



OBLATES OF SAINT BENEDICT

Saint Vincent Archabbey

300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650-2690

724-805-2291

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Please note flier with forms for registration for July 10.

BEING “ON GUARD AGAINST CONCEIT OR PRIDE” (RB 62:2) AND GIVING “EVERYONE AN EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY” (60:5)

Dear Oblates, Oblate novices, and Friends,

During the past several decades our world has been dealing with a “crisis of authority” both in secular society and in the Church. Indeed there is a crisis. People in authority have often abused the trust placed in them, and in the case of the Church it is a sacred trust. Yes, the media have sometimes been wrong, and their destructive charges have often been directed disproportionately against the Church and Christianity. Nonetheless, we must face the fact that flagrant misuses of authority are widely known and that many people have been feeling distrust against those in positions of power. Does the *Holy Rule* of St. Benedict have anything to say about authority, those who hold it, and those who are under it?

During this “Year for Priests” in the Catholic Church, it might benefit us to reflect on what St. Benedict says about priests, who are regarded as having spiritual authority, and what we can learn from this wisdom. In an age when we have seen how regrettably a small but publicized minority of priests and bishops have abused their sacred roles, it is important that we develop a Christ-centered attitude toward all religious authority and that we use whatever authority we may have in a way that corresponds to the Gospel.

The two chapters of the *Rule* that deal with priests are *RB* 60 and 62. Both chapters, at first glance, sound negative and cautionary; yet they do contain valuable insights for priests as well as for all who follow the *Rule*. Chapter 60 urges a monastery to be slow to receive a priest who applies to enter. The priest must be “fully persistent” (60:2) in his request; and then if he is admitted, he must “observe the full discipline of the rule without any mitigation” (60:3), “not make any exceptions for himself” (60:5), and not expect to be granted any special place in the community “out of respect for the priesthood” (60:7); rather his place in “statio,” like the place any other monk, depends only on “the date of his entry” (60:7). St. Benedict applies Our Lord’s words to Judas in questioning

the motives of a priest-applicant: “Friend, what have you come for?” (60:3, quoting Matt 26:50). On the positive side, the priest-monk should “give everyone an example of humility” (60:5).

Chapter 62 deals with the abbot’s decision to ordain as a priest (or deacon) one of those who are already monks. As in Chapter 60, St. Benedict gives a number of warnings. Once ordained, a monk “must be on guard against conceit or pride, must not presume to do anything except what the abbot commands, and must recognize that now he will have to subject himself all the more to the discipline of the rule” (62:2-3). St. Benedict reinforces this attitude by stating, “He may not ... forget the obedience and discipline of the rule” “just because he is a priest” (62:4), and he must not seek any special place in rank (62:5). If the priest does not “keep the rule established for deans and priors” (62:7), “he must be regarded as a rebel, not as a priest” (62:8); if he does not improve after warnings, the bishop is to be brought in to help put the priest under control; and if he still does not amend, then “he is to be dismissed from the monastery” (62:10). Apparently, St. Benedict had experiences with arrogant, rebellious priests! On the positive side, a monk-priest “must make more and more progress toward God” (62:4). These passages seem to reveal that the Church had problems with some clergy even 1500 years ago and that even monk-priests needed strong reminders to pursue the spiritual life with persistence and zeal.

In St. Benedict’s day only a very few monks were priests, or perhaps none at all in some communities. (This situation prevails even today in some more contemplative monasteries.) St. Benedict himself was undoubtedly not a priest. He did have great respect for the priesthood, as he shows in *RB* 60:4 and 62:6, but he also realized that priests can be tempted to pride and disobedience because of the spiritual authority they are given. St. Benedict gives similar warnings about possible abuses of authority to the deans (*RB* 21:5-6), the cellarer (31:5-9,12,16; 36:10), the infirmarian

(36:10), the artisans (57:2-7), most especially the prior (all of *RB* 65), and even the abbot (2:4,6-7, 13-15, 26, 33, 38-39; 27:7; 61:13-14; 64:8,16,18; and 65:22). From the number of verses including injunctions, one might conclude that the higher the authority, the greater possibility there is for abuse since the abbot and the prior receive by far the greatest number of warnings. St. Benedict shows great concern that those in positions of authority be zealous in their relationship with God and provide good examples to the rest of the community. The cellarer, for example, is to be “God-fearing and like a father to the whole community” (31:2). The infirmarian likewise is to be “God-fearing, attentive and concerned” (36:7). Thus those with power have a special responsibility to be conformed to Christ, to be prayerful, and to exercise loving concern for their fellow monks as Christ-like servants.

What can those of us who are non-clergy and non-monastic learn from St. Benedict’s stipulations concerning priests? (It might be helpful to note that among our Oblate community are a number of Protestant clergy, Catholic diocesan priests, and Catholic permanent deacons.) Focused attention on one’s spiritual life and the necessity of ongoing conversion stand out as values appropriate for all who follow the *Rule*. Prayer and prayerful living must be a top priority for those who serve God’s people in any official capacity; but the same is true in a modified way for all of us.

In a pastoral letter to his priests dated August 4, 2009, Bishop John O. Barres of Allentown penned some reflections that seem relevant to us. He wrote, “The road to the confessional of the Curé of Ars led many in France to the road of deep and lasting conversion. The same road exists today in our confessionals and reconciliation rooms when we [priests] generously make ourselves available to the faithful. We pray daily for our parishioners that they will make frequent use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation as we ourselves are called to do. We remember too that our own experience of being sincere and humble penitents prepares us to be wise and compassionate confessors. And we rely on the intercession of both St. John Marie Vianney and St. Paul to help us.” If Oblates and monks are to “progress in this way of life and in faith” (*RB* Prol: 49), we must know our sins and sinful inclinations and confess our sins frequently. A daily examination of conscience is certainly helpful. St. Benedict urges us, “Every day with tears and sighs confess your past sins to God in prayer, and change from these evil ways in the future” (4:57-58). Those of us who are Catholics are blessed to have the Sacrament of Penance, and frequent use of this great gift can certainly hasten us in our

journeys of ongoing conversion. If diocesan priests are, by their role in the Church, committed to ongoing conversion, so much more are we who have made a promise of *conversatio morum*.

Bishop Barres also comments, “As I reflect on the seasons of my own priesthood, it is clear that priests have to sacrifice deeply, to pray deeply and to serve deeply. How often during the day do we make time-management decisions that affect the spiritual and pastoral tone of our ministry? A priest’s prayer life cannot be left to whim. It must be at the same time disciplined, sacrificial, steady, consistent, and appropriately flexible in light of pastoral emergencies and demands. Pope Benedict XVI affirms: ‘Thus, spending time in God’s presence in prayer is a real pastoral priority; it is not an addition to pastoral work: being before the Lord is a pastoral priority and, in the final analysis, the most important’” (underlining mine). We could also assert of all Oblates and Benedictines, “Our prayer life cannot be left to whim.” Those who have positions of authority or heavy responsibilities must especially struggle to make time for prayer, to refocus deliberately on Christ when they become consumed with duties, to glance at the Cross when they become discouraged over trials, and to look to Our Lord’s compassionate example when they feel angry or impatient in dealing with challenging people. Very few of us can pray the Hours eight times a day as did the monks of St. Benedict’s day. However, all of us can commit ourselves to relatively set times for prayer at least twice a day, and we can resolve to open our hearts to Christ when we are on the road, when we are preparing to eat, when we are entering into a meeting, when we are beginning some new work (cf. Prol: 4), or when we are becoming annoyed over a demanding personal encounter, an unplanned prolonged phone conversation, or an abrasive e-mail message. We can allow Christ our risen Lord to rule over these situations, to make our hearts more like His, and to summon us to be humble servants as He was.

In March of this year, during a two-day theological conference on the priesthood scheduled as part of the Year for Priests, Pope Benedict said that a priest must be a “prophet in today’s secularistic world and must draw prophetic strength from his sacramental belonging” to Christ. Too many people, the Holy Father asserted, equate a priest’s identity with his functions in the Church and the world, as if he were “almost like a social worker.” In contrast, the Pope proclaimed, the lay people “of our time ask us to be priests to the depths.” Human needs can be met by many others, but only from the priest can the Catholic faithful receive the word

of God, sacramental forgiveness, and the Eucharist. Thus every priest is called in a special way to “total adherence to Christ and the Church.” Lay people can surely help priests to respond to their genuine calling by challenging them to aspire to holiness and by not making unrealistic demands of them.

Likewise, all Christian people, as part of the universal priesthood of Christ, are called to be prophetic. Who we are in our conformity to Christ is more important than what we do or what possessions we have or what titles we bear. Having an intense prayer life can help us all to have a “way of acting” that is “different from the world’s way” (*RB* 4:20), to keep the “love of Christ ... before all else” (4:21), and not to identify ourselves with our work or become “puffed up by [our] skillfulness in [our] craft” (57:2).

In a world which highlights bad examples among the clergy and thus tends to malign the whole Church, we can also look for good examples and strive to encourage others in these ways and to emulate what we can in them. I vividly remember one priest who cared for an elderly priest in his rectory and even dressed him and helped him into a wheelchair before taking him to Mass. I recall an elderly priest standing upon a chair to get a reference book so that he could tell me the right way to give a blessing in Lithuanian. I once concelebrated with a priest who had such wonderful, intense focus at the consecration that I felt awestruck. I have also known priests who showed great dedication to prayer by personally leading a rosary before every weekday Mass, by leading congregations in a weekly holy hour, or by praying from their breviaries before the Blessed Sacrament.

Giving high priority to our prayer lives and living in sacrificial love can be both a struggle and a joy. When I am preparing to leave my office for a time of private prayer, I am challenged to ask myself questions like: “If suddenly spot an extra task on my desk, should I do it now and ‘steal’ three minutes from my prayer, or leave the task until later? If the phone rings while I am leaving, should I

answer it? If I do answer, can I in charity ask the person to be very brief because I am on my way to prayer? Do I trust that the Lord will give me time and energy tomorrow and the next day to complete the dozen-or-so projects represented by papers on my desk, on the floor, and in other assorted places? How deep and genuine is my commitment to private prayer (or to the Divine Office)? Am I ready to sacrifice other desirable activities (or not-so-desirable activities to which I am addicted) to stick to my schedule of prayer? It is this persistence in prayer and in humble acknowledgment of my sins that I am able regularly to “offer [my body] as a living sacrifice holy and acceptable to God, [my] spiritual worship” and to “be transformed by the renewal of [my] mind” (Rom 12: 1,2).

As Easter makes its way to Pentecost, let us invite the Holy Spirit to transform our minds and to renew our commitment to making prayer a high priority, to embracing daily conversion, and to becoming humble servants of those under our care. Just as a priest-monk must “give everyone an example of humility”(60:5), not seek to make exceptions for himself, constantly remember “the obedience and discipline of the rule” (62:3), and “make more and more progress toward God” (62:4), so should all of us unite ourselves often with Christ in prayer so that His humility, His obedience, and His self-emptying love become ours. Just as priests need to imitate the Good Shepherd as He calls His sheep by name and gives His life for them (Jn 10: 3, 11, 15), so must we exercise our baptismal call to live more and more in the sacrificial love of Christ and thus ever more fully bring His abundance of life into the world around us.

Your brother in Christ and Saint Benedict,

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

SOLEMNITY OF ST. BENEDICT AT THE ARCHABBAY, MONDAY, MARCH 22

A number of Oblates and their guests, some 55 people, joined the extended Benedictine community for the annual celebration of the Passing of Our Holy Father Benedict, Abbot. At the concelebrated Mass at 4:00 P.M., Archabbot Douglas presided and preached about the centrality of love – God’s love for us and our vocation to love one another – in the Gospel of St. John and in the *Rule* of St. Benedict.

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

Oblates: **Janet M. (Odilia) Gabonay** of Herminie, PA
Mary Ann (Cecilia) Kaufman of Pittsburgh, PA

Oblate novices: **James M. Bell, Jr.**, of Greensburg, PA
Jason R. Dodson of Pittsburgh, PA
Richard Gummo of Penn, PA
John G. Hudak of York, PA
Timothy A. O'Brockta of Fredericktown, PA
Ginette Ritchie of Woodville, Ont., Canada
John Ritchie of Woodville, Ont., Canada
Ronald Stachoni of Latrobe, PA.

John and Ginette are a married couple and traveled some distance from the north for their first visit to the Archabbey.

Next the group prayed Vespers with the monks at 7:30. After that they enjoyed a social in the Parish Assembly Room. Archabbot Douglas came to pay a visit, and the Archabbey String Ensemble rendered a performance of Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik" for entertainment.

"OBLATE RETREATS," MAY 28-30 and JUNE 4-6

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. Edward Mazich, O.S.B., will be the retreat master on May 28-30, and Fr. Boniface Hicks, O.S.B., will be the retreat master on June 6-8 for a silent retreat. At 10:00 A.M. on May 29, all retreatants will attend the Mass for the ordination to the priesthood of Br. Bonaventure Curtis, 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 10

All Oblates, Oblate novices, and their guests are welcome to attend the festive Mass for the Feast of St. Benedict at the Archabbey Basilica at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, July 10. 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 3. (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 fifth 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 2010 - September 26

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 26, 2010. A schedule and a registration form for the event will appear in the August newsletter.

OBLATE DAY OF RECOLLECTION - October 16

The past five 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 16. Fr. Boniface Hicks, O.S.B., who teaches computer science at St. Vincent College and gives many retreats, 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.

ITEMS AVAILABLE FROM THE OBLATE OFFICE

- (1) book *Life and Miracles of St. Benedict* - \$6.76 each, plus postage
- (2) pamphlet "God's Love for You" with subtle evangelization - free
- (3) large blessed medals of St. Benedict - for a donation
- (4) booklet *St. Benedict for Busy Parents* - \$.40 each

- (5) booklet of Oblates' reflections on verses of the *Rule* – free or with donation for postage
- (6) Br. Isidore's presentation "Holiness and Benedictine Spirituality" – single-spaced or double-spaced
- (7) booklets formerly used for Compline for events at St. Vincent Parish or (a different version) by Oblates in Latrobe for monthly meetings (a new version was printed in March, 2010)

SPECIAL OBLATE DAY OF RECOLLECTION ON APRIL 10

A day of recollection on Saturday, April 10, attracted some 17 people interested in hearing about the Second World Congress of Oblates in Rome last October. The presenters were Oblates Joyce Collins of West Newton, Liz Hart of Latrobe, and Nancy Premoshis of Latrobe. The day included three presentations, Mass, the opportunity for confession, and prayer with the monastic community . Photocopies concerning presentations and events of the World Congress should be available soon.

NEW E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN

Oblates in the Latrobe/Greensburg area have had a prayer chain by telephone since last year. Since not everyone can be present at a phone on Tuesday evenings, there has been some desire for a prayer chain that transmits intentions by e-mail. Oblate Maryann Cherubini of Greensburg has graciously agreed to facilitate such a prayer chain. If you wish to be a part of a weekly e-mail prayer chain, please contact **Maryann Cherubini** at macherubini@comcast.net or (by phone) at **(724) 837-3142**.

If any Oblate or Oblate novice in the Latrobe/Greensburg area would like to join a prayer chain by phone, please contact **Anthony Sunseri** at **(724) 832-0868** or (by e-mail) at ajsdms@verizon.net .

VOLUNTEER DESIRED TO ATTEND NAABOD CONFERENCE ON JULY 1-6, 2011

The 2011 biennial meeting of the North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors will take place at St. Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad, Indiana, on July 1-6, 2011. Two Oblates from each participating monastery are invited to attend besides the Oblate director. One Oblate affiliated with St. Vincent Archabbey has already offered to attend, and we welcome another Oblate to come forth. The Oblate should be active in the affairs of his or her deanery so that the experience at the meeting will benefit others.

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

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

THANK YOU FOR CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR PRISONERS

The Oblate Office and the inmates of Century Correctional Institution in Florida thank the Oblates who so generously responded to the call for Christmas cards in the last newsletter. One inmate wrote in behalf of the others: "Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ and of St. Benedict, Much sincere thanks and gratitude to you all who so kindly shared your Christmas cards with us here at Century C.I. Such love can come only through our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you so much. Lots of love & prayers" If you still have a supply of cards from last Christmas, you may still send them to: Chaplain Augustine, Century Correctional Institution, 400 Tedder Rd., Century, FL 32535. It is hoped that these cards may add some joy to the lives of the prisoners when Christmas, 2010, draws near.

VISIT TO OBLATES IN LANCASTER

Fr. Donald and Oblate Richard Hanula of Brownsville visited Oblates in Lancaster, PA, at St. Joseph Church on April 22. After the praying of Vespers Fr. Donald gave a presentation "Obedience as a Sacrifice Pleasing to God: Obedience in Ordinary Events of Daily Life." The Oblates in the Lancaster group are mostly affiliated with St. Meinrad Archabbey although several are affiliated with St. Vincent.

BR. JEREMIAH MAY BE CONTACTED BY E-MAIL

For those of you who prefer to use e-mail, Br. Jeremiah Lange, O.S.B., the assistant Oblate director, may be contacted at his e-mail address: jeremiah.lange@email.stvincent.edu.

ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS

Oblates in the Latrobe/Greensburg area are welcome to participate in Eucharistic adoration in St. Gregory Chapel on every Sunday from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. to pray for vocations to the religious life and the priesthood, especially for vocations to St. Vincent Archabbey. Oblates are encouraged to participate especially on those

Sundays of Oblate meetings and classes on Benedictine spirituality. (**N.B.:** As of early May, the Basilica Crypt is now open again after renovations; so be ready for a possible change of location for adoration.)

“HEALTH NEWS”

Oblates Anthony and Sunseri of Greensburg recently completed Health Ministry training at Hallelujah Acres headquartered in North Carolina. This ministry focuses on teaching how to feed one’s body the nutrients for which it was designed, with roots in Genesis 1:29. To discover more about the miraculous self-healing body, you may contact Anthony and Donna at (724) 832-0868 or ajsdms@verizon.net.

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 (volume available in the Oblate Library)

- David Pearson, *No Wonder They Call It the Real Presence* (Cincinnati, OH: Servant Books, 2002)

NEW (OR NEWLY DISCOVERED) BOOKS ON BENEDICTINE SPIRITUALITY

- (1) Fr. Mark Barrett, O.S.B., *Crossing: Reclaiming the Landscape of Our Lives* (Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 2002, 2008)
- (2) Stephen J. Binz, *Conversing with God in Scripture: A Contemporary Approach to Lectio Divina* (Ijamsville, MD: The Word Among Us Press, 2008)
- (3) Sister M. Regina Goberma, O.S.B., *Our Father Benedict* (New York: New City Press, 1983)
- (4) Abbot Jerome Kodell, O.S.B., *Don’t Trust the Abbot: Musings from the Monastery* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2009)
- (5) Fr. Guy-Marie Oury, O.S.B., *St. Benedict, Blessed by God*, tr. by Rev. John A. Otto (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1980)
- (6) *One Heart, One Soul: Many Communities*, ed. by Sister Mary Forman, O.S.B. (Collegeville, MN: Saint John’s University Press, 2009)
- (7) *Words of Witness: What It Means to Be an Oblate of Saint Meinrad Archabbey*, ed. by Edward L. Shaughnessy (St. Meinrad, IN: St. Meinrad Archabbey, 2002)

OBLATE BOARD OF ADVISORS

The Oblate Board of Advisors met at the Archabbey on Friday, April 23. They discussed various issues, including the progress of deanery histories, possibilities for a name for the Oblate newsletter, the possibility of an e-mail prayer chain, the new deanery in Southern Pines, NC, and the need to organize and monitor the Mentoring Program and the Prayer-Partner Program. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Friday, June 25, at 6:30 P.M. in Brownfield 203.

MENTORING PROGRAM AND PRAYER-PARTNER PROGRAM

The Mentoring Program for guiding inquirers and Oblate novices in Benedictine spirituality is in need of volunteers to be mentors. If you would like to serve as a mentor or if you are an inquirer or an Oblate novice (or even an Oblate) who would like to have an Oblate mentor, please contact the Oblate Office. Those who offer to be mentors receive a booklet of guidelines. Also, if you would like to have another Oblate (novice) or a monk as a prayer partner, please contact the Oblate Office or Anthony and Donna Sunseri at (724) 832-0868.

SILENT RETREAT AT ST. EMMA TO BE DIRECTED BY FR. DONALD

Fr. Donald will be directing a silent retreat at St. Emma Retreat House from July 23 to 29, 2010. It is open to lay people and consecrated religious, and the theme will be “Key Elements of the Journey to Holiness: Obedience, Silence, Humility.” For additional information or reservations, visit www.stemma.org or call 724-834-3060, ext. 113.

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.

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. (The Oblate Board of Advisors finally seems close to choosing a name! We may do so at the June meeting.)

OBLATE MEETINGS AND CLASSES IN LATROBE

All Oblates and their guests are welcome to attend monthly meetings of the Latrobe (St. Gregory the Great) Deanery, held at 6:45 P.M. on Sundays in Brownfield 202 at St. Vincent, and also to the classes on Benedictine spirituality that begin in the same place at 3:00 P.M. The next four sessions will be held on May 16, June 13, July 18, and August 15. (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:

- the family of Oblate Paul Mangiardi of Minersville, PA, whose aunt Mary Ann Schram died on Feb. 2
- Oblate Thomas Angelo of Latrobe, PA, whose cousin Henry DiPietro died in February
- Oblate James Hough of Sneads Ferry, NC, whose aunt Mary Cecilia Guie, died on Feb. 27
- Oblate Jane Springer of Latrobe, PA, whose sister Ruth Apone died on Mar. 5 [see below]
- Oblate Robert Kinkead of Apollo, PA, whose aunt Anna Jean Washabau died on Mar. 7
- Oblate Mary Van Schie of Port Robinson, Ontario, whose sister Corrie Vingerhoets died in March
- Oblate Anna Patti of Virginia Beach, VA, whose brother-in-law died in March (she had been his care-giver for years)
- Oblate Carl Eckels of Severna Park, MD, whose brother-in-law Albert M. Bogan died on April 11 .

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 Jan 2010 – Amadio D. (Augustine) Brochetti of Turtle Creek, PA (Oblate since July, 1956)
- 13 Feb 2010 – DeSales Karawsky of Vandergrift, PA (Oblate since August, 1974; she was also the sister of the late Fr. Clarence Karawsky, O.S.B., and the late Oblate Leonarda Karawsky)
- 5 Mar 2010 – Ruth (John of the Cross) Apone of Latrobe, PA (Oblate since November, 1991)
- 8 Mar 2010 – John E. Palo of Homestead, PA (Oblate since July, 1959; age 99; he renewed his Oblation shortly before his death)
- 11 Mar 2010 – Rev. Hubert J. Kealy of Conroe, TX (Oblate since November, 1957; formerly of the Harrisburg Diocese; Fr. Kealy had sent in his renewal of Oblation in February)
- 31 Mar 2010 – Paul J. (Eric) Mangiardi of Minersville, PA (Oblate since July, 2007; lay leader of Minersville Deanery until a few weeks before his death; he, too, renewed his Oblation in February)
- 7 Jun 2007 – Robert J. Biedenbach of Zanesville, OH (Oblate since June, 1983; transferred to St. Vincent in March, 1993) .

NEWS FROM OBLATE DEANERIES

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

Deacon Ralph DeCecco, moderator, wrote on March 13. The meeting on January 23 began with the Liturgy of the Hours and continued with a reflection on a passage of the *Rule* and a presentation on Matthew Kelly's book *Rediscovering Catholicism*.

At the meeting on March 13, the group practiced *lectio divina* on the first two readings for the Fourth Sunday of Lent. They also reflected on their progress as Oblates – on where they have been, where they are, and where they hope to be.

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

Lay leader Gabrielle Terrill wrote on February 10, March 8, and April 11. Thirteen people joined Fr. John Peck, moderator, for the monthly meeting on January 24. It began with Evening Prayer in the church, during which

Philip A. (Benedict) Reemes of Mechanicsburg, PA, made his final Oblation in the presence of Fr. John and the others. All the Oblates present renewed their Oblation. Then the group enjoyed a social. Fr. John led a discussion regarding Oblate meetings during his sabbatical from February to

June.

Eleven people gathered for the meeting on February 28. After praying Vespers they spoke about forthcoming retreats at St. Vincent and St. Emma. Then guest speaker Wendy Johnston gave a presentation on *lectio divina*. She is known for leading groups in Centering Prayer and *lectio*.

Eleven people attended the meeting on March 21. After Evening Prayer Oblate Phil Reemes led a discussion on silence, which he showed means much more than not speaking. The discussion touched upon the importance of listening, the discipline of being without noise, and silence as an opening to the presence of God.

Asheboro, NC (St. Joseph / St. Gabriel Deanery)

Lay leader Robert O'Brien wrote on March 5. The small group of about four people met monthly from last August through December but without Bob O'Brien, whose wife was very ill and then had to be placed in a nursing home in December. Bob rejoined the meetings in January.

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

Oblate novice Jay Wells sent an e-mail report on April 19. The meeting on April 18, led by moderator Fr. Paschal Morlino, drew eight others. The group read and discussed *RB 64* in light of the forthcoming abbatial election at the Archabbey. Fr. Paschal gave details about the process and summarized the desired qualities gleaned from community discussions. The meeting closed with Vespers at 5:00, and the next meeting was scheduled for June 13.

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

Lay leader Ethel Galli wrote on March 11, April 1, and April 26. The meeting planned for January was canceled because of snow. The meeting on February 25 began with Evening Prayer and continued with two presentations on obedience. Ethel Galli used *The Path of Life*, and Ron Weleski used *The Rule of Benedict for Beginners*.

At the meeting on March 25, after Vespers, the group discussed *RB 20*, "Reverence in Prayer." Then Ethel gave a presentation on the Liturgy of the Eucharist as the most important Christian prayer. She examined each part of the Mass and recommended the nurturing of inner silence during the consecration so that we might be better disposed for God to do what He wills in us.

The meeting on April 22 began with Evening Prayer and continued with a presentation by Fr. Boniface, O.S.B., on "Communion and Communication." He asserted that in communion and in community there is a spiritual communication of love that helps us to grow in our love for God and one another. The longing to grow in holiness comes from reflecting on the Holy Family at Nazareth. St. Benedict teaches us to live a life of prayer in community, which draws us into deeper communion with others. The group then prayed Night Prayer, which was transmitted on WAOB 106.7 FM. A social concluded the evening.

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

Lay leader Mary Catherine Hoover reported by phone on March 30. At the meeting on March 28, after Evening Prayer, Br. Jeremy Heppler, O.S.B., of St. Benedict's Abbey in Atchison, KS, serving as a deacon at St. Benedict Church, led a question-and-answer session. He fielded questions about himself and about the procedure for electing an abbot.

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

Lay leader Mary Hoffken wrote on March 17. Three Oblates joined Fr. Paschal Kneip, moderator, for a meeting on February 9, despite a snowstorm. After an opening invocation to Our Lady of Guadalupe, the group continued a discussion on the Year for Priests and then closed 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 March 12 and April 13. The meeting on March 8 was led by Oblate Mike Russo in the absence of Msgr. Michael Becker, moderator. Mike instructed the group on praying the Divine Office at a meditative pace and led a Lenten discussion on Our Lord's relationship with his disciples in the Gospels.

Mike Russo again led the meeting on April 12 and reviewed the correct way to pray the Divine Office. He also spoke about his preparation for ordination as a permanent deacon, and he reviewed the book *A Blessed Life*, by Wil Derkse, which the group plans to use for monthly discussions.

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 21, a large turnout of people discussed the section of *Life and Miracles* dealing with St. Benedict's flight from Rome, his miracle in Affile, and his life in the cave at Subiaco. The meeting was short because of a wake service for Fr. Flavian, which began at 7:15 and which the Oblate community attended.

On March 8 a number of Oblates gathered at a funeral home in Latrobe to pray a wake service for Oblate Ruth Apone.

At the meeting on March 14, which was very well-attended, the group continued its discussion of St. Benedict's life from

the visit by shepherds, to his temptation as a hermit, and to his futile efforts to serve as abbot at Vicovaro. There was some discussion about the value of temptations and the meaning of “living with oneself.”

As with the meeting in February, the meeting on April 18 began early (at 6:00) and ended early because of a wake service for Fr. John Murtha at 7:15. Some 20 attendees entered into a discussion of Chapter 3 of *Life and Miracles*. The discussion focused on St. Benedict’s decision to leave Vicovaro, on the meaning of “to live with oneself,” and on St. Benedict’s foundation of 12 monasteries. One question addressed was: “When is one called to quit a project despite one’s promise of stability?” Then most of the attendees went to the basilica for the wake service.

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

On February 21 Fr. Vincent de Paul Crosby, O.S.B., spoke to an overflowing classroom of people about the “Craftsmen of the Monastery” and about the Benedictine perspective on art and on work in general. He emphasized the need to integrate work with leisure, the purpose of monasteries to praise God (and not to do any particular kind of work), and the importance of training monks to be really good at what they do while avoiding over-identification with their work. He also defined art as “the making of something well”; thus art is a participation in God’s creativity. Creating beautiful things, he said, is a form of ministry in monastic life.

On March 14 Fr. Justin Matro, O.S.B., spoke to a full classroom about the Eucharist in Benedictine spirituality. After giving a brief history of monasticism, he spoke about St. Benedict’s cenobitic monasticism, with emphasis on encountering Christ in other people. He connected this theme with a reflection on Andrei Rublev’s icon of the Blessed Trinity, which teaches many lessons about the Eucharist and community. The Eucharist is our very existence, and in the Eucharist we enter into communion with the Blessed Trinity and the whole Church.

The class on April 18 drew almost 20 people despite many Oblates’ going to Mother Mary Anne’s installation at St. Emma Monastery. Br. David Kelly, secretary of the forthcoming abbatial election, gave an interesting and enlightening presentation on the legal, historical, and practical aspects of electing an abbot in the American-Cassinense Congregation. He also focused on the spiritual role of the abbot as one who acts “in persona Christi” and who needs to be concerned about the spiritual welfare of each monk. After his presentation many participants asked questions relevant to the election.

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

Lay leader Paul Mangiardi wrote on February 9 and March 16 and 18; new lay leader William Sedoma wrote on April 1 and April 14.

There was a large turnout at the monthly meeting on February 9. The group discussed Chapters 41-43 and 47 of the *Rule* and pages 41-44 of the *Oblate Formation Booklet*. There was also a question-and-answer period, the assignment of Mass readers, and a Eucharistic service.

The meeting on March 16 consisted of an opening prayer, the reading of a letter from Fr. Donald, the assignment of readers for April, renewals of Oblation, the welcoming of four inquirers, and the selection of Oblate Bill Sedoma as the new lay leader since Paul planned to be leaving in April. The meeting closed with a “Novena to Jesus, King of All Nations.”

The deanery had their Easter Mass offered for the living and deceased monks and Oblates of St. Vincent Archabbey. (We are grateful for their offering.)

In his first letter as lay leader, Bill Sedoma sadly reported the sudden death of Paul Mangiardi on March 31. Paul was instrumental in starting the St. Malachy Deanery in 2006 and was very faithful in leading the group for four years. The Oblate community in Minersville and others were saddened and upset at Paul’s sudden death; please pray for the Oblates and Oblate novices in Minersville.

A memorial service for Paul was held early in April and drew almost 100 people. Oblates took part in doing readings and reflections, and it was mentioned what great works of service Paul had performed for the Catholic community. A condolence card was signed and sent to his widow, Gretchen.

The meeting on April 13 was attended by six members and one inquirer. It included intercessions, a discussion of options for increasing membership, the start of good-will collection for the poor, and a decision to read from the *Rule* at the beginning of meetings.

Niagara Area, Ontario, Canada (St. Henry/St. Gertrude Deanery) -- meetings on 4th Friday of each month, meeting room of St. Thomas Aquinas Church, St. Catharines, Ont.

Secretary Trudy Bretzler wrote on March 20 and April 10. The meeting scheduled for February 26 was canceled because of bad weather. During March a number of Oblates attended the funeral mass of Oblate Mary Van Schie’s sister Corrie Vingerhoets.

The meeting on March 26, attended by 14 people, began in the church's sanctuary with the Stations of the Cross and a rosary. Then Brian Chisholm, lay leader, announced that the Oblate community would sponsor Divine Mercy devotions at St. Thomas Church on April 11. He also asked that the Oblates consider making the retreat at the Archabbey on May 28-30. Then Fr. Francis Hubilla, moderator, led the group in an introductory discussion of *Life and Miracles of St. Benedict*. He focused on Chapter 8, concerning the poisoned bread sent to Abbot Benedict, and encouraged the group to nurture gratitude for gifts given to others and to counteract spirits of jealousy and envy. Brian offered to order copies of the book. The meeting ended with a prayer, a blessing, and the singing of "Salve Regina."

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

Lay leader James Perini reported on March 1, March 23, and April 27. At the meeting on February 17, Fr. Ralph, moderator, discussed with the seven attendees the process of electing an abbot and the abbot's roles and responsibilities. Then the group continued its study of *Introduction to the Devout Life* with a discussion of virtue, patience, and humility. It was noted that afflictions can help one to grow in patience.

At the meeting on March 17, attended by six people, items sent from the Archabbey were read, and the group prayed the Oblates' prayer for the abbatial election. The group also discussed an article that Fr. Ralph had distributed, namely "An Introduction to Salesian Anthropology," which treated self-knowledge, grace, and man as made in God's image. Then they continued the ongoing discussion of St. Francis de Sales' book with a treatment of humility, abjections, and the preservation of one's good name.

Eleven people attended the meeting on April 21. Fr. Ralph spoke to the group about the forthcoming abbatial election (May 10-11) and urged all to pray for the monastic community. Then the group continued its discussion of *Introduction to the Devout Life* (Third Part, Chapters 8-16). The theme of Chapters 11-16 was seen as: "Charity alone places us in perfection; but obedience, chastity, and poverty are the great means of acquiring it."

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

Secretary Peggi Gabler reported by phone on April 29. There were no meetings between last fall and April because of bad weather and health problems. Two people were invested as Oblate novices during March. More will be reported in the August newsletter. A meeting was scheduled for May 5.

Saint Vincent College (Mary, Mother of Wisdom Deanery) -- monthly meetings during the school year, usually at 7 P.M. in Alcuin Lounge or Conference Room

Moderator Fr. Jean-Luc Zadroga, O.S.B., reported on April 27. At the meeting on January 28, Br. Jeremiah, O.S.B., gave a presentation on humility. It was followed by a discussion and the praying of Compline.

On February 25 Br. Isidore, O.S.B., gave a presentation on "Love, Desire, and Self-Denial: Monastic Asceticism and the Longing of the Heart." The meeting again closed with Compline.

On March 25 Br. Gabriel Myriam, O.S.B., offered a presentation on "Lent in the Monastery" and then led the group in praying Compline.

On April 29 Br. John Paul, O.S.B., gave a presentation on "Loving the Church with Benedict" and then led the praying of Compline.

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

Secretary Mary Forbes sent an e-mail message on April 22. On April 25 the deanery was to hold ceremonies for the investiture of Oblate novices by Fr. Ronald Gatman, moderator.

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

Lay leader Gretchen Meyers wrote on February 27 and April 24. Three Oblates met on February 19 to continue a reading and discussion of *Strangers to the City*. The topic of the month was "poverty." The group discussed the poverty of not having our way regarding the weather, our work, and inconsiderate people; all these adversities provide rich opportunities for the practice of patience.

Four members attended the meeting on April 16. The group made plans for a visit from Fr. Donald and Br. Jeremiah on May 21.

Southern Pines, NC (St. Ephrem the Syrian Deanery)

Deacon Daniel Dozier, moderator, reported by phone on March 19 and by letter on March 22. The deanery was formed during preliminary meetings last fall at St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Mission in Southern Pines. On November 1 Rev. Mark Shuey invested

Fr. Deacon Daniel G. Dozier of Southern Pines, NC,
as an Oblate novice.

Subsequently, Deacon Daniel, as the moderator of the new deanery, invested the following as Oblate novices at St. Michael Church on November 12:

Fr. Deacon Stephen G. Dozier of Southern Pines, NC
Rev. Randal A. Foster of Southern Pines, NC
Patricia A. Kassebaum of Southern Pines, NC
Elsie Kunik of Vass, NC
Laura Lowder of Jackson Springs, NC
Deborah Orkiszewski of Cary, NC .

Deacon Stephen is the father of Deacon Daniel. Both are permanent deacons. Rev. Randal Foster is an Episcopalian priest.

The group has chosen St. Ephrem the Syrian as their deanery's patron. Laura Lowder has been serving as lay leader. The group's monthly meetings since October have consisted of Vespers (Byzantine, Latin, or Anglican), formation in the *Rule*, and intercessory prayers. The formation, led by Deacon Daniel or Laura in alternation, consists of responding to three questions concerning a given passage of the *Rule*: "What does the passage say? How does it point to Christ? How can it be applied to our lives as Oblate novices?"

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

Secretary Ashley Leggett wrote on February 10, March 10, and April 14. At the beginning of the meeting on February 8, attended by seven Oblates, one Oblate novice, and Fr. David, moderator, the group prayed Evening Prayer. Then lay leader Laura Schneider circulated correspondence from Br. Jeremiah and Fr. Donald. Next Oblate novice Kay Tittmann led a discussion based on Chapter 7, "Prayer", from *The Path of Life*. Emphasis was made on the need to receive what God intends to communicate and to deal with such obstacles as expecting results according to our human desires. Then Ashley led a discussion based on Chapter 8, "The Eucharist", with reflection on how the Eucharist is a primary way to lead us to union with God; we need the Church for that, and the Church is meant to make saints of us.

The meeting on March 8 was led by lay leader Laura Schneider in the absence of Fr. David, who was on a mission trip with Penn State students. After Evening Prayer Oblate Maria DiCola led a discussion on the Liturgy of the Hours from *The Path of Life*. She reflected on the importance of the psalms as prayer and on the Hours as a prayer of the entire Church. Then Oblate Phyllis Austin led a discussion on "Private Prayer," Chapter 10. She emphasized the objective of prayer as letting God have control and the value of repeating a simple prayer-word as a way to bring wandering thoughts back to God. After the discussions the group prayed from a card for the abbatial election at the Archabbey.

The meeting on April 12 was attended by five Oblates and four Oblate novices in addition to Fr. David, moderator. After the praying of Evening Prayer Fr. David talked about the mission trip to Mexico, which involved ministering in an orphanage. Then Oblate novice Ellen Mazzara led a discussion on Chapters 11 and 12, "Humility" and "Making Life a Unity," from *The Path of Life*. The reflections included comments about the possibility of genuinely Christian soldiers, the need to recognize others' good qualities, avoiding excessive efforts to look good to others, and the need to integrate one's work with one's prayer life. In response to questions Fr David then summarized the process of electing an archabbot. The meeting closed with prayer for discernment on the part of the monks and with intercessions.

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 "Dee" Pauls wrote on March 22 and April 20. The meeting scheduled for February was canceled because of icy roads. The meeting on March 3 was held despite heavy rains. Fr. Cristiano, moderator, spoke about RB 49, "On the Observance of Lent." He reflected on Lent as a season of joy and generous self-giving, on monastic Lenten customs of the past, and of the need to seek "deserts" for spiritual growth.

On April 7, since Fr. Cristiano was visiting his family in Brazil, Dee led the meeting and gave a presentation about the Shroud of Turin based on considerable research. A discussion followed. An inquirer attended and a few days later applied to be invested as an Oblate novice.

Williamsport, PA (Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus Deanery) -- meetings on last Sunday of each month, 1 P.M., St. Joseph the Worker (Mater Dolorosa) Church, meeting room in former school

Lay leader Ted Richardson wrote on February 28. On December 11 four Oblates came for a meeting, but the meeting rooms were locked. On January 24 several Oblates gathered to discuss "Prayer" from *The Path of Life*. At the meeting on February 28, the discussion of "Prayer" continued, with a skimming of the chapter and

then a detailed discussion, including the role of intercessions and the use of *Shorter Christian Prayer*. The meeting scheduled for April did not take place because of a confusion about times.

Various Locations

On January 30 at St. James Catholic Church in Gadsden, AL, Rev E. Gray Bean invested **Al Harris** of Jacksonville, AL, as an Oblate novice.

On February 5 at the chapel in St. Gabriel, LA, Rev. Michael Robinson invested **Mark Dittmer** of St. Gabriel, LA, as an Oblate novice during a Mass.

On March 21 during a Sunday Mass at 7:30 at St. James Catholic Church in Conway, SC, Rev. Fredrick La Brecque, pastor, invested **Paul N. Fling** of Myrtle Beach, SC, as a Oblate novice. Fr. La Brecque kindly put an announcement about the event in the parish bulletin.

SICK & INFIRM MONKS

Please pray for Fr. William Beaver, who suffered a mini-stroke early in May. Also, all the monks in our infirmary could use the Oblates' prayers: Fr. Wilfred Dumm, Fr. Omer Kline, Br. Patrick Lacey, Fr. Jeremy Bolha. Please also remember Abbot President Timothy Kelly, O.S.B., of the American-Cassinense Congregation, who was diagnosed in April with aggressive cancer of the esophagus.

DECEASED MONKS

Please pray for the repose of the souls of the recently deceased monks of the Archabbey: Fr. Flavian Yelinko, 103, who died on February 18 (the feast of St. Flavian), and Fr. John F. Murtha, 79, who died on April 13.

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*
- Rev. Bernard Head, *Blessed Marmion: A 21st-Century Appreciation* (pamphlet)
- Fr. Thomas Keating, O.C.S.O., *Intimacy with God*
- Fr. George A. Maloney, S.J., *The Jesus Prayer* (pamphlet)
- John Moschos, *The Spiritual Meadow*
- Susan Annette Muto, *Meditation in Motion*
- Fr. Guy-Marie Oury, O.S.B., *A Monastic Pilgrimage: Following the Footsteps of St. Benedict*
- Abbot David Parry, O.S.B., *Household of God*
- Pseudo Macarius, *The Fifty Spiritual Homilies and the Great Letter*
- 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:

- 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"

Reservation for Feast of St. Benedict on July 10, 2010

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 10.

___ I hope to be invested as an ___ Oblate, ___ Oblate novice on July 10. (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 3 to: **Mrs. Christine Karem, 2012 Souli St., Greensburg, PA 15601 (phone: 724-875-0285).**

If you would like overnight accommodations, please phone Fr. Donald at 742-805-2291. Please also contact Fr. Donald if you plan to be invested as an Oblate novice or to make your final Oblation on July 10.

Schedule for Oblates, Feast of St. Benedict, July 10, 2010

10:00 A.M. Mass, Basilica

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

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

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

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

Two Poems by Members of the Oblate Community

“St. Vincent Archabbey Basilica,”
by Oblate Elmer Furman,
East Pittsburgh, PA,
December 14, 2009

Under the brilliant sun the huge basilica
With bricks of fiery orange becomes radiant.
It captivates the attention of on-lookers
Awed by the prominent spot so significant.

It stands as a sure challenge to the wavering.
What grandeur! A labor of love by men of hope!
They erected it for God’s glory and man’s duty.
A harbor of light it helps us by grace to cope.

The spacious interior with its high ceiling
Makes us feel small yet desirous to reach the heights.
Near the main altar monks in communal prayer
Warm our minds and hearts and inspire deeper insights.

In the transept is placed the altar of repose.
We adore the lamb, the Mystery present here.
Here He makes Himself accessible so humbly.
In lowly form as sacrament, Him we revere.

Exposed to this magnificent basilica
Adorned with holy symbols of our ancient faith
We are reminded of our duty to give praise
A duty of truth and love for what He giveth.

Elmer R. Furman
Dec. 14, 2009

“Lost and Found,”
by Oblate novice Susan Wykoff,
Lock Haven, PA,
January 18, 2010

A broken chain
A devotion shunned
For what I thought was wiser,
Now beckons me
To trust the Church
Her Wisdom and Her Mother.

A wreath of roses
Fragrant offering
Heavy in my palm.
To give this small
Act of love
Would be a healing balm.

Defiance and fear
Well up above
The weak and faint desire.
Five saints draw near
To encourage my heart
And light my prayer with their fire.

Each decade of prayer
Their flames of love
Ignite the path of devotion.
Til Mary I see
And shyly go to
Her heart gently enfolding.

“My Son, I love Him,
More than my life.
You can love Him too.”
We pray, then I see
The wreath of roses
Is a gift for making hearts new.

Sw 1/18/10

