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OBLATES OF SAINT BENEDICT

Saint Vincent Archabbey

300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650-2690

724-805-2291

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Please note forms on flier for renewal of Oblation, celebration on March 20, and donations for World Congress.

GOD'S SELF-REVELATION TO US, OUR DISTRACTIONS, AND A POSSIBLE REMEDY: PRAYING THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Dear Oblates, Oblate Novices, and Friends,

During this past Christmas Season, and especially in the celebration of Our Lord's Epiphany, it struck me how very ardently God wishes to reveal Himself to us. The readings at Mass for Epiphany speak of this great desire. Through Isaiah God invites ancient Israel and the Church today: "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you ...; upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears His glory" (Is 60: 1,2). In St. Matthew's Gospel the magi from the East respond to God's communication through a star that guides them to the presence of the Holy Family and to a life-changing encounter with the infant Savior. In his letter to the Ephesians St. Paul praises God for the mystery that was revealed to him concerning the call to the Gentiles to be part of God's family (Eph 3: 2-6). We Christians in the 21st century should be grateful that we have so many channels of revelation from God: the Scriptures, the teachings of the Church, nearly 2000 years of Sacred Tradition, and the examples of the magi, St. Paul, and thousands of canonized saints. Furthermore, in a humble but very genuine way God continues to communicate to us in the course of each day through ordinary events and through the people whom we encounter. How disposed are we to all these ways in which God so very lovingly reveals Himself?

If we wish to sharpen our senses to welcome God in the mysterious ways in which His glory shines upon us, then an essential discipline is frequent and persistent prayer. In the Catholic tradition we have the great blessing of Christ's Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist and the possibility of prolonging the Eucharistic celebration through adoration of the Sacred Host. In the Blessed Sacrament exposed in a monstrance we actively gaze on the glory of God humbly tailored to meet the needs of our eyes and our hearts. Exposition of the Sacrament can be especially helpful because it almost naturally imposes an atmosphere of silence and reverence. However, when we spend time in adoration, there is no guarantee that our inner noises will cease. One Friday morning when I planned to spend some time in adoration at our St. Gregory Chapel (near my office), I

recognized some the many "noises" in my mind that could have driven me away from prayer. The inner voices said such things as, "You have too much work to do," "You might get a phone call while your are praying," "Someone might come to see you in your office, and you will miss a great opportunity and then have to waste time trying to contact the person," "I am far behind in my work on music programs, and I'll feel guilty if I don't do the work now," and "The Oblate newsletter will soon be due, and if I don't start work on it now, I may never get it done!" All these excuses make some sense from a purely rational perspective, but they leave out God and His plan. They ignore the critical spiritual truth that we have an urgent need to spend time explicitly with the Lord, and Him alone, so that we can respond to His desire to reveal Himself, learn to receive His love, and learn to act in His love, and thus welcome Him to reveal Himself to us and through us.

A primary aim of the *Rule* of Saint Benedict is to help monks (and Oblates) live in the presence of God and receive His ongoing revelation. The Prologue exhorts us: "Let us get up then, at long last, for the Scriptures rouse us when they say: 'It is high time for us to arise from sleep' [Rom 31:11]. Let us open our eyes to the light that comes from God, and our ears to the voice from heaven that every day calls out this charge: 'If you hear His voice today, do not harden your hearts' [Ps 95:8]" (Prol: 8-10). The monks' principal ways of staying in touch with God's living word are *lectio divina* and the Divine Office. Of course, the monk is also to hear the word of God speaking through the superior's commands (see *RB* 3:5-6, 5:8, 5:15, 7:34, 71:3) as well as through the communications from his fellow monks (71:4) and the observation of others' needs. However, a monk is very unlikely to hear the voice of God in the abbot or his brother monks if he is not zealous for prayer.

In the Liturgy of the Hours the monk is exposed to the word of God in such a frequent and concentrated way that the word becomes part of him, whether he perceives this process intellectually or not. The urgency of being immersed in God's word in the Divine Office may be the motive for Saint Benedict's specification, "Indeed,

nothing is to be preferred to the Work of God" (RB 43:3). This verse, inserted in the midst of the *Rule's* "penal code," indicates that we encounter Christ in an especially profound way when we pray the Hours. We know in truth that Christ comes to us most perfectly and personally in the Eucharist, and St. Benedict would not dispute this supreme truth of the Catholic faith. We could say, as with the case of Eucharistic adoration, that praying the Hours extends our daily or weekly encounter with Christ in the Eucharist to the remainder of our hours. Note that St. Benedict also exhorts us in a similar vein, "Let them prefer nothing whatever to Christ" (RB 72:11). Persevering in praying the Office, and not looking for excuses, gives God a chance, so to speak, to transform us by His word and to remake us in His likeness. Without repeated exposure to the word of God, the monk (or Oblate) dries up spiritually and loses some degree of openness to God's ongoing communication.

Oblates and others who struggle to practice *lectio* or pray the Office sometimes tell me how hard it is to do these things. Regarding *lectio*, people often speak of their many distractions and their inability to "get anything" from the words of Scripture. Regarding the Office, people often lament their inability to follow the correct format for the day or to find their place in the breviary. In such cases one can easily forget the ultimate purpose of both *lectio* and the Office: to encounter Christ in the word of God and, in the case of the Office, to join Christ and all the heavenly choirs in offering praise to the Father. It doesn't matter so much that one "does it right" or manages to stay alert or has marvelous insights. What really matters is that we are praying, that Christ is powerfully present in the words of Scripture, and that the person praying be open to receive Him. These traditional recommended practices are time-tested ways of disposing our hearts to welcome Christ and to hear His voice drawing us to communion with Him.

Another reason why some people, whether consciously or subconsciously, avoid greater engagement in prayer is that the Word of God often convicts us of our sins. There is a part of us that would prefer not to see the multitude of disorders and sinful tendencies in our hearts. That part of us may even subtly delight in distractions since they keep us from dealing with our woeful deficiencies. However, if we wish to live as committed disciples, we must be ready to "do battle" with Christ and to be ready to welcome Him to expose our radical depravity and to lavish upon us His graces to forgive and heal. Prayer thus should help us to deal with our unredeemed self and to overcome our tendency to live in the illusion of ignoring it. The reality that prayer often leads us to a deeper awareness of our sins should, therefore, be a cause for gratitude and joy!

It can be reassuring to know that praying the Hours

does not depend on our moods or mental condition. Catholic priests, deacons, and vowed religious are legally bound to pray the Office. Oblates and Oblate novices commit themselves to pray the Office as much as their schedules allow. Whether we pray alone from a breviary or pray in community, we are glorifying God through psalms, hymns, and Scripture readings even if we do not feel disposed to pray. (Of course, we should try to dispose ourselves as best we can!) Isn't it a grace that the Church has already given us a methodical system to unite ourselves with Christ in prayer? We don't have to invent it ourselves. Furthermore, when we pray the Office, we are doing something that enhances our Christian dignity. Blessed Abbot Columba Marmion reminds us in his work *Christ the Ideal of the Monk* how profoundly significant is our praying of the Office: "Here below is formed the choir of the Church militant, called also to take her place one day in the ranks of the blessed; but this choir is united, by faith and love, with that of Heaven, and resounds too before the throne of God; for the Church is one in Christ, her Divine Head. ... The Office is the official voice of the Bride of Christ. ... She sings, united to Christ, under God's very gaze; because of the title of Bride, she always merits to be heard. This great work, the triumph of the Divinity of Jesus, is to raise us, poor mortals, even up to His Father. After death, we shall be – we truly hope to be – in a real and immutable way, where the Saviour is; but even now we are there by faith. ... We are especially united to the Word Incarnate when we join ourselves to Him in order to sing, through Him and with Him, the glory of the Father. Such is the fundamental reason of the transcendence of the *Opus Dei*; such is the incommunicable and untransferable privilege attached to this prayer, the Work of God, accomplished with Christ, in His name, by the Church, His Bride" (pp. 297-298).

A number of Oblates also complain about not "getting anything" from their efforts at *lectio divina*. As in the case of the Divine Office, the efficacy and value of the prayer does not depend on our "getting anything" concrete and observable or feeling well disposed. In a sense, all that matters is that "He is there, and I am there in all my weakness and poverty." We encounter God Himself through the vehicle of His word. Whether we gain any discernable insights from the words is secondary.

As Lent approaches, it may be helpful for Oblate novices and Oblates to reflect on their faithfulness to living by Benedictine values, and in particular to praying the Divine Office and practicing *lectio divina*. Perhaps we need to let go of other demands in order to make sufficient time, space, and silence for prayer. In the new book *The Oblate Life* (Liturgical Press, 2008), contributor Loretta Javra reflects, "The practice of silence demands, first of all, taking a critical look at the things that encroach on the interior life. For example, when

does the cell phone cease to be for me an instrument of communication and become a handy gadget for needless chatter? Do I allow email, Internet, television and other such wonders of technology to become an unnecessary distraction in my life? As oblates, we pledge to be people of prayer. We owe it to ourselves to make silence and prayer everyday priorities in our lives” (p. 253).

In a similar vein, one of our Oblates, in a letter written last August, included an unreferenced quote from Thomas Merton: “There is a pervasive form of violence to which we all easily succumb: activism and overwork. The rush and pressure of modern life are a form, perhaps the most common form of its innate violence. To allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns, to surrender to too many demands, to commit oneself to too many projects, to want to help everyone and in everything is to succumb to violence. More that that, it is cooperation in violence. Frenzy destroys our own inner capacity for peace. It destroys

the fruitfulness of inner wisdom which makes work fruitful.”

Yes, how God longs to reveal Himself to us, and how deceptively clever we can be in inflicting subtle violence on ourselves and others and thus also fleeing from Him! May whatever disciplines we choose during this coming Lent help us to be freed from activism, overwork, addictive use of the media, useless noise, and whatever other attitudes and practices tend to block our receptivity to God and our fruitfulness as Christians. May we learn to listen to God more zealously “with the ears of our heart” and thus welcome Him to transform us and make us a “light to the nations” (Is 49:6) as were the magi who came to worship Our Lord in His hidden majesty.

In the peace of Christ and Saint Benedict,

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

A MESSAGE FROM ARCHABBOT DOUGLAS

February, 2009

Dear Oblates and Friends of Saint Vincent,

On Ash Wednesday, February 25, we celebrate the beginning of the Lenten Season. Each year the Church sets aside this time for us to improve our relationship with the Lord through our daily prayer life. The Lenten Season also provides us with an opportunity to examine our faithfulness to living out our baptismal promises in preparation for renewing them at the Easter Vigil.

As a disciple of Christ, each of us is called to give witness to His light in the unique circumstances of our life. We know that the power of darkness confronts us both in our personal lives and in the world around us. Whether it is the struggle with peace and justice in the Gaza Strip, Iraq or Afghanistan or whether it is the struggle for peace within our own homes or hearts, our faith teaches us that the power of Christ’s light will always overcome the power of darkness.

As we begin this Lenten Season, let us ask for God’s grace to grow in a deeper awareness of His divine presence so that our hearts and lives may reflect the light of our Resurrected Lord to all the world.

Sincerely in Christ,

Archabbot Douglas

RENEWAL OF OBLATION AND KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THE ARCHABBOT

All Oblates who do not have the occasion to renew their Oblation at St. Vincent or with local deaneries are encouraged to make the renewal privately on or about the Solemnity of Saint Benedict (March 21) and to send a completed renewal form (see the flier) to the Oblate Office. It is helpful to know of your ongoing, active interest in the Oblate Program and your personal growth in Benedictine spirituality. Those wishing to make donations may write out checks to ST. VINCENT ARCHABBOT. *(continued)*

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

VIGIL OF THE SOLEMNITY OF ST. BENEDICT AT THE ARCHABBEY ON MARCH 20

Oblates from all areas are welcome to join Oblates of the Latrobe (St. Gregory) Deanery on Friday, March 20, to celebrate the Vigil of the Solemnity of the Passing of Our Holy Father Benedict with the monastic community and other guests. The schedule includes Solemn Vespers at 4:00 P.M., supper at 5:15 P.M. (in Placid B), Oblation ceremonies at 6:30 P.M. (in St. Gregory Chapel), and Compline at 7:15 P.M. Members of the Oblate community and their guests who wish to attend should fill out the form on the flier and send it to Chris Karem by March 20. The cost of the supper is \$6.50. Checks should be made out to ST. VINCENT ARCHABBEY, and reservations should be made in advance in order to plan for the right number of people.

OBLATE DAY 2009, SEPTEMBER 20, & DAY OF RECOLLECTION, OCTOBER 17

This year's Oblate Day will be Sunday, September 20. Fr. Jacques Daley, O.S.B., is scheduled to be the guest speaker. The fall day of recollection is scheduled for Saturday, October 17.

"OBLATE RETREATS," MAY 15-17 and JUNE 5-6

Oblates and others interested in Benedictine spirituality are invited to participate in either (or both) of this year's two "Benedictine" retreats. Fr. Donald will direct the retreat from Friday, May 15, to Sunday, May 17, and Fr. Thomas More Sikora, socius of novices and miller at the St. Vincent Grist Mill, will direct the retreat from Friday, June 5, to Sunday, June 7. The latter will be a silent retreat. **Note that both of these retreats will be based on Benedictine spirituality even though the retreat brochure does not list them explicitly as such.** All those on the Oblate mailing list should have received a listing of retreats, but if you need a brochure, contact the Oblate Office. Registration (and all other special arrangements) should be done through the St. Vincent Retreat Program, and not through the Oblate Office.

CELEBRATION OF ARCHABBOT BONIFACE WIMMER'S 200TH BIRTHDAY

Despite cold, snowy, icy weather and traffic tie-ups, a number of Oblates and their guests, about 18, attended a festive Vespers service on Wednesday, January 14 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Archabbot Boniface Wimmer's birth on January 14, 1809. The liturgy included a homily by Abbot Primate Notker Wolf, O.S.B., who had come from Rome for the occasion. For subsequent bicentennial events at St. Vincent during 2009, you may check the Archabbey's web site or the *Heart-to-Heart* magazine.

NEW BOOK ON OBLATE SPIRITUALITY: *The Oblate Life*

The recently published book *The Oblate Life* (Collegetown, MN: Liturgical Press), edited by Gervase Holdaway, O.S.B., has a number of excellent essays on Benedictine spirituality, although it contains a few statements of questionable orthodoxy. There is a copy of this book in the Oblate Library

PLEASE CHECK BOOKSHELVES FOR BOOKS MISSING FROM OBLATE LIBRARY

Despite efforts to check books out only through a librarian at Oblate meetings in Latrobe, some books continue to "walk away." Please review the list of lost and missing books at the end of this newsletter, and see if you might have any of them on your bookshelves. Thank you!

OBLATES RECEIVE 10% DISCOUNT AT BASILICA GIFT SHOP

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

OBLATE BOARD OF ADVISORS: Meeting on January 23

The Oblate Board of Advisors met on Friday, January 23. Among the items discussed were the hope to establish an Oblate prayer chain in the Latrobe/Greensburg/Jeannette/ Ligonier/ Wheeling area and the assembling of deanery histories. If you would like a copy of the minutes, contact the Oblate Office. The next meeting will be on Friday, April 24, at 6:30 P.M. in Brownfield 203.

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

Please contact the Oblate Office if you are an inquirer or an Oblate novice (or even an Oblate) who would like to have an Oblate to help you on your journey in Benedictine spirituality. Likewise let us know if you are willing to volunteer to serve as a mentor; if you do volunteer, you will receive a packet of information to assist you in your ministry.

MONASTIC VISITATION, January 25 – February 1

Although you will surely receive this newsletter after the visitation is over, please pray for the good fruits of the monastic visitation of St. Vincent Archabbey. About every five years each monastery of our congregation is required to have an official "inspection" of all elements of its monastic life conducted by qualified monks from other monasteries assigned by the congregation. After the week-long visitation, which includes personal interviews with every monk who wishes to voice his views, a report is given to the community.

PREPARATION OF DEANERY HISTORIES

As of January 17, twelve out of nineteen deaneries have submitted histories to the Oblate Office (including one that is on the way). If you are a lay leader or moderator of a deanery that has not yet submitted its history, please ask someone in your deanery to compile a history. It would be best if the histories are as detailed as possible. The Oblate Office can supply files with past reports if such information would be helpful. For those deaneries that have been in existence for many years, older members might be interviewed or reached by letter for their historical input. **It is hoped that a booklet of deanery histories can be printed sometime in February; so please submit histories as soon as possible.**

OBLATE DIRECTORY PLANNED FOR SUMMER, 2009

A 2009 edition of the biennial Oblate *Directory* will be prepared by Oblate Bill O'Neil of Pittsburgh. This time we are starting from scratch to make sure that everyone's information is correct. If you wish to submit your entry early, you may contact Bill with your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address at: Mr. William O'Neil, 4122 Beehner Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15217-2811, or 412-422-1313, or boneil2@peoplepc.com, or use the form on the flier.

RECOMMENDED READING

- Vinny Flynn, *7 Secrets of the Eucharist* (Stockbridge, MA: MercySong, Inc., 2006)

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.

OBLATE MEETINGS IN LATROBE

Oblates from all locations are welcome to the monthly meetings of the Latrobe Deanery of Oblates, mostly at 6:45 P.M. in seminary classroom Brownfield 202 on Sundays. The next four meetings will be on Feb. 15, Mar. 15, Apr. 19 and May 17. Those wishing to come early for Evening Prayer (at 5:00) and supper before the meetings at St. Vincent should phone Fr. Donald in advance. The direct line for reaching Fr. Donald is (724) 805-2291. Classes on Benedictine spirituality will continue to be offered at 3:00 P.M. on the same dates. On February 15, Br. Elijah will offer a teaching on the Eucharist; on March 15, Fr. John-Mary a teaching on *conversatio morum*, and on April 19, Fr. Andrew a teaching on prayer in Benedictine spirituality.

SUGGESTED LENTEN PROJECT FOR 2009

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

OBLATES AFFILIATED WITH ST. VINCENT ARCHABBEY PLANNING TO ATTEND WORLD CONGRESS

Through the coordination of Fr. Paschal Morlino, O.S.B., moderator of the St. Walburga Deanery in Baltimore, St. Vincent Archabbey will be sending eight or nine delegates to the Second World Congress of Oblates in Rome from October 2 to 10, 2009. Some of these will need financial help to pay for travel and other expenses, which will amount to over \$1,500 for each delegate. **Please use the form on the flier to donate money to assist our delegation to the World Congress.** So far, as of January 30, \$2,791.34 has been donated. Thank you!

SHOULD THIS NEWSLETTER HAVE A NAME?

At the Oblate Board of Advisors meeting on January 23, it was suggested that the Oblate newsletter might be given a name. (It was called *The St. Vincent Oblate* back in the 1930's and 1940's.) If anyone has a suggestion for a name, please contact the Oblate Office.

ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS: The Blessed Sacrament exposed every Sunday from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. in 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.

INFORMATION ABOUT INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ON EUTHANASIA & ASSISTED SUICIDE

One of our Oblates submitted a copy of a newsletter published by this international task force, which alerts its readers about dangers to our God-given right to life regarding euthanasia and assisted suicide in our culture of death. Those who are interested in a subscription may contact the International Task Force at P.O. Box 760, Steubenville, OH 43952 or phone 1-800-958-5678 or email www.internationaltaskforce.org.

BOOKLET SAINT BENEDICT FOR BUSY PARENTS AVAILABLE FROM CATHOLIC INFORMATION SERVICE

Fr. Dwight Longenecker recently authored a 24-page booklet entitled *Saint Benedict for Busy Parents*. It is published by Catholic Information Service (CIS) at the Knights of Columbus in East Haven, CT. The booklet is available for the cost of postage (40 cents each) and can be ordered by contacting Michele Martindale at (e-mail) cis@kofc.org or (phone) 203-752-4267. Fr. Donald ordered 200 copies for Oblates; so you may ask the Oblate Office for a copy if you wish.

OBLATES AFFILIATED WITH ST. VINCENT ARCHABBEY PLANNING TO ATTEND WORLD CONGRESS

It seems that some eight Oblates affiliated with St. Vincent Archabbey will be among the 50 delegates from the U.S. to send to the Second World Congress of Oblates in Rome from October 2 to 10, 2009. Some of these will need financial help to pay for travel and other expenses, which will amount to well over \$2,000 for each delegate. **Please use the form on the flier to donate money to assist our delegation to the World Congress.** As of January 20 some \$2,000 has been donated. Thank you!

FR. DONALD AWAY ON RETREAT, February 1-6: Please do not phone the Oblate Office on these dates since Fr. Donald will be away on retreat at St. Emma. Hopefully, this newsletter will be ready for printing earlier than usual so that it can be ready to be mailed before February 1.

BR. JEREMIAH NO LONGER ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Because of a number of other duties, especially in the bakery, Br. Jeremiah Lange, O.S.B., is no longer assigned as assistant Oblate director. However, he will continue to handle some e-mail correspondence for Fr. Donald.

OBLATE CONDOLENCES

Let us together offer prayers for those of our Oblate community who mourn the loss of loved ones:

- Oblate Claudia Knowlton of California, MD, whose father died early in 2008
- Oblate Michael LoPiccolo of Cuyahoga Falls, OH, whose mother during 2008
- Oblate Ishmael Thompson of Huntingdon, PA, whose grandmother died on Oct. 24
- Oblate Bill O'Neil of Pittsburgh and his wife Eileen, whose Aunt Margaret in Ireland died on Oct. 31 and whose brother-in-law Eugene Ruffolo died on Nov. 17
- Oblate novice Kristin Sacoto of Lovettsville, VA, whose mother, Carolyn Joy, died on Nov. 19 [see below]
- Oblate John Hudock of Greensburg, PA, whose sister Martha Falenski died on Nov. 22
- Oblate James McGinley of Wheeling, WV, whose uncle John McGinley died shortly after Christmas
- Oblate moderator Rev. Michael Ferrick of St. Marys, PA, whose father died shortly after Christmas
- Oblate Katherine Kristofko of Johnstown, PA, whose father, William Kristofko, died on January 1 (at home as he had wished)
- Oblate moderator Fr. John Peck of Annville, PA, whose step-mother, Elva Peck, died on Jan. 10

OBLATE DEATHS

Let us be united in prayer for the recently deceased members of our Oblate community, that having died with Christ, they might experience the fullness of life in Him:

- 19 Nov 2008 – Carolyn D. Joy of Delmont, PA (Oblate since Sept., 1996)
- 5 Dec 2008 – John P. (Vincent) Henry of Jeannette, PA (Oblate since Sept., 1999)

NEWS FROM OBLATE DEANERIES

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

Deacon leader Ralph DeCecco wrote on December 31. The deanery met on October 4, November 8, and December 27. Each meeting consisted of prayer, lessons, and discussion. The meeting on December 27, led by Oblate Joseph Hartdegen, involved a lesson on meekness, which was especially appropriate for the Christmas Season. The discussion was lively and fruitful. As usual, the meeting began and ended with prayer from the Divine Office.

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

Secretary Gabriele Terrill wrote on November 5 and December 29. After Evening Prayer in the church, the meeting on October 26 began with moderator Fr. John Peck's reporting about a very memorable pilgrimage to Italy, from which he had just returned. Then the group discussed *RB 20*, with comments on praying in humility, the need to listen to God in silence, and the notion that prayer should not be too demanding. Then Fr. John anointed Oblate novice Mary Ann Bingeman, who was preparing for surgery, and prayers were also offered for Oblate Margaret Bott, who was also to undergo surgery.

At the meeting on November 23, which began as usual with Evening Prayer, the group welcomed a new inquirer. Then they discussed Chapter 73 of the *Rule*. Also, Fr. John read from a book about St. Anthony of Egypt, the hermit, and recommended the book. The reading included sections about the devil's attacks on St. Anthony and his capacity to heal and expel demons.

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

Lay leader Robert O'Brien wrote on November 17. On November 2 Rev. Christopher Davis of St. Joseph Church invested

Reginald F. LaLande of Asheboro, NC, as an Oblate novice.

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

Fr. Paschal Morlino, moderator, wrote on November 1. A regional day of recollection was held on November 1, with 32 persons attending. Fr. Paschal was the presenter.

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

Lay leader Ethel Galli wrote on December 9 and January 6. At the meeting on November 20, after the praying of Evening Prayer, the group read and discussed the second step of humility (*RB* 7:31-33), regarding surrender to the will of God. Then they reflected on an article from St. Meinrad Archabbey concerning the vocation to be an Oblate and the basic meaning and practices of that vocation. Finally, there was a time of fellowship with refreshments.

Fr. Brian, moderator, led the meeting on December 18, which began with Vespers. Fr. Brian then gave a presentation on *RB* 72, "The Good Zeal of Monks," with emphasis on reverence for and deference to others especially when we experience hurt or rejection. He also spoke about the 200th anniversary of the birth of Archabbot Boniface Wimmer that is being celebrated at St. Vincent in 2009. The meeting ended with prayer and refreshments.

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

Lay leader Mary Catherine Hoover phoned on November 4 and wrote on December 13. At the meeting on November 3, the group continued its discussion on the book *The Path of Life*, this time from the chapter "silence." A married couple came as inquirers, and Fr. Jude and others described the Oblate Program to them. There was no meeting in December because of first confessions at the church.

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

Lay leader Mary Hoffken wrote on November 14. The meeting on October 2, attended by eight people, began with an invocation to Our Lady of Guadalupe. The discussion focused on the first step of humility, with emphasis on keeping the fear of the Lord before our eyes with the help of discipline and patience. The meeting closed with Vespers, the singing of "Salve Regina," and a blessing from Fr. Paschal Kneip, moderator.

At the meeting on October 28, attended by five people, the group discussed steps 2 through 6 of humility. The points of discussion included not loving one's own desires, focusing on needs more than on wants, and acting always out of love for God. It was noted how difficult it is to live out step 4 and to bear with suffering with out murmuring.

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

Lay leader Carl Motter wrote on November 14, December 17, and January 13. At the meeting on November 13, after Evening Prayer, the group discussed the chapter about the calling to Oblation from the book *How to be A Monastic and Not Leave Your Day Job*. They reflected on why Oblates take final Oblation so seriously. Then

Diane P. (Monica) Crownover of Johnstown, PA., made her final Oblation in the presence of Msgr. Michael Becker, moderator, and the other Oblates.

On December 13 the Oblates hosted a parish blood drive and collected 24 units of blood. On December 15 the monthly meeting consisted of a Mass and a pre-Christmas social.

The meeting on January 12 began with Evening Prayer and continued with a lengthy discussion about the Sacrament of Reconciliation, along with references to indulgences and the possibility of making a pilgrimage during this Year of St. Paul.

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

At the meeting on November 16, some 20 people were present to ponder the vow of *conversatio morum* from Chapter 3 of *The Path to Life*. *Conversatio* was discussed in terms of rejection of a secularist culture, transformation of our inner beings by God's grace, and God's use of our weaknesses to lead us on the path to holiness.

At the meeting on December 21, some 25 people attended despite the proximity of Christmas. The group discussed obedience from Chapter 4 of the text, with reflections on external and internal obedience and the call to obey legitimate authorities as a way to obey God and to be purified of self-will. Before the praying of Compline in the Archabbey Basilica, Fr. Donald invested

Janet M. Gabonay of Herminie, PA, as an Oblate novice.

Attendance at the meeting on January 18 was hampered by a snow storm, but eight or nine brave souls, including two from Wheeling, WV, managed to come to the discussion about "silence" from Chapter 5 of *The Path of Life*. The group talked about why people fear to be silent, how we can discover our longing for God in our "inner void," and how we need some discipline and structure to make room for silence and prayer in our lives.

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

On November 16 Oblate Mike Russo of Johnstown gave a presentation on *Lectio Divina* in Benedictine spirituality to a group of about 10 people. After describing the actual nature of *lectio* as an "ancient art of holy reading," Mike spoke about the four phases of *lectio* and the possibility of communal *lectio* with use of different senses of Scripture in the process. Finally, he had all the attendees break into small groups for group *lectio* on Phil 4:6-9, a passage that Mike had chosen.

On December 21 Br. Francis Ehnat, assistant guest master and a seminary student, gave a very thorough presentation on "Hospitality in Benedictine Spirituality." He referred to hospitality in other religions; gave a history of hospitality in Scripture, the Church, monasteries, and the *Rule*; and concluded that monasteries offer lay people opportunities to find their true selves in God through silence and solitude.

On January 23 Fr. Boniface Hicks, teacher of computer science and moderator of the deanery in State College, gave an excellent power-point presentation on "Holiness in Benedictine Spirituality." The quest for holiness, he said, begins with the search for meaning in life and rejection of the world's answers. God alone is holy, but he invites all people to share in His holiness. The process of becoming holy is aided by the sacraments, Eucharistic adoration, love of God and neighbor, trust in God, and readiness to carry our crosses. The Benedictine way of sanctification involves doing simple, ordinary things with great love and growing in loving union with God through little daily tasks.

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

Lay leader Paul Mangiardi wrote on December 8 and January 21. There was a brief meeting on December 8. The Oblate community was looking forward to a pre-Christmas Mass and dinner on December 10 for the whole Catholic community. The deanery sent Christmas greetings to all the Oblates and Benedictines.

The meeting on January began with an opening prayer and the reading of a letter from Fr. Donald. Then the members bade farewell to Oblate Tony DiMeo, who was about to move. Then the group prayed the Sorrowful Mysteries of the rosary for the intentions of all their families.

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

Lay leader Brian Chisholm phoned on November 13, and Secretary Trudy Bretzler wrote on November 24 and January 26. Sixteen people attended the meeting on October 24, which began as usual with Evening Prayer, a rosary and the Litany of St. Benedict. An Advent day of recollection was planned for November 22. Then the group revisited Chapter 1, "Listening," from *The Path of Life*. Three Oblates shared their experience at the day of recollection at the Archabbey in October.

The annual Advent day of recollection took place at St. Patrick's Church on November 22 from 10:00 to 3:00, with some 30 to 40 people attending. Fr. Chris Gillen celebrated Mass, and Fr. Gagné heard confessions.

At the meeting on November 28, Brian introduced Fr. Francis Hubilla, O.S.B., a Benedictine monk from the Philippines who is currently serving at a parish in Hamilton, Ontario. Fr. Francis graciously agreed to be moderator of the deanery as long as he is stationed in Hamilton, but he did not know when his abbot might recall him back to his home monastery. He shared about his background as a Benedictine, reflected on the richness and beauty of the Benedictine tradition, and emphasized that the monastic community is a monk's strength. The group decided not to meet in December. Fr. Francis then led a closing prayer and gave a blessing before the singing of the "Salve Regina."

At the meeting on January 23 the group was to discuss Chapter 2, "Stability," from *The Path of Life*.

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 December 10 and January 23. The deanery held its annual pre-Christmas party on December 17. The meeting on January 21 began, as usual, with Evening Prayer and continued with a discussion of the Book of Psalms with the help of a book by Br. Benedict Janecko.

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

Secretary Peggy Gabler wrote on November 11 and December 13. The meeting on November 6 followed Evening Prayer and Benediction. The eleven people attending, including two guests met in the school library, and lay leader Ben Hoffman led the meeting. First there was some discussion about the election results and a resolution to pray and sacrifice for the welfare of our nation. Then came a reading of *RB* 20 followed by a discussion of religious traditions and practices. Ben explained the focus of the Oblate Program to the newcomers, and other Oblates gave testimony about the value of Oblate life. Next there was a reading from *Magnificat* on the Church as a sacrament. The meeting closed with the Oblates' prayer and some fellowship with refreshments.

The meeting on December 4 began with Benediction and Evening Prayer, sung under the direction of Peggy Hoffman, wife of Ben Hoffman. Jerry Brennan distributed laminated copies of the Oblates' prayer. Eileen Brennan read *RB* 50:1-14 and an excerpt from *Benedictus*, and there was some discussion of these passages. The next meeting was scheduled for March 5, 2009. The session ended with refreshments.

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

Lay leader Katie Wojtunik wrote November 11. On November 10 the Oblate group met with Fr. Conan Feigh, O.S.B., in

the monastery infirmary, of which he is the director. He explained the care for the infirm, the call to treat them as Christ as the *Rule* requires, and the way this care is carried out at St. Vincent. The group reflected on ways to treat the sick and suffering with dignity. After the presentation the group was given a tour of the infirmary, and they ended the evening by praying Compline in the infirmary chapel.

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

Fr. Ronald, moderator, sent e-mails on November 3. The new head of the Savannah Benedictine Oblate Council is Oblate Mike Williams since Ben Perez, the former leader, has moved to Melbourne, FL.

On December 17 Fr. Ronald sent a letter with Christmas and New Year messages to the whole Oblate community.

Secretary Mary Forbes wrote on January 21. In January the Oblate Advisory Council sent an annual survey to all members of the deanery asking if each member had met his or her personal expectations, what could be added to the program or done differently, and whether he or she would be willing to meet one extra time per month to help plan activities.

A gathering with the Benedictine community for Evening Prayer was planned for January 25. The guest speakers were Judy & Rev. Mr. Jerry Clark.

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

Lay leader Gretchen Meyers wrote on November 2, December 1, December 19, and January 22. At the meeting on November 19 the group began to discuss Chapter 8, "The Eucharist," from *The Path of Life*, and the attendees were grateful to have been reintroduced to so many truths concerning the Mass. They hoped to discuss the Eucharist and adoration of December 19, but the meeting scheduled for that date was canceled because of a snow storm.

Six members attended the meeting on January 16. Since it was the vigil of the feast of St. Anthony, hermit, the full Oblates renewed their Oblation, and they explained the meaning of Oblation to those who were not Oblates. Then the group continued its discussion about the Eucharist, with the help of an address by Bishop Louis Antonio Tagle to a Eucharistic Congress in Toronto, as well as *The Path of Life*.

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

Secretary Ashley Leggett wrote on November 11, December 3, and January 14. The meeting on November 10, attended by 14 people, began with Evening Prayer and a rescheduling of future meetings to December 1 and January 12, with ceremonies on January 12. Fr. Boniface, moderator, called for replies from those considering investiture or final Oblation. Then the group had a discussion of St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians, with a special question about Eph 5:5. There was some exchange about how God is actively involved in our lives and St. Paul's dispositions of both loving concern and sternness. (*continued*)

Amid closing intercessions the group prayed for the repose of the soul of Fr. Joseph Bronder and for other special intentions.

At the meeting on December 1, the nine attendees planned the deanery's annual Oblation ceremonies for January 12. They then began on discussion of St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians. It was mentioned that St. Paul had great fondness for the people of Philippi and accepted donations from them and that St. Benedict was very Pauline in his teachings on obedience and the avoidance of murmuring. Fr. Boniface came in just in time to sing the *Ultima* with the group and to give his blessing. He was preparing to leave for a conference on computer science in India and for some volunteer work with the Missionaries of Charity.

On January 12 the Oblates and families and friends gathered for Mass at Our Lady of Victory Church, celebrated by Fr. Boniface. Twenty-two people attended. Fr. Boniface led Oblation ceremonies during the Mass and received the following:

Oblate: **Phyllis A. (Mary) Austin** of Bellefonte, PA

Oblate novice: **Ellen Mazzara** of State College, PA .

After the Mass the group enjoyed a potluck dinner in the parish activity center. After the dinner Fr. Boniface presented a slide show and videos of his recent trip to England and India. Also, Oblate Maria DiCola displayed her draft of a deanery history, and minor changes were suggested before its submission to the Oblate Office.

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

No report was given.

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

Lay leader Ted Richardson wrote on November 28 and December 9. At the meeting on October 26, led by Lynn and Al Stola, the five Oblates attending discussed the chapter "Listening" from *The Path of Life*.

The meeting on November 23, attended by four people, began with the "Angelus" and continued with a study of *The Path of Life*, with an oral reading and discussion of twelve pages in meaningful units. The meeting ended with the praying of Vespers. The December meeting, held on December 14 to avoid conflicts with pre-Christmas activities, involved a discussion beginning on page 21 of *The Path of Life* (on the chapter "Stability.")

Various Locations

On October 31 during Mass at the chapel at Folkston, GA,
Tommy R. (Pio) Bailey of Folkston, GA, and
Johnny (Mark) Kitchens of Folkston, GA,
made their final Oblation in the presence of Fr. Gabriel Cummings, who celebrated the Mass. About 25 people attended.

On November 20 in the Archabbey Basilica,
David A. (Adjutor) Burak of Peckville, PA, and
Joseph J. (Bernward) Filler of Wyoming, PA,
made their final Oblation in the presence of Fr. Donald and Oblate Joyce Collins, who happened to be at the Archabbey to work on a history of the Latrobe Deanery. (It was also the birthday of Joe Filler and the feast day of St. Bernward, a German bishop who died on November 20, 1022. By the way, St. Adjutor was a Norman Knight who became a monk in Tiron, France, and who died in 1131.)

On November 7 at St. George Romanian Catholic Cathedral in Canton, OH,
Michael E. (John of Kranszadt) Polnik of Massillon, OH,
made his final Oblation in the presence of Very Rev. Ignatius Joseph Kury II, the pastor.

On November 30 in St. Gregory Chapel at the Archabbey, Fr. Donald invested
Michael E. Ludwig of Red Lion, PA,
as an Oblate novice.

On Thanksgiving Day, November 27, at the chapel in Mercer, PA, Msgr. Charles S. Murcko, chaplain, received the following:

Oblate: **Louis G. (Roman) Jacobs, Jr.**, of Mercer, PA

Oblate novice: **Robert G. Frey, Jr.** of Mercer, PA .

Oblate Miguel Such was also present for the ceremony.

On December 8 at St. Joseph's Church in Guelph, Ontario, Canada, Rev. Ken Miskiewicz invested
Michael G P. McDermott of Guelph, Ontario,
as an Oblate novice.

On December 20 in the Archabbey Basilica, Fr. Donald invested
Joshua M. Lawrence of Graytown, OH,
as an Oblate novice. Joshua is a high-school senior. His mother, Bernadette, was also present.

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. Paulinus Selle (who fell and broke several ribs), Fr. Paschal Kneip (recovering from surgery and insertion of a stent), Fr. Robert Roche (recovering from cellulitis).

DECEASED MONK

Shortly after the printing of the last newsletter, Fr. Joseph Bronder, 66, died on November 5 after several years of struggle with illness. Please pray for the repose of his soul.

OVERDUE OR MISSING LIBRARY BOOKS AND TAPES: 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.

- Robert Benson, *A Good Life: Benedict's Guide to Everyday Life*

- 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*
- Rozanne Elder (ed.), *The Contemplative Path: Reflections on Recovering a Lost Tradition*
- Fr. André Gozier, O.S.B., *Fifteen Days of Prayer with Saint Benedict*
- Rev. Bernard Head, *Blessed Marmion: A 21st-Century Appreciation* (pamphlet)
- Fr. Terrence G. Kardong, O.S.B., *Day by Day with Saint Benedict*
- Fr. Thomas Keating, O.C.S.O., *Intimacy with God*
- Fr. George A. Maloney, S.J., *The Jesus Prayer* (pamphlet)
- Thomas Merton, O.C.S.O., *Seeds of Contemplation*
- 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*
- Basil M. Pennington, O.C.S.O., *Lectio Divina: Renewing the Ancient Practice*
- Pseudo Macarius, *The Fifty Spiritual Homilies and the Great Letter*
- Ghislane Salvail, *At the Crossroads of the Scriptures: An Introduction to Lectio Divina*
- Fr. Michael Scanlon, O.F.M., *Let the Fire Fall*

Cassette Tapes and Compact Disks:

- Esther de Waal, *Seeking God* (3 tapes)
- 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"

Prayer by Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta: "Radiating Christ"

Oblate Carol Ramela of Acme submitted the following prayer by Blessed Teresa, which was adapted from John Henry Cardinal Newman's "Meditations and Prayers," and was one her favorite prayers. It was also chosen by her to be the first prayer recited each day by the Missionaries of Charity after they received Holy Communion.

Dear Jesus,

Help me to spread your fragrance everywhere I go.
 Flood my soul with Your Spirit and Life,
 Penetrate and possess my whole being
 So utterly that my life may only be
 A radiance to Yours.
 Shine through me and be so in me
 That every soul I come in contact with
 May feel Your presence in my soul.
 Let them look up and see no longer me, but only Jesus!
 Stay with me and then I will begin to shine as You shine;
 So to shine as to be a light to others.

The Light, O Jesus, will be all from You;
 None of it will be mine.
 It will be You, shining on others through me.
 Let me thus praise You in the way You love best;
 By shining on those around me.
 Let me preach You without preaching,
 Not by words but by example,
 By the catching force,
 The sympathetic influence of what I do,
 The evident fullness of the love
 My heart bears for You. Amen.

RESERVATION FORM FOR CELEBRATION OF ST. BENEDICT DAY ON MARCH 20

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

____ I plan to attend the dinner for Oblates at St. Vincent on Friday March 20 2009,
 along with ____ guests; I enclose _____ (\$6.50 per person; make out checks to **ST. VINCENT**

ARCHABBEY. An additional donation for the social would be welcome).

____ I plan to be invested as an ____ Oblate, ____ Oblate novice on March 20. On becoming a full Oblate, I plan to take the Oblate name _____. (*application form required*)

Please send this form to: **Mrs. Christine Karem, 2012 Souli St., Greensburg, PA 15601 (phone: 724-216-5830).**

RENEWAL OF OBLATION

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

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

Date of Renewal _____

Please detach and return to:

Director of Oblates
St. Vincent Archabbey
300 Fraser Purchase Rd.
Latrobe, PA 15650-2690 .

Donations to Subsidize Oblates Attending World Congress in Rome in October, 2009

____ I enclose a donation to assist my fellow Oblates to attend the World Congress in Rome in 2009. **Please make out checks to St. Vincent Archabbey.** The total sum of donations will be divided among attendees according to financial need.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ E-mail address _____

DIRECTORY OF OBLATES: 2009 EDITION

If any Oblate or Oblate novice wishes to submit his or her address, phone number, or e-mail address for a *Directory* that will be accessible to other members of the Oblate community who likewise submit their information, please contact Bill O’Neil. The *Directory* is revised about every two years, and copies are sent only to those who wish to participate. The next revision is to be issued in summer, 2009. Bill’s e-mail address is:

boneil2@peoplepc.com .

One may also write to Bill at Mr. William O’Neil, 4122 Beehner Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15217-2811; or one may phone him at 412-422-1313.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ e-mail address _____

SCHEDULE FOR VIGIL OF SOLEMNITY OF SAINT BENEDICT, MARCH 20, 2009

4:00 P.M. – Solemn Vespers in Archabbey Basilica (with Bishop Joseph Milooly of the Diocese of Wilmington as celebrant and homilist)

5:15 P.M. – dinner in Placid Hall Dining Room B

6:30 P.M. – Oblation ceremonies, St. Gregory Chapel

7:15 P.M. – Compline (Night Prayer), St. Gregory Chapel.