



Oblates of St. Benedict Belmont Abbey



October, 2008

October Meeting

The next Oblate meeting is on October 19 and will begin at 3:30 in the Gallagher Room.

In God We Trust

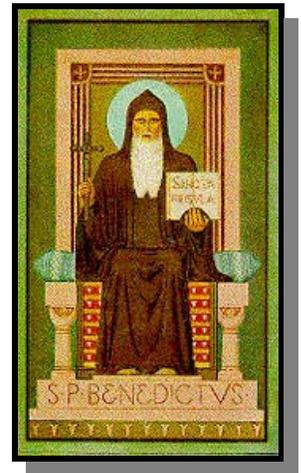
Originally I had intended to put in this space a column concerning the Psalms and Liturgy of the Hours. Instead I wish to address you concerning the political debates within the Country. It is not much longer and we shall be electing a new President. We hear pundits referring to the "most divisive election in history." Historically we know it is not. Without a doubt the most divisive was the election of 1860 when Abraham Lincoln was elected President. Soon after 13 states of the Union separated and the Civil War began. During the depths of this war Lincoln made the momentous decision to separate paper currency from the gold standard. Salmon P. Chase, the Treasury Secretary, added "In God We Trust" to the currency because we were printing money on a prayer with no gold to back it!



It is a nice story, not entirely true. Secretary Chase added it at the request of the American public and sent the Treasury the following instructions: "No nation can be strong except in the strength of God, or safe except in His defense. The trust of our people in God should be declared on our national coins."

So what has this got to do with being Benedictine? Tell me what it is that you like about our Abbey? Is it the architecture? The beautiful windows? More than likely you will say both but you will also indicate the peace that you feel there. At the risk of being corrected I would submit it is the monks' trust in God that all is unfolding under God's watchful eye as well as their acceptance of His will that develops that peace. Place your hope in God alone. (RB 4:41)

We also are called to develop that peace in our day-to-day lives and to spread that peace to those around us. But we have to begin with ourselves. Take to heart "In God We Trust." We must seek, on a daily basis, the peace God will give us if we ask. Spend more time in prayer and Lectio and honestly seek God's guidance in your relations with others. Pray for them and assume they have formed their decisions in good conscience.



Remember also *"Your way of acting should be different from the world's way; the love of Christ should come before all else. You are not to act in anger or nurse a grudge. Never give a hollow greeting of peace or turn away when someone needs your love."* (RB 4:20-26)

Finally, by the time of your next newsletter the election will be over. The voters will have made their decision and we will have a new President. Pray for that person no matter who it may be and continue to spread peace among the people you know. *"Pray for your enemies out of love of Christ. If you have a dispute with someone, make peace with [them] before the sun goes down. And finally, never lose hope in God's mercy."* (RB 4:72-74) For In God We Trust. George Cobb, ObISB.

The Rule of St Benedict in the Workplace: Listen

Listen now and try to understand (Job 34:16).

Obedience to the very first word of the Rule, "listen", is essential in today's workplace. Studies by varieties of experts have come to the same conclusion: one of the main causes of dysfunction in the workplace is poor communication. At least 50% of the business of communication is the listening part. Yet how seldom we really listen to each other!

Many of us go to the meetings that seem to be an inevitable part of work life with some or all of these attitudes in our hearts:

- This meeting will be another waste of time, and probably boring as well.
- They will find some way of making me do all the work.

- Others will get the credit that should be mine; I will get the blame that others deserve.
- I could be spending this time in so many better ways.
- There is probably more bad news coming. Will my job be the next one eliminated?

These thoughts and feelings inhibit our ability to listen. We don't really attend to what the meeting conveners or our fellow-workers are saying; we're too busy thinking up clever responses and/or excuses, and planning what we're going to do the minute we get out of here. Yet, both at work and at home, whenever we complain that we have not been kept informed of plans and events, we frequently get the response: "But I did tell you!" The other person then goes on to describe the exact meeting, time, location and circumstances when the information was given, to which we can only say, "I don't recall that".

During the coming weeks, especially in these times of stress and tension, make a special effort to listen carefully as you go about your work. Observe the facial expressions and body language of your companions. As you listen, you will notice the signs that tell you that your boss is worried too, and your obnoxious fellow-worker is having marital difficulties, while that lazy so-and-so who never does a fair share of the work is battling a terminal and debilitating disease.

Listening, really paying attention, will surely lead you to prayer and to the God who speaks to you through and in all the seemingly adverse circumstances of the workplace.

That is why the Holy Spirit says, "*Today you must listen to his voice*" (Heb 3:7). Angie Forde



Benedictine Peace Prayer

Saint Benedict and Saint Scholastica,
 you were people of peace,
 you walked the paths of peace your whole life
 and led all who came to you into the ways of peace.
 Help us to seek peace and pursue it,
 to be the first to hold out our hands
 in friendship and forgiveness.
 Help us to achieve peace in our hearts, in our homes,
 in our neighborhoods, and in our troubled world.
 Let peace fill our lives
 so that we may live in God's grace and love.
 Amen.
 (from Benedictines for Peace)

The Ordo

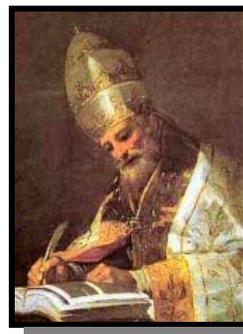
Listed are the Feast days and Memorials that are observed at the Monastery and follows the Ordo of the American Cassinese Congregation.

OCTOBER

- 19 Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week IV)
- 26 Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week I)
- 28 Simon and Jude, Apostles. Feast.

NOVEMBER

- 1 All Saints. Solemnity.
- 2 Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed.
- 4 Charles Borromeo, Bishop. Memorial.
- 9 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome. Feast (Week II)
- 10 Leo the Great, Pope, Doctor of the Church. Memorial.
- 11 Martin of Tours, Bishop. Feast.



November Meeting

Our next meeting will be November 16, 2008. If you need to reach me please write to:

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