space in St. Joseph Church while a new church is being built. The meeting opened with Mid-Morning Prayer. The members present then unanimously approved a change of the deanery's patronal title to "Guardian Angels / St. Joseph Deanery." Then there was a discussion that focused on prayer and the difficulty of praying; the group concluded that perseverance is necessary amid dryness and distractions. The Holy Spirit prompts us to pray, and the guardian angels provide assistance. The meeting closed with Psalm 101 and the Litany to St. Benedict.

While Doris Blase, lay leader, was caring for her critically ill sister, Bob O'Brien was serving as facilitator for the meetings.

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

Oblate Dale Dombrosky wrote on April 18 and phoned on July 3, and Fr. Paschal Morlino, moderator, phoned on June 10. At the meeting on April 15, held in the parish house, Fr. Paschal walked the group through a new magazine directed to Oblates. The presentation led to a discussion about hospitality with respect to being present to others, anticipating their needs, and listening "with the ear of the heart."

The Oblates did not meet during May but prayed Evening Prayer at the Grotto every Sunday during the month. There was hope that some new interested people would attend the meeting in June.

At the meeting on June 16, four guests were present; so Fr. Paschal spoke at length about Benedictine spirituality and, in particular, about *lectio divina*. There were tentative plans for a picnic the day before Labor Day.

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

Lay leader Ethel Galli wrote on May 17, June 21, and July 18. At the meeting on May 15, Ethel gave a teaching entitled "Why Community Is Important." She included specific suggestions about how to grow through community and how to build community. There was much discussion on the various points that were made.

Despite warnings of severe storms, 16 people turned out for the meeting on June 19. Fr. Brian, moderator, gave a teaching on *RB 72*, including the themes of pure love for God, the notion of "competition" that involves mutual service,

and the avoidance of seeking honors. Also, Fr. Brian invested
Bernard R. Hughes, Jr., of Petrolia, PA,
as an Oblate novice.

At the meeting on July 17, the group of 15 decided on St. Hildegard of Bingen as their patron. Fr. Brian gave a teaching on *RB 68*, on "The Assignment of Impossible Tasks." He emphasized the need to bring problems to God or a close friend, to pray through each segment of the problem, and thus to come to the truth of the situation, with a putting aside of pride and stubbornness. If we find that a task is too much for us, we must accept God's role in the burden and His desire for us to persevere in union with Christ on the Cross. Also, Fr. Brian invested

James M. Kline of Butler, PA,
as an Oblate novice.

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

Secretary Mary Catherine Hoover wrote on May 9 and June 13. At the meeting on May 8, after Vespers in the church, the group was informed about the death of Oblate Jackie Milko of Latrobe, and Fr. Robert Roche, O.S.B., the guest speaker, spoke about Jackie and her dedication to the Archabbey and the Oblate Program. Then he gave a presentation about the medal of St. Benedict, distributed pamphlets about the medal, and explained in detail each part of the medal. The meeting closed with a prayer for those in need among the monastic and Oblate communities.

At the meeting on June 6, after Evening Prayer and prayer requests, Pat Anderson and Mary Catherine reported about the silent retreat at the Archabbey and recommended the book *The Path of Life* for discussions at future meetings. Fr. Vincent Zidek, moderator, suggested that at each forthcoming meeting there be a discussion about a stained-glass window of St. Benedict Church, and he agreed to lead a session on the first window in August. The group was also planning a trip to St. Marys, PA, for August 12, with visits to the Benedictine sisters and to the three Catholic parishes. There was also a discussion of *RB 20*, on "Reverence in Prayer."

At the end of July, Fr. Vincent was scheduled to leave St. Benedict Church in order to take up duties as Director of Campus Ministry at Saint Vincent College. We are very grateful to Fr. Vincent for founding the deanery in Carrolltown and for guiding it for several years.

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

Secretary Mary Hoffken wrote on May 8 and June 10. The meeting on April 19 began with a version of Morning Prayer prepared by the diocese with a focus on the victims of the shootings at Virginia Tech. Then the group discussed a lesson "Conversion of Heart," with reference to the call to die to self to become the persons who God wants us to be. Obedience and humility were mentioned as the keys to such transformation. One member raised a question about the *Rule's* injunctions against chatter and laughter. Fr. Paschal Kneip, moderator, explained that the *Rule* challenges us to develop interior silence that leads to communion with God and that, therefore, we need to reject noise that clutters our lives. The meeting closed with Evening Prayer.

The meeting on May 10, attended by seven people and led by Oblate novice Don Barkman, began with Evening Prayer. Then the group discussed the lesson "Obedience," with mention that obedience is a life-long process of recommitting ourselves to follow the Lord wherever He leads and of accepting and embracing God's will for us at every moment. Obeying civil laws that are just should be part of Christian obedience.

Nine people attended the meeting on June 7, which began with Evening Prayer and continued with a discussion of the lesson "Prayer" under the leadership of Oblate novice Barb Grey. After considering a dictionary definition of prayer, the group reflected that God is always the initiator of prayer and that St. Benedict calls for a habitual awareness of God and a willingness to conform to His will. Prayer and lived-out faith go together. Someone commented on the difficulty of praying the Liturgy of the Hours, and others spoke of its hidden graces and long-range value. Fr. Paschal remarked that both direct, informal prayer and formal prayer are needed for a healthful Christian prayer life.

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

Lay leader Carl Motter wrote on May 10, June 12, and July 13. At the regular meeting on May 7, after Evening Prayer, the group discussed under the guidance of Msgr. Michael Becker, moderator, the procedure for celebrating the final Oblations to take place on May 20. Since one of the Oblate novices who was ready for final Oblation would be away on May 20, Msgr. Becker received his Oblation during the meeting:

Joseph (Herman) Washington of Johnstown, PA.

Then the group discussed a chapter "Seeking and Finding God Today and Every Day" from the book *How to Be a Monastic and Not Leave Your Day Job*. They reflected on the application of the *Rule* to family life and on discovering God in everything. Since the pastor of St. Benedict Church asked the Oblates if they would host a blood drive for the parish, the meeting was followed by a presentation by a representative from the Red Cross.

On May 20, during a Mass at St. Benedict Church, eight Oblate novices made their final Oblation in the presence of Msgr. Becker. They were as follows:

M. Diane (Hildegard) Brandle of Johnstown, PA

Elizabeth “Betty” (Viola) Campagna of Johnstown, PA
Frank (Virgil) Campagna of Johnstown, PA
Mary F. (Benedicta) Gorchesky of Johnstown, PA
David (Joachim) Hornick of Windber, PA
Lucille (Wendelin) Janisko of Johnstown, PA
Virginia (Scholastica) Kozuch of Johnstown, PA
Evelyn (Scholastica) Mrsnik of Johnstown, PA .

Frank and Betty are husband and wife.

On June 8 the Oblates sponsored a blood drive for the Red Cross and collected 37 units of blood.

At the meeting on June 11, the Oblates continued a discussion of the chapter “Running” from the book by Br. Benet Tvedten. The Benedictine way of life, it was asserted, is unhurried and calm, but one must hasten to do what God is urging us to do for the greatest good.

Many of the deanery attended the events at the Archabbey on July 11, and at that time Msgr. Becker was invested as an Oblate novice, and Dick and Vera Trabold became full Oblates (see above).

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

Early in June a large number of Oblates gathered at the Lopatich Funeral Home in Latrobe for a wake service for Oblate Jackie Milko, who had died on June 3. **We are grateful for Jackie Milko’s service as lay leader of the Latrobe Deanery for about 20 years.** She died after over a year of being totally incapacitated from Lou Gehrig’s disease and several other ailments.

At the meeting on May 20, the group completed a discussion of Chapter 2, “Asceticism,” from Fr. Michael Casey’s book *Strangers to the City*, with emphasis on the necessity of self-denial in Christian life. The group met in the Parish Assembly Room because of excessive air-conditioning in Brownfield 202. At 3:00 Oblate Pam Johnson had given a lesson on “Prayer” to some 15 attendees.

On June 24 a large group met in Brownfield 302, again to avoid excessively cool air. Entering into a study of “Leisure” from Chapter 3 of the text, the group reflected on the values of silence and mindfulness as opposed to the frenzied, controlling tendencies of our society. After the discussion, one of the guests, Joseph Bizup of Acme, gave a brief presentation about JustFaith, an organization committed to helping Catholics to be educated in the Church’s teachings on social justice. (See above.)

The meeting on July 15 saw lower attendance than usual, because of activities in various parishes and because of Fr. Shawn Matthew’s Mass of thanksgiving in the basilica that afternoon. Nonetheless, the group had a fruitful discussion about “leisure” and the enemies of leisure, namely workaholism and laziness.

Minersville, PA (St. Malachy Deanery)

Lay leader Paul Mangiardi reported on May 17, May 29, June 10, June 25, June 27, and July 11. At the meeting on May 9, which drew a large turnout, the group offered prayers for the sick and pondered an article from the diocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Light*, with Pope Benedict’s reflections on the Eucharist and liturgy. The group also prayed a rosary and a Litany of St. Benedict.

At the meeting on May 23, which drew a full turnout plus guests, the group recited prayers for Oblates, prayed a rosary, read some reflections on the Eucharist by Pope Benedict, and read about the blessings of the Church. They also agreed to send a thank-you letter to the Bishop of Allentown for sending a priest to offer Mass for the local Catholics.

At the meeting on June 27, in addition to the usual prayers, Paul read letters from the bishop and from Fr. Donald. Plans were made for investitures and Oblations on July 11.

On July 11, during a Mass for the feast of St. Benedict, Rev. Robert J. Potts received the following in the chapel in Minersville:

Oblates: **Richard (Christopher) Descano** of Minersville, PA
Paul (Eric) Mangiardi of Minersville, PA
Ken Samuelson of Minersville, PA
Oblate novices: **Joseph De Lisa** of Minersville, PA
Edward T. Espinoza of Minersville, PA
Michael R. O’Neill of Minersville, PA
D. Brian Pham of Minersville, PA .

The deanery had also met on July 10 in immediate preparation for the ceremonies. They also prayed for all the intentions of Oblates and monks and pondered *RB* 6 and 7 in light of a reprinted article entitled “Domestic Benedictines.”

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

Secretary Trudy Bretzler wrote on June 18 and July 7, and lay leader Brian Chisholm phoned on July 12. The meeting on April 28 was attended by 13 people and began, as usual, with Evening Prayer, the rosary, and the Litany of St. Benedict. A list of prayer intentions and copies of an article by Cardinal Suenens were distributed. Brian reminded the group that a history of the deanery needed to be written, and it was suggested that Oblate novice Rosemary Lastovic put together a picture album of the deanery's history. Then Fr. Charles Gagné, moderator, led a discussion from Wil Derkse's book *The Rule of Saint Benedict for Beginners*, pages 7 to 10, about daily order and the value of the Liturgy of the Hours in establishing a healthful structure for one's day.

The meeting on May 25 was led by Brian. After devotions a prayer list and two articles about Oblates were distributed. Those who had attended the Oblate retreat at the Archabbey, May 18-20, shared their experiences. The possibility of developing a prayer chain was discussed. Then there was a discussion of pages 11 and 12 of the text, with emphasis on the genuine security given by the routine of the *Rule* and the ability of the *Rule* to change one's life little by little.

The meeting on June 22, attended by over 20 people, began with prayers in the church and continued with a presentation by Mr. Mark James, a father of 12 children and a professor of philosophy at Brock and Niagara universities. He spoke about devotion to the Sacred Heart in terms of its history, the virtues that it can develop, and its connection with Benedictine spirituality. Then there was time for fellowship with refreshments and the distribution of a monthly prayer list.

On July 11 some 20 members of the Oblate community gathered to celebrate a Mass for the Feast of St. Benedict with Fr. Gagné as celebrant. The participants also had the opportunity to venerate a first-class relic of St. Benedict.

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

Lay leader Bill O'Neil wrote on May 29. At the meeting on May 23, after Evening Prayer, Fr. Ralph, moderator, led a continuing discussion on RB 7, "On Humility." Eleven people joined Fr. Ralph for the session..

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

Secretary Peggi Gabler wrote on May 21, and lay leader Ben Hoffman wrote on June 25. The Oblates gathered for the first time in six months on May 3 at St. Joseph Monastery. Fr. John-Mary, O.S.B., former moderator, led the meeting and reflected on RB 73 concerning the call to seek perfection in a disciplined way. There was also discussion of the three Benedictine vows from RB 58 and of mutual obedience from RB 71. Fr. John-Mary mentioned a number of specific ways for Oblates to advance on the journey of seeking God.

The meeting on June 7 took place in Queen of the World cafeteria after adoration and Benediction in the church. Six Oblates attended. A letter from Fr. Donald and then an announcement regarding the celebration at the Archabbey on July 11 were read. Then the group discussed the ninth step of humility.

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

Bienvenido "Ben" Perez, chairman of the Savannah Oblate Council, wrote on June 5 to summarize the Oblates' activities for the 2006-07 school year. Besides activities previously reported, the council established a fund to provide for supplies at monthly gatherings; well over \$500 was raised. Also, a certificate of appreciation was given to each guest speaker on behalf of the Oblates. An annual retreat, attended by eight members, was held in May at Mepkin Abbey in South Carolina. During the final council meeting for the school year, events for 2007-08 were planned. It was decided to have the one-day retreat in Savannah for the sake of greater participation.

Fr. Jude Brady, moderator, was scheduled to leave Savannah at the end of July to become pastor of St. Benedict Church in Carrolltown. We are very grateful to Fr. Jude for founding the Savannah Deanery and for guiding it for several years.

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

Oblate Michele Fitzgerald wrote on June 8, and lay leader Gretchen Meyers wrote on July 25. Twelve people attended the meeting in May, led by Gretchen. Oblate novice Vincenta Grum was charged with keeping a list of library books.

During the meeting in June, Rev. Christopher Manuele spoke to the group about the Byzantine understanding of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Many guests attended, and the meeting room was crowded. Those attending felt that they had learned a great deal.

At the meeting on July 20, which was well attended, the group discussed the Prologue of the *Rule*, verses 1-4. They also reflected about a recently published book, *In Great Silence*, about Carthusian life and suggested the possibility of showing a DVD of the book to the deanery and to the parish. Then the group discussed the Pauline themes found in Harry Potter books and ways to use contemporary culture to promote eternal values.

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

Secretary Ashley Leggett wrote on June 26, and Oblate Joel Moore wrote on June 5. The meeting on May 14, attended by six Oblates and four guests, began with sung Evening Prayer, with keyboard accompaniment provided by one of the guests. Plans were made for a pot-luck dinner in June. Then Fr. Boniface, moderator, led a discussion of the final two chapters of *Strangers to the City*, "Holiness" and "Perseverance." There were reflections on the importance of reading about saints as role models and of pursuing stability in our Christian journeys. The meeting ended with closing prayers, a singing of the "Ultima," and a blessing by Fr. Boniface.

The last meeting of the season, held on June 25, consisted of a pot-luck dinner at the residence of Ellen Mazzara of State College. Fr. Boniface and ten members of the Oblate community were present, along with many guests and family members, with a total of about 30 people. It was the last meeting for Fr. Boniface since he was to receive a doctoral degree in August (after a defense on August 3) and then return to the Archabbey. The St. Joseph Deanery and the Oblate Program are very appreciative of Fr. Boniface's faithful guidance of the deanery for several years.

Toronto, Ontario, Canada -- *monthly meetings at St. Clare Church, Toronto*

There was no report.

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

Lay leader Delina Pauls wrote on June 18. There was no regular meeting in April because of the schedule for confessions and Holy Week. On the Feast of St. Mark, April 25, Fr. Cristiano, moderator, celebrated a Mass for the Philippino community and led a devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help before the Mass, and Oblates were welcomed to attend. Fr. Cristiano's homily included comments about St. Benedict and the *Rule*.

There was a meeting on May 2, but no one took notes.

At the meeting on June 6,

Thomas (Columba Mary) Power of Hampton, VA, made his final Oblation in the presence of Fr. Cristiano and the Oblates who were present. Then nine Oblates renewed their Oblation. Fr. Cristiano preached about the meaning of Oblation as self-offering. Also, Oblate Peggy Gambardella gave a report about the retreat at the Archabbey on May 18-20.

Williamsport, PA -- *meetings on last Sunday of each month, 1 P.M., St. Boniface Church (or rectory) meeting room*

There was no report.

Various Locations

On June 9, Rev. Rodney Lee A. Pruss, during a Mass which he celebrated at her home, invested

Jeanette M. Stackhouse of Phoenix, AZ, as an Oblate novice. A retired nurse with terminal illness, Jeanette commented in a letter, "Now I can continue taking care of people just as I did as a nurse except now through my constant prayers."

On June 17 in the chapel in Huntingdon, PA, Rev. George D. Koharchik, chaplain, invested

Ishmael M. Thompson of Huntingdon, PA, as an Oblate novice.

On June 22 in the Archabbey Basilica, Fr. Donald invested

Amie Ilva Tatem of Staten Island, NY, as an Oblate novice. To mark the occasion, Oblates Joe Cirelli, Liz Hart, James Hough (from Sneads Ferry, NC, on a week-long retreat), and Cheryl Matta were present. Before the ceremony the group gathered for lunch to welcome Amie and to celebrate her 70th birthday.

On June 23, during the married couples' retreat,

Joelle (Bénédicte) Peeters of Williamsburg, VA, and **John (Benoît) Peeters** of Williamsburg, VA, made their final Oblation in St. Gregory Chapel before Fr. Donald, the other retreatants, and their four daughters, Claire, Marie Christina, Anne Sophie, and Marie Helena, who are junior Oblates. John and Joelle were invested in January, 2006, in Chincoteague Island, VA, before they moved to Williamsburg.

On July 5 in the Archabbey Basilica, Fr. Donald invested

Eric P. Zahren of Ashburn, VA, as an Oblate novice. Eric is a nephew of the late Fr. Lucian Malich, O.S.B.

On July 26 in the Archabbey Basilica, Fr. Donald invested

Rev. David R. Hicks of Summerville, GA, as an Oblate novice. Pastor Hicks is pastor of Summerville First United Methodist Church. Several local Oblates participated in the ceremony: Tom Angelo, Charlotte Burlas, Maggie Forbes, and Marcia Stoner.

SICK & INFIRM MONKS

The following monks of the Archabbey have been hospitalized or otherwise seriously ill or infirm over the past three months and could use the Oblates' prayers: Fr. Omer Kline (recovering from amputation and ongoing infections), Fr. Edward Mazich (recovered from pneumonia).

SAINT VINCENT BASILICA ORGAN PROJECT

It is hard to believe that the pipe organ installed in the basilica in 1956 and now no longer functioning cost \$40,000. Now the replacement of this organ is one of the last projects remaining as part of the total renovation project of the basilica begun in 1996. Over the course of the last 10 years, our beautiful church, which can be seen from miles around, has undergone significant changes, including a new roof and interior renovations such as artwork and window restoration, painting, plastering, and lighting.

An organ fund was begun several years ago. However, the cost of a custom-made pipe organ today is extremely expensive compared to that of 1956. The project is now estimated to be well over a million dollars; however, the beauty and the sound will be well worth the cost. It will be built by hand and will take several years of labor and skilled craftsmanship. The result should be outstanding. Music is very critical to any liturgical celebration, and it is hoped that a new pipe organ will do much to enhance liturgies in the basilica.

Please consider a donation to the Organ Fund. To discuss this project further, please contact the Director of Development, Paul Whiteside, at 724-532-6740, or e-mail Paul at paul.whiteside@email.stvincent.edu.

OVERDUE OR MISSING LIBRARY BOOKS: PLEASE RESPOND!

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

- St. Bernard of Clairvaux, *Selected Works*
 - Roberta C. Bondi, *To Pray and to Love*
 - Rev. William Burk, *Protect Us from All Anxiety: Meditations for the Depressed*
 - Sr. Rachel Callahan, C.S.C., & ..., *Harvest Us Home: Good News As We Age*
 - Christopher Derrick, *The Rule of Peace: St. Benedict & the European Future*
 - André Gozier, O.S.B., *Fifteen Days of Prayer with Saint Benedict*
 - Richard J. Hauser, S.J., *Finding God in Troubled Times*
 - Rev. Bernard Head, *Blessed Marmion: A 21st-Century Appreciation* (pamphlet)
 - Guy-Marie Oury, O.S.B., *A Monastic Pilgrimage: Following the Footsteps of St. Benedict*
 - Abbot David Parry, O.S.B., *Household of God*
 - Basil M. Pennington, O.C.S.O., *Lectio Divina: Renewing the Ancient Practice*
 - Mark Plaiss, *The Inner Room*
 - Pseudo Macarius, *The Fifty Spiritual Homilies and the Great Letter*
 - Fr. Joel Rippering, O.S.B., *The Benedictine Order in the United States*
 - John A. Sanford, *Ministry Burnout*
 - Fr. Michael Scanlon, O.F.M., *Let the Fire Fall*
 - Marsha Sinetar, *Ordinary People as Monks and Mystics*
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SCHEDULE FOR OBLATE DAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2007

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

Registration Form for Oblate Day, September 23, 2007

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

- I plan to attend Oblate Day on Sept. 23 at St. Vincent.
 (number of reservations) for lunch at \$5.00 each (money enclosed).
 (number of reservations) for supper at \$6.00 each (money enclosed).
Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

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

- I plan to be received as an Oblate (application required for those invested after 1/1/96);
I wish to take _____ as an Oblate name.
 I wish to be received as an Oblate novice (application required).
 I would like overnight accommodations for ___ Sept. 22, ___ Sept. 23. (Please contact Fr. Donald several weeks in advance.)

Please send this form to Mrs. Christine Karem, 2012 Souli St., Greensburg, PA 15601, and not to the Oblate Office. Please mail in this form by September 17.

Registration Form for Oblate Day of Recollection, October 20, 2007

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

- I plan to attend Oblate day of recollection on Oct. 20 at St. Vincent.
 Enclosed is the fee of \$32.00 (or \$25.00 for only one meal).

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

- I would like overnight accommodations for ___ Oct. 19, ___ Oct. 20 (Please contact Fr. Donald several weeks in advance.)

Please send this form to Mrs. Christine Karem, 2012 Souli St., Greensburg, PA 15601 and not to the Oblate Office. Please mail in this form by October 14.

ORDER FORM FOR THE PATH OF LIFE BY FR. CYPRIAN SMITH, O.S.B.

Morehouse Publishing is offering us a 20% discount on the excellent book *The Path of Life* if we order 25 or more copies. Please fill out the form below to order books, and send it **before September 10** to **Oblate Office, St. Vincent Archabbey, 300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650-2690.**

_____ I would like to order _____ copies of *The Path of Life* at \$16.00 each and enclose \$ _____.

_____ I would like to have the book(s) mailed to me at the address below; so I enclose an additional \$ _____ for postage.

Total enclosed _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____
