



Oblates of St. Benedict Belmont Abbey



March, 2010

March Meeting

The next Oblate meeting will be on March 21 in the Gallagher Room. Novices are asked to read the chapter on Obedience in *Finding Sanctuary*. Oblates should read Chapter 4 from Fr. Demetrius Dumm's book *Cherish Christ Above All* and also read the references to the Rule mentioned in the chapter. The reflection questions for this chapter are:

1. What does Benedict mean by "The love of Christ must come before all else"?
2. How is Christ at the center of the Christian Monastic vocation?
3. As an oblate, give examples of how God loves you and others through your Benedictine example.
4. Explain what good zeal is in the Benedictine life and how do you express good zeal in your life.
5. How is Christ central in your Benedictine spirituality?

To put nothing before the love of Christ



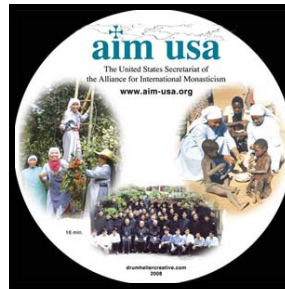
"To Christ belongs everything we can do; we live because he quickens us, we move and have our being because he enlivens us, we love because he first loved us. It was out of love he created and quickened us, nourished and guarded us; he led us to the bath of rebirth, renewed us, governed us and brought us to the age of understanding. All this God did for us mercifully and through love. Therefore, O monk, open the eyes

of your heart, and know that you are so much loved by Jesus Christ that you may have no doubt his blood was shed for you. Hang your heart on his love; love the Lord your God, not just a little but with your whole heart and not only part of it, with your whole soul and with your whole mind, so that you do not put the love of anything before the love of your Lord. ... Blessed, therefore, is the virtue of the love of Christ, which is called simply love and charity. For it cherishes everyone, and in the secret place of the mind it stores up the love of all as though they were one neighbor. Truly blessed is that which nourishes virtues and wipes out sins, quells anger, shuts off hatred, expels avarice, checks quarreling, and routs all vices at the same time. It endures all things, believes all things, hopes all things; amidst reproaches it is secure, amidst angry outbursts it remains calm, amidst

hatred it is kind and always remains firm in the truth; it is not conquered by the assaults of evil, ravaged by plunderers, stolen by robbers or burnt by fire; it remains unconquerable, cannot be unsettled, perseveres unshaken, rejoices unspoilt. It is the bond of all the virtues, the glue of souls, the harmony of minds, the fellowship of the elect and the exultation of the holy angels. The mind it powerfully strengthens to prevent it from being broken by adversities; the heart it carefully tempers to prevent it from being lifted up by prosperity."

Smaragdus of Saint-Mihiel
Commentary of the Rule of St. Benedict
Trans. By David Barry, OSB

Lenten Alms



Annually it is suggested that sometime during Lent we make a special offering of alms. Oblates usually make this donation to AIM-USA. Their address is:
345 East Ninth Street
Erie, PA 16503-1107 USA
<http://www.aim-usa.org/>

Website

It cannot be emphasized enough that if you are not periodically looking on the Oblate website you are missing a great deal of material that cannot be put in the newsletter. You can also use the website using your mobile device. This is part of what you missed over the past month:

- Moderation in Our Work
- Parishioners have responsibility for mission of the Church
- Create Your Own Lives
- The Virtue of Obedience
- Your Cross
- The Holy Spirit and Scripture
- God Can Be Seen in Man and in Each One of Us
- A Walk into the Dark
- Because of Your Humility
- I Hate Lent
- Traditional Anglican community requests to join Catholic Church
- Patriarch of Constantinople's new encyclical defends Catholic-Orthodox dialogue

- Interview with Fr. Neilson, OSB
- Interview with Fr. Neilson, OSB
- His True Work: Hospitality
- My True Identity Lies Hidden in God's Call
- Prayer to be Freed of the Seven Deadly Sins
- It Is Darkest before the Dawn
- Belmont Abbey College hosts Lenten Day of Reflection
- Good Company?
- Hittinger To Speak On St. Benedict
- 'Crusaders' lead the way for Catholic higher education in the Carolinas
- Prayer is Trust in God
- How Brave Are We?
- Love Cannot Come of Emptiness.
- Ways to Get the Most out of the Season of Lent (Three Parts)
- A Camel Loaded with Bread
- The Empty Church
- Oblate Breviary
- Christ, the Way
- George Washington and Prayer
- Temptations Correspond to Our Vulnerabilities

Desert Wisdom



Two brethren made their way to the city to sell their handiwork: and when in the city they went different ways, divided one from the other, one of them fell into fornication. After a while his brother came to him, saying, "Brother, let us go back to our cell." But he answered, "I am not

coming." And the other questioned him, saying, "Why, brother?" And he answered, "Because when you left me, I ran into temptation, and I sinned in the flesh." But the other, who had been faithful was anxious to help him and said, "But it also happened with me. When I was separated from you, I too sinned. But let us go, and do penance together with all our might: and God will forgive us that are sinful men."

And they came back to the monastery and told the old men what had befallen them, and they enjoined on them the penance they were to do. But the one began his penance, not for himself but for his brother, as if he himself had sinned. And God, seeing his love and his labor, after a few days revealed to one of the old men that for the great love of this brother who had not sinned, He had forgiven the brother who had. And this is what it means to lay down one's soul for one's brother.

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/>.

MARCH

- 21 Fifth Sunday of Lent. (Week I)
- 22 Passing of Our Holy Father Benedict, Abbot (21 Mar.) Solemnity.
- 25 Annunciation of the Lord. Solemnity
- 26 Passion Sunday. Solemnity.

APRIL

- 1 Thursday of Holy Week
- 2 Good Friday
- 3 Holy Saturday (Compline Is Said Only by Those Who Do Not Participate in the Easter Vigil.)
- 4 Easter Sunday Solemnity
- 5-10 Octave of Easter. Solemnity.
- 11 Second Sunday of Easter
- 12 Anniversary of Dedication of Belmont Abbey (Moved from March 28). Solemnity.
- 13 Tue of 2d Week of Easter (Begin Week II of Psalter)
- 18 Third Sunday of Easter

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions

for the Month of April

General: That every tendency to fundamentalism and extremism may be countered by constant respect, by tolerance and by dialogue among all believers.

Missionary: That Christians persecuted for the sake of the Gospel may persevere, sustained by the Holy Spirit, in faithfully witnessing to the love of God for the entire human race.

April Meeting

The Oblates will meet again April 18, 2010. If you have any question please write:

George K. Cobb, OblSB
Belmont Abbey Monastery
100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Road
Belmont, NC 28012

gkcobb0428@gmail.com