



OBLATES OF SAINT BENEDICT

Saint Vincent Archabbey

300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650-2690

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724-805-2291

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Please note flier with forms for registration for July 11, Oblate *Directory*, and donations for World Congress.

SAINT BENEDICT AND REVERENCE FOR LIFE: BRINGING OTHERS JOY AND NOT SADNESS

Dear Oblates, Oblate novices, and Friends,

It was during Holy Week that I began to scribble down reflections for this essay. A central message of the Scripture readings and the liturgies of the Sacred Triduum is that Christ suffered and died for us out of love; He also rose for us out of love and the desire to share eternal life, divine life of immeasurable joy, with us. Christ ardently longs that we respond to His love with growing trust and love, limited though our capacity may be, and He wishes us not to sadden or scandalize one another but rather to encourage one another on our pilgrimage of faith with all its heavy burdens. Just as Christ died for all, the just and the unjust, the born and the unborn, the young and the old, the strong and the weak, the imprisoned and the free, so must our love be extended to all those whom Christ has redeemed by His blood. We must have reverence and respect for all human life; insofar as we can, we are bring others spiritual joy rather than additional distress.

I myself was blessed with an experience of unexpected joy on Good Friday as I held a crucifix for members of a small congregation to reverence. In an unusually moving way I could sense the people's love for our crucified Lord as well as His love for each of them in their varied walks of life. Surely, He wants all of us to rejoice in His passionate love even as we mourn His terrible death. He suffered and died to redeem all human life, no matter how convincingly that life might be degraded by society. Every human life is precious to Him. He gave His life for each one of us.

Last January I experienced the preciousness of human life in another way that was new and unique for me. After years of thinking about attending the annual March for Life but never quite making it, I was finally moved by people and events (perhaps reflecting the Holy Spirit's initiatives) to make the commitment to go to Washington, DC. It was a sacrifice of time and energy, and that, of course, caused my timid, reluctant side to wonder what I was doing. However, my better self realized that the sacrifice was well worth making because, especially this year, the lives of the unborn and the elderly in this

country may be threatened more than ever before by the encroachment of the "culture of death." Among the highlights of my journey with St. Vincent monks and seminarians were a vigil Mass in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and a morning Mass in the Verizon Center. Both the basilica and the arena were filled to capacity, and overflow crowds had to be accommodated elsewhere. I felt honored before the morning Mass to be among the priests (perhaps hundreds of us) hearing the confessions of thousands of penitents for an hour and a half. That encouraging experience reminded me that those of us who strive to defend and promote the rights of vulnerable human beings must ourselves acknowledge our weakness and vulnerability and realize how easily we can sin against human life through anger, judgment, or just failure to listen; we ourselves are in radical need of God's grace to bring us forgiveness and renewed strength. Still slaves to sinful tendencies, we need ongoing repentance to render us capable to fight against the evil in our culture and to extend Christ's love unselfishly even to those who most repel us.

The *Rule* of St. Benedict, always reflecting the values of the Gospel, supports the dignity of those who are needy, frail, and vulnerable. Although, of course, St. Benedict probably did not have to deal with unborn children or the problem of abortion, he did have to consider the welfare of those in the monastery (or its school or guest house) who were vulnerable because of old age, youth and inexperience, poor health, weariness from travel, or wayward tendencies. For all such people the *Rule* shows special consideration because of their special needs and because of Christ's particular presence in them. Whereas Roman society fostered the institution of slavery, St. Benedict puts monks who are ex-slaves on an equal footing with the freeborn; he stipulates, "A man born free is not to be given higher rank than a slave who becomes a monk, except for some other good reason" (*RB* 2:18). St. Benedict also insists, "Care of the sick must rank above and before all else, so that they may truly be served as Christ" (36:11). Furthermore, the "very weak" are even allowed to eat meat until they recover (36:9). Regarding "boys and the young" (30:2), although they are to be punished with severe fasts or sharp strokes when

they misbehave, St. Benedict adheres to the principle, "Every age and level of understanding should receive appropriate treatment" (30:11). That is, each person should be treated according his weaknesses and genuine needs; each one must be embraced as a child of God. In this spirit the cellarer of the monastery should be "like a father to the whole community" (31:2); he should humbly offer those who request goods that are not available "a kind word in reply" (31:13); and he will respect his brothers' needs for nourishment by providing "the brothers their allotted amount of food without any pride or delay, lest they be led astray" (31:16). One who respects the dignity of each person and serves them with love also hastens them on the way to salvation.

St. Benedict's precept about listening to younger members of the community is also part of the Christian call to reverence all human life. At community meetings the abbot is to call together the *whole* community, even the very young, because "the Lord often reveals what is better to the younger" (*RB* 3:3). In today's world are not the unborn and the very young those to whom we must listen intently? Are they not crying out, "Look, we are truly alive human beings! We deserve dignity and legal protection to live our vocations in this life and to prepare for eternal life. Please do not treat us like mere blobs of inert tissue! Do not snuff out our God-given life"? These days scientific probes and videotapes of the unborn are verifying what believers have known all along: the unborn are fully and truly human beings; they deserve our respect and reverence.

Naturally, the *Rule* is "pro-life" because the Scriptures and the teachings of the Church have, from the beginning, proclaimed that all human life is sacred (even if in practice, that wonderful truth has often not been carried out). Reflecting on Matthew 5:21-22 and Exodus 20:13 ("You shall not kill"), the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* asserts, "Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains for ever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being" (#2258). Just as God tells the prophet Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you" (Jer 1:5) and just as the Psalmist reflects in amazement, "My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret" (Ps 139:15), so the *Catechism* teaches, "Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception" (#2270). Likewise, "direct euthanasia ... is morally unacceptable" (#2276), and "an act of omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder gravely contrary to the dignity of the human person and to the respect due to the living God, his Creator" (#2277). The

Catechism goes on also to condemn others ways of violating respect for human life: scandal, abuse of one's health, scientific research that does not promote the dignity of persons, disrespect for the dead, anger and hatred, and the destruction of human life in war (#2284-2317).

How, then, are Oblates and monks today to show the reverence for human life that is taught in the Gospels and demanded by the *Rule*? It is a foregone conclusion that all of us must oppose abortion and euthanasia. Most of us will probably never have a major impact on our culture through legislation or court battles. We can, however, use our voting power and whatever other influence we have to combat one or both of these great evils. On a daily basis we are more likely to encounter other sorts of vulnerable people: the very young, the very old, the infirm, the unemployed, the wayward person, the unexpected guest, the annoying customer, or the person with disagreeable habits. St. Benedict has much to say about our disposition toward such people. He tells us, "Great care and concern are to be shown in receiving poor people and pilgrims, because in them more particularly Christ is received" (*RB* 53:15). Similarly, we are to "relieve the lot of the poor, clothe the naked, visit the sick and bury the dead" (4:14-17), and we are also to "go to help the troubled and console the sorrowing" (4:17-18). It may be very tempting at times to dismiss or put down people who make demands on us, but St. Benedict insists that we, like the cellarer, are to offer others "a kind word in reply" (31:13) when we cannot meet their demands; we are also to strive not to impose on others "so that no one may be disquieted or distressed in the house of God" (31:19). Yes, our environment can become "the house of God" when we treat others around us with the reverence we owe to Christ. Is there not enough misery in the world that we choose to add to it? (We probably accidentally add to it in many ways!) Are we not called to give others some relief from their burdens so that a ray of sunshine from God may brighten them? Are we not called to take time to be with others in need and to listen to them "with the ear of the heart" (*RB* Pro1:1)?

Only in recent years have I heard the phrase "stealing someone's joy," which apparently means depriving others of their need for joy and hopefulness through negative, critical, bitter, or cynical attitudes, words, or behavior. Since St. Paul commands us to "rejoice always" (1 Thes 5:16), are we not to help one another obey this precept? Since St. Benedict urges us not to burden the sick or weak with unreasonable expectations (48:24-25), are we not to strive to bring them a taste of

joy instead of “overwhelming them and driving them away” (48:24)? It is most especially in *RB 31* (Sister Aquinata Böckmann, O.S.B., notes in her book *Around the Monastic Table* that St. Benedict mentions four times in *RB 31* that one is not to cause others distress) that St. Benedict adjures a trusted official, the cellarer (and thus also us, who are all in some sense stewards and dispensers of goods), not to annoy others; he “should not annoy the brothers” (31:6); he must see that the brothers not “be led astray” (31:16) through his pridefulness or delay; he must not “reject [anyone] with disdain and cause him distress” (31:7). In *RB 31:16* St. Benedict quotes St. Matthew’s Gospel 18:6: “It would be better for anyone who leads astray one of these little ones who believe in Me to be drowned by a millstone around his neck.” Later on, Christ again warns, “See that you never despise one of these little ones. I assure you, their angels in heaven constantly behold My heavenly Father’s face” (Mt 18:10). Who are these “little ones”? Are they not all of us insofar as we are weak, vulnerable, easily hurt, and often discouraged? Perhaps the “little ones” today are most especially the unborn, the frail elderly, the abused, the homeless, the sick who receive inadequate care, and those in prison. Of course, sometimes the wayward need to be corrected since love sometimes requires a firm “No,” and once in a while you or I may be the one called to do the correction. However, we are called never deliberately to sadden or disdain or discourage anyone; rather we need to bring to others a modicum of Christian joy, which is in such short supply

in our world, the joy that comes with knowing that we are lavishly loved by God and that, in a sense, we already possess insofar as Christ has given Himself totally to us in His Passion and death and has raised us up with Him in His Resurrection and Ascension.

During this Easter Season let us remember especially that the risen Christ comes to us in the least expected people and situations. He brings us peace and wants us to rejoice in Him (cf. Jn 20:20) and to show Him reverential love (Mt 28: 9, 17). It is through our self-denial in order to make room for others that we share in Christ’s Passion, and it is in the deference and reverence that we show to others that we show reverence to Christ Himself (cf. Eph 5:21). Let us, with the grace of our risen Lord, learn to bear patiently with those who cause us pain “because serving them leads to a greater reward” (*RB 36:5*) – the reward of eternal life and of a marvelous, joyful communion with Our Lord and all the saints that begins even in this life.

Your brother in Christ and Saint Benedict,

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

A MESSAGE FROM ARCHABBOT DOUGLAS

Spring, 2009

Dear Oblates and Friends of Saint Vincent Archabbey,

Greetings and warmest wishes for a blessed and joyous Easter Season! Our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI in one of his Easter messages indicated that throughout salvation history, Good Friday and Easter Sunday often occur at the same time. We know that in our lives the darkness of Good Friday can frequently overwhelm us as we experience the difficulties and brokenness of the human condition. The loss of loved ones, broken relationships, disappointments, failed expectations, poor health, and financial woes are but a few of the experiences of darkness that we encounter in this life. Easter Sunday, however, reminds us that the dark moments of life are not our final destination. The promise which our Lord makes to each of us is that he will be with us always. It is the experience of the Resurrected Lord that gives us hope and confidence in the midst of life’s difficult moments.

As we now prepare to celebrate the great feast of Pentecost, let us ask the Lord to open our hearts to the grace of this season so that we may live in constant awareness of God’s ever abiding presence.

Come, Holy Spirit, enkindle in us the fire of your love! May the blessings of the Risen Lord be with you always.

Faithfully in Christ,

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

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

A number of Oblates and their guests, some 60 people, joined the extended Benedictine community for the annual celebration of the Passing of Our Holy Father Benedict, Abbot. At the Solemn Vespers at 4:00 P.M., Archabbot Douglas presided and preached.

After dinner Oblation ceremonies were held at 6:45 P.M. in St. Gregory Chapel, where Fr. Donald received the following:

Oblates: **Kevin D. (Benedict) Brown** of Pittsburgh, PA
Rev. Richard P. (Boniface) Karenbauer of New Kensington, PA
Rev. Leonard J. (Joseph) McAlpin of Greensburg, PA

Oblate novices: **Kevin Capp** of Erie, PA
Mary Ann Kaufman of Pittsburgh, PA
Michael D. Manns of Pittsburgh, PA
Joseph E. Pagano of Greensburg, PA
Katharine S. Tittmann of State College, PA .

Fr. Karenbauer is the pastor of St. Joseph Church and administrator of St. Mary of Czestochowa Church in New Kensington, and Fr. McAlpin is the chaplain of St. Anne Home in Greensburg. Both are priests of the Diocese of Greensburg.

"OBLATE RETREATS," MAY 15-17 and JUNE 5-7

It is still not too late to register for this year's retreats. Use the retreat brochure that you received in the mail, and register directly with the St. Vincent Retreat Program. Fr. Donald will be the retreat master on May 15-17, and Thomas More Sikora, O.S.B., will be the retreat master on June 5-7 for a silent retreat. At 10:00 A.M. on May 16, all retreatants will attend the Mass for the ordination to the priesthood of Br. Joseph Adams, O.S.B. On the afternoon of that day, there will be a meeting of representatives of Oblate deaneries, and Oblation ceremonies will also be held later in the afternoon.

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

All Oblates, Oblate novices, and their guests are welcome to attend the festive Mass for the Feast of St. Benedict, including ceremonies for the profession of solemn vows, at the Archabbey Basilica at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, July 11. Oblates are invited to stay for lunch and for a 2:30 meeting, Evening Prayer at 5:00, and supper. If you are coming for Mass, lunch, or supper, please fill out the form on the insert and send it to Christine Karem by July 4. (Even if you are coming only for Mass, it is good for the sacristans to know how many pews to reserve for the Oblates.) This year for the fourth time the meeting at 2:30 will include a ceremony to honor Oblates who this year celebrate 5, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 55, or 60 or more years of Oblation. At the suggestion of the Oblate Board of Advisors, there will be time for photographs after the jubilarian ceremonies.

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

OBLATE DAY 2009 - September 20

Fr. Jacques Daley, O.S.B., Catholic chaplain at Westmoreland Regional Hospital and well-known speaker on E.W.T.N., has agreed to serve as the guest speaker on Oblate Day, Sunday, September 20, 2009. A schedule and a registration form for the event will appear in the August newsletter.

OBLATE DAY OF RECOLLECTION - October 17

The past four years' fall days of recollection at the Archabbey were quite successful, and so another similar day of recollection will be offered this fall on Saturday, October 17. Fr Matthias Martinez, O.S.B., who serves as assistant to the rector at St. Vincent Seminary, will serve as the retreat master.

OBLATE RADIO PROGRAM

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

ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS

Oblates in the Latrobe/Greensburg area are welcome to participate in Eucharistic adoration in the Archabbey Basilica Crypt on every Sunday from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. to pray for vocations to the religious life and the priesthood, especially for vocations to St. Vincent Archabbey. Oblates are encouraged to participate especially on those Sundays of Oblate meetings and classes on Benedictine spirituality.

RENEWALS OF OBLATION

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

RECOMMENDED READING (volumes available in the Oblate Library)

- Johann Christoph Arnold, *Be Not Afraid: Overcoming the Fear of Death* (Farmington, PA: The Plough Publishing House, 2002)

NEW (OR NEWLY DISCOVERED) BOOKS ON BENEDICTINE SPIRITUALITY

(1) Sr. Aquinata Böckmann, O.S.B., *Around the Monastic Table: RB 31-42: Growing in Mutual Service* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2009)

(2) Elizabeth J. Canham, *Heart Whispers: Benedictine Wisdom for Today* (Nashville, TN: Upper Room Books, 1999)

(3) Esther de Waal, *Seeking Life: The Baptismal Invitation of the Rule of St. Benedict* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2009)

(4) Dom David Foster, O.S.B., *Reading with God: Lectio Divina* (N.Y.: Continuum, 2005)

(5) Abbot Christopher Jamison, O.S.B., *Finding Happiness: Monastic Steps for a Fulfilling Life* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2008)

(6) Fr. Terrence G. Kardong, O.S.B., *The Life of St. Benedict by Gregory the Great: Translation and Commentary* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2009)

OBLATE BOARD OF ADVISORS

The Oblate Board of Advisors met at the Archabbey on April 24. They discussed various issues, including plans for the deanery histories, a booklet of reflections about Oblation that Oblates have already been submitting, possibilities for a name for the Oblate newsletter, and the next book to be used for discussion by the Latrobe Deanery.

MENTORING PROGRAM

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

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 DIRECTORY BEING PREPARED FOR 2009

A 2009 edition of the biennial Oblate *Directory* is being 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, 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. (Also, see the form on the flier.)

RETREAT AT ST. EMMA FOR MARRIED COUPLES BEING GIVEN BY FR. BONIFACE, O.S.B.

Fr. Boniface Hicks will be directing a retreat for married couples at St. Emma Retreat House from September 11 to 13, 2009. It will be entitled "Love Shared in Liturgy and *Lectio Divina*: Ways to Deepen Married Life in Christ." The retreat will show how couples can grow in experiencing the Lord Jesus and communicating through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Liturgy. Oblates are especially welcome to attend.

The cost is \$270 per couple. For additional information or reservations, visit www.stemma.org or call 724-834-3060, ext. 113.

DONATIONS WELCOME TO ASSIST OBLATES TRAVELING TO THE WORLD CONGRESS IN OCT.

Through the coordination of Fr. Paschal Morlino, O.S.B., moderator of the St. Walburga Deanery in Baltimore, St.

Vincent Archabbey will be sending some 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, almost \$4,000 has been donated, and almost all of this has been given to the needy delegates to help pay for their air fare.

ESTABLISHING "MY FATHER'S HOUSE" IN PENNSYLVANIA

Sister Kathleen Marie Todora, E.S.E.H., who is the Catholic chaplain at the State Correctional Institution – Laurel Highlands in Somerset, PA, belongs to a religious community whose mother superior, Madre Antonia Brenner, established in Mexico a residence of transitional housing for men who have nowhere to go when released from prison. "Sister Katie" has discovered that many inmates in Pennsylvania cannot be granted parole because they have nowhere to go. She envisions the establishment and maintenance of faith-based transitional houses for ex-offenders who have demonstrated a change of heart. To start the process, she suggests that those interested gather for a brainstorming session and then perhaps establish a steering committee and then a working advisory board. If anyone would be interested in helping with such a project, he or she may contact the Oblate Office for Sister Katie's draft of a proposal or may contact Sister Katie at 247 High Street, Meyersdale, PA 15552; home phone: 814-634-8150; cell phone: 225-272-0651; e-mail: srkathleenmarie@yahoo.com .

SHOULD THIS NEWSLETTER HAVE A NAME?

This newsletter was called *The St. Vincent Oblate* back in the 1930's and 1940's. If anyone has a suggestion for a new name for the newsletter, please contact the Oblate Office.

OBLATE MEETINGS AND CLASSES IN LATROBE

All Oblates and their guests are welcome to monthly meetings of the Latrobe (St. Gregory the Great) Deanery, held at 6:45 P.M. on Sundays in Brownfield 202 at St. Vincent, and also to the classes on Benedictine spirituality that begin in the same place at 3:00 P.M. The next four sessions will be held on May 17, June 14, July 19, and August 16. (Note the change to the second Sunday in June.) Those wishing to come early for Vespers and supper should phone Fr. Donald (724-805-2291) in advance.

CONDOLENCES: Let us together offer prayers for those of our Oblate Community who have lost loved ones, that they may receive consolation and new strength from our risen Lord:

- Oblate Marsha Mencer of Ruffsdale, PA, whose mother died last Nov. 30
- Oblates Charlotte & Carl Burlas of Latrobe, PA, whose sister-in-law Helen Zakour died on Jan. 31
- Oblate Carl Motter of Johnstown, PA, whose mother, Emma Motter, died on Feb. 2
- Oblate Paul Sauer of Lancaster, PA, whose sister Rose Margaret Sauer died on Feb. 8
- Oblate Rev. Daniel Goulet of Frederick, MD, whose grandmother Marthe Regard died on Feb. 19
- Oblate Robert Hoover of Carrolltown, PA, whose brother Albert died on Feb. 22
- Oblate Michael McDonald of Kissimmee, FL, whose father, Michael Joseph McDonald, died on Feb. 28
- Oblate Mary Elizabeth Henry of Greensburg, whose brother George Danko died on Mar. 7
- Oblate novice Kay Tittmann of State College, whose granddaughter Clara died in the womb of her mother, Christi Wall, in mid-March
- Oblate Joyce Motter of Johnstown, PA, whose mother, Mary Klaum, died on Apr. 7
- Oblate Michele Fitzgerald of Scranton, PA, whose cousin Theresa Capalongo died on Apr. 8
- Oblate Josephine Smart of Latrobe, PA, whose brother Victor Martin died on Apr. 9
- Oblate Gertrude Brechtel of Kane, PA, whose brother Leo Rettger died on Apr. 12 [Easter Sunday]; Leo was also the brother of deceased Fr. Emmeran Rettger, O.S.B., and deceased Oblate Margaret Rettger
- Oblate Diane Donahue of Pittsburgh, whose mother, Helen Donahue, died on Apr. 14 .

OBLATE DEATHS

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

- 18 Dec 2007 - Robert (Bonaventure) Falkosky of Greensburg, PA (Oblate since Dec., 1987)
- 28 Jan 2009 – Raymond M. (Boniface) Schmittlein of Latrobe, PA (Oblate since Dec., 1964)
- 13 Feb 2009 – Gertrude M. (Rebecca) Erickson of Latrobe, PA (Oblate since Apr., 1989; she was the sister of the late Fr. John Erickson, O.S.B.)
- 27 Feb 2009 – Anthony (Thomas) D’Avanti of Jeannette, PA (originally of Latrobe; Oblate since Aug., 1955)
- 12 Mar 2009 – Bill Soper of St. Catharines, Ont., Canada (Oblate novice since Dec. 2, 2006)
- 7 Apr 2009 – Margaret (Henrietta) Grennon of Glasgow, MT (age 105; originally of Vandergrift, PA; Oblate since Oct., 1958) .

NEWS FROM OBLATE DEANERIES

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

Deacon leader Ralph DeCecco wrote on March 24. At the meeting on March 21, the Solemnity of the Passing of Our Holy Father Benedict, the group of eleven prayed the Divine Office in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, offered communal intercessions, and celebrated the renewal of Oblations. Also, Oblate John Simpson shared some thoughts about first-Saturday devotions. The meeting closed with Benediction.

Annvile, 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 January 31, February 12, March 2, and April 8. The meeting on January 25 began with Vespers in the church. Then the group continued a discussion of the book *Anthony of the Desert*, led by Fr. John Peck, moderator. The attendees concluded from the life of St. Anthony that real power comes from humility, silence, and devotion to God, as opposed to the means used by the Devil: attraction to power and money.

Fr. John and twelve others gathered for a meeting on February 22. At Evening Prayer Fr. John invested **Betty Jean Philippi** of Linglestown, PA, and **Philip A. Reemes** of Mechanicsburg, PA, as Oblate novices. The other Oblates present renewed their Oblation, and refreshments were served. Then Oblate Mike Kinney presented some research he had done about Scientology, which is very different from Christian faith. Finally *RB 4* and *RB 49* were read and discussed, especially to help the new Oblate novices. It was commented that *RB 4* reminds us of what is important in our lives as Christians.

The meeting on March 22 began with Evening Prayer, for which a guest, Ira Shenk, played the piano. Then the group partook of some Lenten fare: coffee, water, and soup made by Oblate Lisa Kayser. Subsequently they continued a discussion about St. Anthony of the Desert, and Fr. John emphasized the importance of discerning between good and evil. Fr. also spoke about St. Frances of Rome, patroness of Oblates. Then a chapter of the *Rule* was read before the closing prayer.

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

There was no report.

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 March 25. At a Solemn Vespers service on March 22, Fr. Paschal led Oblation ceremonies, during which he received:

Oblate: **Joseph W. (Eleazar) Bezila** of Ellicott City, MD
 Oblate novices: **Thomas Basil** of Arnold, MD
Bonnie Bezila of Ellicott City, MD
Helen K. Kazlauski of Linthicum, MD
Robert C. Kazlauski of Linthicum, MD .

The Bezilas and Kazlauskis are married couples.

Also, a regular monthly meeting was held on March 22, and 19 people attended.

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

Lay leader Ethel Galli wrote on March 30. At the meeting on March 19, after Evening Prayer there was a discussion of St. Benedict’s second step of humility. The attendees also participated in some group *lectio divina*, read some reflections on the life of St. Benedict, and from those reflections focused on the spirit of silence and the importance of a daily examination of conscience. The session closed with a prayer, followed by

a social with 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 wrote on February 21 and phoned on March 11. The meeting on February 3 began with Evening Prayer and continued with a discussion of *lectio divina* from Chapter 6 of *The Path of Life*. Fr. Jude, moderator, noted how difficult *lectio* could be, and some Oblates remarked how hard it was to make time for *lectio*, although one commented from her Protestant background, that *lectio* could be easy. The discussion was spirited.

At the meeting on March 10, Oblate Michael Russo of Johnstown gave a presentation on *lectio divina* and led the attendees in an experience of group *lectio*. It seemed that the participants benefited greatly in their understanding of *lectio divina* from the session.

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

Lay leader Mary Hoffken wrote on January 31, March 5, and March 23. At the meeting on December 2, attended by Fr. Paschal Kneip, moderator, and four Oblates, the group examined the seventh through the twelfth steps of humility. The liveliest discussion came from the seventh step, and Fr. Paschal pointed out that growth in humility was chiefly interior, spiritual, and often unrecognized. The meeting concluded with Vespers.

On January 13 Fr. Paschal and three Oblates reflected on community prayer, which in St. Benedict's day was a part of life ordered by an agrarian culture. Just as much today as ever, however, the Liturgy of the Hours consecrates time all around the world. The meeting ended with Vespers and the "Salve Regina."

At the meeting on February 10, attended by six people in addition to Fr. Paschal, the group began with an invocation to Our Lady of Guadalupe and then continued with a discussion of *RB 8*, *RB 9*, and the Office of Vigils. Fr. Paschal shared his experience of the Divine Office and meals in years past at St. Vincent Archabbey. The meeting closed with Evening Prayer.

At the meeting on March 10, the seven people present viewed a PowerPoint presentation on the scientific study of Our Lady of Guadalupe's tilma. It was noted, of course, that science could not explain the mysterious nature of the tilma. Also, Fr. Paschal shared some memories of travel to Guadalupe and gave some guidance on praying the Liturgy of the Hours. The group also discussed retreats offered by the Archabbey as well as a local one-day retreat on St. Paul. The meeting ended with Evening Prayer.

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

Lay leader Carl Motter wrote on February 1, March 11, and April 13. The meeting on February 9 began with Evening Prayer and a discussion of future events. Since Msgr. Michael Becker, moderator, was away, the meeting was brief.

At the meeting on March 9, after Mass and Evening Prayer, the group entered into a brief discussion on conversion and stability. Some commented how becoming an Oblate had changed their lives for the better, and it was mentioned that *conversatio* means looking at life in a different way.

The meeting on April 13 began with Evening Prayer, and former lay leader Rita Mayercsik led a brief discussion. Attendance was low since Msgr. Becker and Mike Russo had to be away, and Carl and Joyce Motter were attending the funeral of Joyce's mother.

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

At the meeting on February 15, the group continued a discussion of silence based on Chapter 5 of *The Path of Life*. There was a large turnout of 30-or-so people, possibly because of the relatively clear weather. A number of Oblates shared about practical ways to overcome outer noise and inner noise and to listen more attentively when others speak. At 2:00 P.M. on the day of the meeting, a good number of Oblates gathered at a funeral home with Prior Earl Henry and Fr. Donald to participate in a wake service for Oblate Gertrude "Dolly" Erickson, who had died on February 13. (continued)

At the meeting on March 15, the group had a lively discussion on *lectio divina* based on Chapter 6 of *The Path of Life*. Among the issues discussed were the encounter with Christ through God's word, the importance of daily *lectio*, *lectio* as preparation for the Eucharist, and the inclusion of *all* parts of the Bible. Also, a number of people volunteered to help at the NAABOD meeting in June.

The meeting on April 19 began with a presentation by Oblate novice Mary Ann Kaufman about her

pilgrimage to the Holy Land during Holy Week and through Easter Thursday. Mary Ann shared a number of remarkable experiences, and she brought back blessed crosses, holy cards, and pieces of palm that she distributed to the attendees.

Then the group discussed "Prayer" from Chapter 7 of the text. Fr. Cyprian Smith insists that prayer must be at the heart of every Christian life, and our part in prayer is basically "to let it happen" (it is God's work in us) and to remove obstacles. An essential disposition for growing in prayer is humility.

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

On February 15, Br. Elijah Joseph Cirigliano gave a presentation on "The Eucharist in Benedictine Spirituality." Beginning with a song that he had composed, "Nazareth Morning," he spoke about the Eucharist as very much connected with Our Lady and St. Joseph. It is through becoming little and going to the Immaculate Heart of Mary that we go to the Eucharist and are then filled with love to be extended to others. The Holy Family teaches us the sanctification of ordinary life, which is the key to Benedictine spirituality. Some 20 people attended.

On March 15, Br. John-Mary Thompkins gave a presentation on "*Conversatio Morum*," which was especially appropriate for Lent. He stressed the call of all Christians to become holy, the need to respond to God's desire for communion with us, the essential role of humility in ongoing conversion, and the relation of each step of humility to spiritual growth. Some 12 people attended the talk.

On April 19 Fr. Andrew Campbell gave a challenging presentation on prayer and the call to holiness based on quotes from the *Rule*, St. John of the Cross, St. Teresa of Avila, and St. Francis de Sales. Fr. Andrew commented that we must all desire to be saints and that true saints are the most joyful, interesting people. God intends for us all to enter into union with Him, even in this life. We attain to this union through total trust in Him and a structured prayer life that helps us to "pray always."

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

Lay leader Paul Mangiardi wrote on February 3 and 4, March 17, and April 7 and 23. During Mass in the chapel in Minersville on February 4, Rev. Robert J. Potts invested the following as Oblate novices:

Jerry D'Aquino of Minersville, PA
Anthony S. D'Auria of Minersville, PA
Kevin J. Fuchs of Minersville, PA
Daniel McElroy of Minersville, PA
Matthew Valvano of Minersville, PA

The Mass, at which throats were also blessed, was well-attended.

At the meeting on March 17, the group read and discussed *RB* 7, 20 and 34 as well as pages 15-19 of the *Oblate Formation Booklet*. Also, there was time for questions and answers and the reading of a letter from Fr. Donald. Three attendees completed applications. The meeting closed with prayer. Parts of the prayer of St. Patrick were also read.

At the meeting on April 7, the group discussed *RB* 4, 5, 23, 32, 38, and 68 as well as nine pages of the *Oblate Formation Booklet*. Two interested inquirers submitted applications. The group also participated in a communion service.

Oblation ceremonies were held on April 8, during which Rev. Robert J. Potts invested the following as Oblate novices:

Luis Castano of Minersville, PA
Thomas Fleury of Minersville, PA
Paul Kornak of Minersville, PA
Thomas E. McMaster of Minersville, PA.

On April 22 Father Potts invested two more Oblate novices:

H. Mario Figueros of Minersville, PA
James Peperno, Jr., of Minersville, PA .

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 March 23. The meeting on January 23, attended by 18 people began with the Liturgy of the Hours, the rosary, and the Litany of St. Benedict. Lay leader Brian Chisholm reminded the group of the retreats at the Archabbey. Then Fr. Francis Hubilla, O.S.B., moderator, led a discussion on stability from Chapter Two of *The Path of Life*. He spoke about physical stability and stability of heart and

encouraged the Oblates to pay visits to the Archabbey. The meeting ended with a distribution of prayer requests, a closing prayer and blessing, and the "Salve Regina."

At the meeting on February 27, after devotions and a reminder about the May retreat, Brian encouraged the Oblates to ask their pastors about inviting parishioners to attend Oblate meetings. Then Fr. Francis led a discussion about *conversatio morum* and the great responsibilities Oblates have to live lives of ongoing conversion according to the *Rule*. He said that Oblates are to influence the world around them, especially by living in Christ's love. Fr. Francis also spoke about Lenten practices, which are to be done with love if they are to have any meaning.

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 February 21, March 29, and April 17. The meeting on February 18 began with Evening Prayer and continued with a discussion of the psalms. Fr. Ralph, moderator, suggested that the group consider possible books for future discussions.

At the meeting on March 25, after the praying of Vespers, the group continued their discussion of the psalms and agreed to use *Introduction to the Devout Life* by St. Francis de Sales as a book for future meetings. One new Oblate novice and a guest were among the 12-or-so people who attended.

At the meeting on April 15, after Evening Prayer the group began a discussion of the book *Introduction to the Devout Life*, and it was quite lively.

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

No report was given. Secretary Peggi Gabler said by phone that the Oblates hoped to meet in May for the first time since December.

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

Oblate novice Lindsey Schechter reported on April 2, and lay leader Katie Wojtunik reported on April 27. At the meeting on February 16, Fr. Stanley Markiewicz gave a presentation on care and concern for the poor based on *RB 53*. Fr. Stanley has a ministry of buying items and sorting donated items (mostly clothes) for homeless people in the Pittsburgh area and delivering there on a weekly basis. The meeting ended with the praying of Compline.

At the meeting on April 27, Fr. James Loew, sacristan in the basilica and manager of the Gristmill General Store, gave a reflection on manual labor based on the *Rule*. The meeting closed with Compline. Meetings will be resumed in the fall.

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

Secretary Mary Forbes wrote on April 9. The priory has been mailing homilies and reflections on Benedictine spirituality by Fr. Ronald Gatman, moderator, to all the Oblate community.

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 February 23 and March 30. Five Oblates and two inquirers gathered on February 20 for a monthly meeting; the flu was probably responsible for the relatively low attendance. The group discussed the Liturgy of the Hours from Chapter 9 of *The Path of Life* and then talked about various books that they had been reading.

The March meeting took place on March 20, the Vigil of the Solemnity of St. Benedict. Msgr. John Esseff, a highly regarded spiritual director and teacher on prayer, gave a very encouraging presentation on prayer. After the praying of Vespers the group enjoyed a social with cookies and punch to commemorate the Solemnity.

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

Secretary Ashley Leggett wrote on February 10 and March 11, and lay leader Laura Schneider wrote on April 27. On February 9, ten Oblates, two Oblate novices, and two visitors joined Fr. Boniface, moderator, for a monthly meeting. After Evening Prayer, Laura Schneider read from a letter from Fr. Donald, and Ashley informed the group about sample bulletin inserts regarding the Oblates. The rest of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of Colossians, with special consideration of the forgiveness of sins, indulgences, confession, the consequences of forgiven sins, the notion of filling up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ, and the Christian attitude toward suffering. The meeting closed with prayer, intercessions, and a blessing. (continued)

At the meeting on March 19, attended by Fr. Boniface and ten others, Laura distributed an ordo for April-June, and Ashley gave out retreat schedules. The group then discussed 1 and 2 Thessalonians. Fr. Boniface reminded the group that St. Paul's language must be taken within the context of his time and culture and that in some passages St. Paul is giving guidance for pastoral actions that might not be intended for individual practice. It was also pointed out that St. Paul's letters are replete with blessings.

At the meeting on April 20, attended by three visitors as well as eight Oblates and Oblate novices, the group

discussed First Timothy and Philemon. There was agreement that St. Paul's letters were full of love, strong encouragement, and good advice.

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 January 26, and March 25, and Oblate Barbara Sauter wrote on February 14. At the meeting on November 5, only four people attended besides Fr. Cristiano, moderator, probably because it was a stormy night. Fr. Cristiano spoke about a letter from Bishop Delorenzo concerning stewardship during the time of economic crisis.

At the meeting on December 3, Fr. Cristiano spoke about Advent as a time of expectation and recommended works of mercy as a way to live out Advent. After the presentation

Donna H. (Mary Magdalen) Quinones of Virginia Beach, VA, made her final Oblation in the presence of Fr. Cristiano and the Oblates who were present. Then the group prayed Night Prayer and enjoyed a time of fellowship with refreshments.

The meeting scheduled for January was canceled because of very cold weather and high winds.

At the meeting on February 4, attended by nine Oblates, Fr. Cristiano spoke about the Scripture readings for February 1-4 and about the meaning of the liturgy, personal and communal prayer, and the teaching authority of Christ.

The meeting on March 4 took place in the parish office's reception room because of other activities in the usual room. Fr. Cristiano read from *RB* 49 on the observance of Lent, and the group discussed having a joyful attitude and trying to do good for others rather than merely denying oneself. There was also some talk about the possibility of using a common book on Benedictine spirituality.

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 February 15 and visited the Archabbey on February 28 - March 2. At the meeting on January 25, attended by only three people, part of the chapter on *conversatio morum* from *The Path of Life* was discussed. Those present decided to change the meeting time from 1:30 to 2:00 to enable some others to attend.

Five Oblates attended the meeting on February 22. The group began to discuss the chapter "Obedience" from *The Path of Life*, and they decided not to change the time of the meeting.

Various Locations

On February 7 at the chapel in Somerset, Rev. James M. Dugan invested

Jonathan Lochie of Somerset, PA, as an Oblate novice. Also, a local weekly Catholic Study Group has been reflecting on 10 lessons on Benedictine spirituality.

On April 18 in the Archabbey Basilica crypt, Fr. Donald invested

Mark Medvitz of Downingtown, PA, as an Oblate novice. Also present were Oblates Tom Angelo of Latrobe and Frank Stasio of Durham, NC, who was making a private retreat at the Archabbey.

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. Roland Ripoli, Fr. Paul Rubadue, Fr. Paul Taylor.

DECEASED MONK - Please pray for the repose of the soul of the recently deceased monk of the Archabbey, Fr. Paulinus Selle, 95, who died on February 8.

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.

- 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)
- 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"

Special Announcement of Forthcoming Event on Christians in the Holy Land

On Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 7:00 P.M., James and Helene Paharik, Oblates affiliated with Dormition Abbey in Jerusalem, will give a presentation entitled "Please Do Not Abandon Us: The Effort to Save Holy Land Christians" in the St. Vincent Parish Assembly Room. The talk is sponsored by the Adult Education Committee of St. Vincent Basilica Parish. In their presentation the Pahariks will discuss the causes of the diminishing Christian population as well as the ongoing efforts to preserve Christianity in the Holy Land. Dr. James Paharik will also discuss his newly released book, *The Long Journey: In Search of Justice and Peace in Jerusalem*, and signed copies will be available for purchase at \$15.00 each.

Extra February Newsletters Available

In February hundreds of extra Oblate newsletters were printed because of unusual circumstances in the Mailing & Duplicating Office. If anyone would like a few or a few dozen extra February newsletters for his or her deanery or parish, please contact the Oblate Office.

Reservation for Feast of St. Benedict on July 11, 2009

Name & Phone _____

___ I plan to come to St. Vincent for ___ lunch, ___ supper along with ___ guests;

I enclose _____ (\$5.50 for lunch, \$6.50 for supper, per person).

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

___ I hope to be invested as an ___ Oblate, ___ Oblate novice on July 11. (If becoming a full Oblate, I choose

_____ as an Oblate name. **An application form is required.**)

___ I am a jubilarian Oblate and hope to be present to receive a certificate. (Please contact Fr. Donald.) Please send this form and a check made out to **ST. VINCENT ARCHABBEY** for meals before July 4 to: **Mrs. Christine Karem, 2012 Souli St., Greensburg, PA 15601 (phone: 724-216-5830).**

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

Schedule for Oblates, Feast of St. Benedict, July 11, 2009

10:00 A.M. Mass, Basilica

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

2:30 P.M. Oblation ceremonies (investitures, Oblations), St. Gregory Chapel

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

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

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 _____

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

I would like to have my information included in a collection of names and e-mail addresses of members of the Oblate community who would like regularly to receive updated information from St. Vincent. My information is as follows:

Name _____ Address _____

Phone number _____ e-mail address _____

E-mail address _____

Please send this information to: Mrs. Christine Karem, 2012 Souli St., Greensburg, PA 15601 (phone: 724-216-583); e-mail: ckarem@comcast.net. N.B.: The list of Oblates' e-mail addresses is *not* to be used for solicitations or personal purposes.