



# Oblates of St. Benedict Belmont Abbey



April, 2010

## April Meeting

The next Oblate meeting will be on April 18 in the Gallagher Room. Novices are asked to read the chapter on Humility in *Finding Sanctuary*. Oblates should read Chapter 5 from Fr. Demetrius Dumm's book *Cherish Christ Above All* and also read the references to the Rule mentioned in the chapter.

## Opportunities for Retreats



Each Oblate is encouraged to make a retreat or Day of Recollection at least once a year. **Belmont Abbey** offers two Day of Recollections each year, one during Advent and once again during Lent. You may also contact Br. Edward if you would like to make a private retreat at (704) 461- 6693.

In addition to the Abbey, Oblates are free to go to other retreat centers. The following is just a beginning list. St. John's Abbey maintains a complete list of Benedictine Retreat Centers at <http://www.osb.org/retreats/index.html>. As you find monasteries or retreat centers that would be helpful to others, please send an email or letter describing the retreat house and any specifics you would like to share. Both the Diocese of Charlotte <http://www.catholicconference.org>, and the Diocese of Raleigh, <http://www.avila-retreat-center.com>, sponsor facilities for group retreats. You should check their websites periodically to see what programs are being offered.

**Abbey of Gethsemani** (Cistercian); 3642 Monks Rd  
Trappist, KY 40051. (502) 549-4133.  
<http://www.monks.org>.

**Holy Spirit Monastery** (Cistercian); 2625 Highway 212 SW  
Conyers, GA 30094-4044. (770) 760-0959.  
<http://www.trappist.net>.

**Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center** (Augustinian);  
103 Living Waters Lane, Maggie Valley, NC 28751.  
(828) 926-3833. <http://www.catholicretreat.org> email:  
[lwrc@main.nc.us](mailto:lwrc@main.nc.us)

**Mepkin Abbey** (Cistercian); 1098 Mepkin Abbey Rd.  
Moncks Corner, SC 29461. (843) 761-8509.

<http://mepkinabbey.org>

**Mt. Tabor Retreat Center** (Benedictine); 150 Mt. Tabor  
Road, Martin, KY 41649. <http://www.mounttabor.net>  
E-mail: <mtbenedictine@pcc-uky.campuscwix.net>

**The Rock Hill Oratory** (Oratorian); 434 Charlotte Ave.,  
Rock Hill, SC 29730. (803) 327-2097.  
<http://rockhilloratory.org>, email:  
[RockHillOratory@gmail.com](mailto:RockHillOratory@gmail.com)

**St. Francis Springs Prayer Center** (Franciscan); 477 Grogan  
Road, Stoneville, NC 27048. (336) 573-3751, E-mail:  
[fransprings@aol.com](mailto:fransprings@aol.com)

**Well of Mercy** (Sisters of Mercy); 181 Mercy Drive,  
Hamptonville, NC 27020. (704) 539-5449  
[http://www.mercync.org/sponsored\\_ministries.htm](http://www.mercync.org/sponsored_ministries.htm)

## Commentaries on the Rule Of St. Benedict

Several Oblates have asked for suggestions on commentaries on the *Rule of St. Benedict (RB)*. The list is too exhaustive to list here. Commentaries can be broken into three primary groups; devotional, line by line (exegesis), and a combination of the two. But before listing various commentaries, please remember that there are also quite a number of books that teach the *Rule* and are a bit more palatable for the average Oblate. The works of Michael Casey, Demetrius Dumm, Joan Chittister, and Basil Pennington, to name just a few, teach the *RB* in terms that synthesize the concepts brought out in the commentaries but do not overwhelm the reader. Also, before moving on to a exegesis commentary it is strongly recommended that the Oblate consider purchasing:



Fry, Timothy, ed. *RB 1980, The Rule of St. Benedict: 1980*.  
Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1981. ISBN 0-  
8146-1220-2.

This is the primary copy of the *RB* that is used in the Monastery. The book provides an excellent history of the *RB*

and monasticism, scriptural indexes in the *RB* a thematic index and a general index in general.

Of the devotional commentaries of the *RB*, Oblates might consider some of the following works:

Böckmann, OSB, Aquinata. *Perspectives on the Rule of St. Benedict*, Ed. Marianne Bukhard, OSB, Trans. Matilda Handl, OSB and Marianne Bukhard, OSB. MN: The Liturgical Press, 2005. BX3004.Z5B6313.

Chittister, OSB, Joan. *Wisdom Distilled from the Daily*. Harper Collins, CA: San Francisco, 1991. BX3004.Z5C36

Simon, GA. *Commentary for Benedictine Oblates*. Trans. Leonard J Doyle. Wipf and Stock Publisher, OR: Eugene, 2009 (Originally pub. 1947). ISBN: 1606082663.

Vest, OlSB, Norvene. *Preferring Christ*. Morehouse Publishing, NY: New York, 1990. BX3004.Z5V47.

de Vogüé OSCO, Adalbert, *Reading Saint Benedict, Reflections on the Rule*. Trans. Colette Friedlander, OSCO. Cistercian Publications, MI: Kalamazoo, 1994. ISBN 0-087907-751-4.

de Waal, Esther, *A Life-Giving Way*. MN: The Liturgical Press, 1995. ISBN-13: 978-0814623589.

There are three exegesis commentaries that could be considered but again, they also may have more detail than most Oblates would prefer. It is suggested that Oblates take advantage of the Library at the Abbey if they need to reference these works:

Delatte, OSB, Dom Paul. *The Rule of St. Benedict*. Trans. Dom Justin McCann, OSB. Wipf and Stock Publisher, OR: Eugene, 2000. ISBN 1-57910-460-6. (This translation can also be found on-line at : <http://www.archive.org/details/ruleofstbenedic00delauoft>).

Kardong, Terrence G.. *Benedict's Rule*. MN: The Liturgical Press, 2005. BX3004.Z5K35.

Smaragdus of Saint Mihiel. *Commentary on the Rule of Saint Benedict*. Trans. David Barry. Cistercian Publications, MI: Kalamazoo, 2008. ISBN-13: 978-0879072124.

One last "commentary" that should be noted and is a recently published collection of notes on the *RB* written by Thomas Merton. His notes are primarily directed toward novices but the book was edited with the average lay person in mind:

Merton, Thomas. *The Rule of St. Benedict, Initiation into the Monastic Tradition 4*. Ed. Patrick F. O'Connell. MN: The Liturgical Press, 2009. ISBN 978-0-87907-019-9.

## Desert Wisdom

Abba Joseph asked Abba Nisteros, "What should I do about my tongue, for I cannot control it?" The old man said to him, "When you speak, do you find peace?" He replied, "No." The old man said to him, "If you do not find peace, why do you speak? Be silent, and when a conversation takes place, prefer to listen rather to talk.



## 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/>.

### APRIL

- 18 **Third Sunday of Easter (Week III)**
- 21 Anselm, Bishop, Religious, Doctor of the Church. Memorial.
- 25 **Fourth Sunday of Easter (Week IV).**
- 29 Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor of the Church. Memorial.

### MAY

- 2 **Fifth Sunday of Easter (Week I)**
- 3 Philip and James, apostles. Feast.
- 9 Sixth Sunday of Easter. (Week II)
- 11 Odo, Maiolus, Odilo, Hugh and Peter the Venerable, Abbots of Cluny. Memorial.
- 14 Matthias, Apostle. Feast.
- 15 Pachomius, Abbot. Memorial.
- 16 **Ascension of the Lord.** (Transferred from Thursday)
- 17 **(Week III)**

## Holy Father's Prayer Intentions

for the Month of May

*General:* That the shameful and monstrous commerce in human beings, which sadly involves millions of women and children, may be ended.

*Missionary:* That ordained ministers, religious women and men, and lay people involved in apostolic work may understand how to infuse missionary enthusiasm into the communities entrusted to their care.

## May Meeting

The Oblates will meet again May 16, 2010.