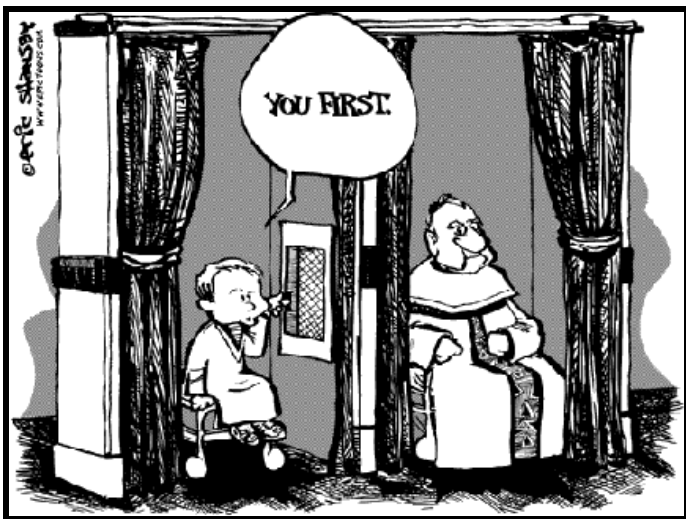


But, why should I tell my sins to a priest? Why can I not confess to God directly? These are questions that thousands of Catholics ask themselves. Father Fernandez explained: "No one has seen God. The relationship with him is mediated. In our faith, this mediation is through the sacraments, faith and mystical experience.

"In order to confess, one must have faith, believe in God, know one's sins and repent. It is not a way imposed by the Church. It is a way indicated to us by faith."



Father Fernández pointed out the real meaning of confession: "It isn't a psychological consultancy, giving one a human reason for one's problems. Above all, it is forgiveness."

He also noted that it is a sacrament that Benedict XVI has greatly emphasized in this Year of the Priest. "The fact that the Pope recommends to priests that we sit to hear confessions, means that we must be conscious of our identity and sanctification," the confessor said.

Father Fernández added that one can't give what he does not have. "One learns to confess by confessing," he said. "It would be hard to be a confessor if one doesn't confess oneself well."

By Carmen Elena Villa
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Desert Wisdom

At the time when blessed Antony was persuaded by Saint Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria, to go into the city to combat heresy, a certain learned man called Didymus visited him who was blind. They talked about many things from the Holy Scriptures and other passages which they had gleaned

from holy books. Antony was impressed by his intelligence and quick thinking, and asked him, "Are you not sad that you lack eyes?"



He shamefacedly made no answer, until Antony had asked him three times, whereupon he did admit quite simply to being bitter. "I'm surprised," Antony said, "that such a wise person could lament the loss of something which ants and flies and midges have, rather than rejoicing in something which he shares

with saints and apostles. It is much better to see with the spirit than with ordinary eyes, and better to have eyes into which the dust of sin cannot enter, than those which simply by what they see can lead people through concupiscence into the lowest hell."

The Ordo

Listed are the Feast days and Memorials that are observed at the Monastery and follows the Ordo of the American Cassinese Congregation. You can also see the observed feast days by going to: <http://oblatesosbbelmont.org/ordo/>.

OCTOBER

- 18 **Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time. (Week I)**
- 25 **Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time. (Week II)**
- 28 Simon and Jude, ** Apostles. Feast.

NOVEMBER

- 1 **All Saints. Solemnity. (Week III)**
- 2 Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed. Memorial
- 4 Charles Borromeo, Bishop. Memorial.
- 8 **Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week IV)**
- 9 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome. Feast.
- 10 Leo the Great, Pope, Doctor of the Church. Memorial.
- 11 Martin of Tours, Bishop. Feast.
- 15 **Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time. (Week I)**

November Meeting

The Oblates will meet again on November 15. If you have any question please write:

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