



## Oblates of St. Benedict Belmont Abbey

September, 2010



### September Meeting

The next Oblate meeting is on September 19th, and will begin at 3:30 in the Gallagher Room. Due to scheduling conflicts, Abbot Placid will not be with us this month so renewal of Oblations and new Oblations will be received next month. This will be primarily a “get acquainted” meeting and we will be going over the formation program for the next year.

### Oblate Formation

Oblates should pickup a copy of *A Mystical Portrait of Jesus* by Demetrius R. Dumm, OSB in time to have read Chapter 1 before the October meeting.

Both **first and second year Oblate Novices** should purchase a copy of *Benedict of Nursia, His Message for Today* by Anselm Grün. Please go ahead and read “Benedict Himself” and “Living in the Presence of God.” **First year Oblates** should also purchase *Finding Sanctuary, Monastic Steps for Everyday Life* by Abbot Christopher Jamison, OSB. Please read the first two chapters in time for the October meeting.

**Second year Oblates Novices** should have already read the first two chapters of *Fully Human, Fully Divine* by Michael Casey, OCSO.

### Oblate Website

Please remember that the printed newsletter is only about 1/30th of the entire publication. To save on postage and time, the vast majority of the newsletter is published on-line at <http://OblatesOSBBelmont.org>. You should make it a habit to check the site, which is updated daily, for the latest news, articles, material for *Lectio* and announcements. If you are not checking the site you are missing out!

### 9-11: A Reflection:



“The words of Our Lord cannot be ignored: ‘And when you are praying, let go if you have something against anyone in order that your Father in heaven may let go of your transgressions for you’ (Mark 11:25) ... So long as I cling to another's fault, I perpetuate it. The malice has left the other person and now lives in me. True, I have been wronged, perhaps thoughtlessly, perhaps

with deliberate intent. Yet I am a victim in a more profound sense, because evil passed from the other to me. What was expressed momentarily in an action or a series of actions is now enshrined in my unforgiving heart. Until I let go my grievance the malice remains active. Whenever I make space for God in my heart, it will invade.

In the Our Father we pray, ‘Forgive us as we forgive’ (Matt. 6:12). All prayer is a process of letting go past grievances. Seldom, easy, rarely instantaneous, but always necessary.” (Michael Casey, OSCO. *Toward God*, p. 109)

### Christians and Muslims

In the news over the past week we are struck with the very poignant scenes of Christian cursing Muslim and Muslim cursing Christian at a time when the nation remembers the extraordinary events of 9-11. But have we forgotten we are all brothers and sisters in faith? Abraham's God is the God of Christian, Jew, and Muslim. Whether we call Him LORD, YAHWEH, or ALLAH we are all descendants of Abraham, “our father in faith.” (Genesis 17:4, 20).



There are those who like to point to the passages in the Qur'an that tell the faithful Muslim to make war and kill the Jew and Christian. But there are many passages of the Old Testament that tell us to do the exact same thing to the Muslim. A study of the books of Jeremiah and Isaiah would surprise many Christians. Three of the Psalms (58, 83, and 109) were not included in the Roman Breviary because they were prayers for vengeance!

In the Gospel and the Rule we are taught to “love your enemies. If people curse you, do not curse them back but bless them instead.” (Rule 4:31-32) The psalms were

removed from the Breviary because they seemed contrary to the teachings within the Gospels. So in our own lives we should take the time to remove those thoughts or actions that are contrary to what Jesus and St. Benedict have taught us. Let us take time out to let go of old injuries — or at least begin the slow work of healing. “Love of one’s enemies separates us from the world and joins us happily to God; it separates us from the actions of worldly men, and at the same time joins us to the fellowship of the saints and angels.” (Smaragus of Saint-Mihel, p. 199)

This is the hard work of being Christian – not only to forgive but to repay with a blessing. To accept the Cross even when it comes undeserved and then bless the person who gives it to you. To see the face of Christ in the person of an enemy or a person who has injured you. It is also the “work” we make the most excuses, telling ourselves our anger or outrage is justified. How many families, friends, or neighbors do not speak over injuries sustained years ago? We need to let go of these past injuries to receive the blessing of God on ourselves. But we must also forgive to heal our families, communities and ourselves.



### Top Ten Reasons "Burn a Qur'an Day" is Anti-Biblical

10. It goes against the Bible's teaching to "let your conversation always be full of grace." (Colossians 4:6)
9. It goes against the Bible's teaching to "love your neighbor." (Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 22:39)
8. It goes against the Bible's teaching to "love your enemies." (Matthew 5:43)
7. It goes against the Bible's teaching to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." (Matthew 22:39, Luke 6:31)
6. It goes against the Bible's teaching of "overcoming evil with good." ((Romans 12:21)
5. It goes against the Bible's teaching of "vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." (Romans 12:19)
4. It goes against the Bible's teaching to be "full of truth and grace." (John 1:14)
3. It goes against the Bible's teaching to "live at peace with everyone." (Romans 12:18)
2. It goes against the Bible's teaching to "be wise as a serpent, gentle as a dove" (Matthew 10:16)
1. It goes against the Bible's teaching that "whoever spreads slander is a fool" (Proverbs 10:18)

### Desert Wisdom

Be attentive to the thoughts of the mind. If some evil thought passes through you, do not get upset, for it is not the transient thoughts of your mind that the knowledge of the Lord of all observes, rather He looks at the depths of the mind to see if you take pleasure in that evil thought which resides there; for hateful thoughts float over the surface of the mind, but it is the senses that are lower down which can chase away hateful thoughts, which the Lord of all examines. He does not judge what just passes over the mind, but rather the thoughts that are lower down than those hateful ones, namely those which appear in the depths of the mind, which can drive them away with its hidden hand. For He does not pardon the thoughts which spring up from the depth of the mind, for it is they which should be chasing away those which pass over the surface of the mind; He judges those thoughts which have a passage into the heart.

Saint John the Solitary

### 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/>.

#### SEPTEMBER

- 19 **Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary (Week I)**
- 20 Andrew Kim Taegon, Presbyter, Martyr, Paul Chong Hasang, Catechist, Martyr, and their Companions, Martyrs. Memorial.
- 21 Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist. Feast.
- 23 Pio of Pietrelcina, Presbyter. Memorial
- 27 Vincent de Paul, Presbyter, Religious Founder. Memorial
- 28 **Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary (Week II)**
- 29 Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels. Feast.
- 30 Jerome, Presbyter, Doctor of the Church. Memorial.

#### OCTOBER

- 1 Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin, Religious, Doctor of the Church. Memorial.
- 2 Guardian Angels, Patron of Congregation. Feast.
- 3 **Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time. (Week III)**
- 4 Francis of Assisi, Religious Founder. Memorial.
- 6 Bruno, Presbyter, Hermit, Religious Founder. Memorial.
- 7 Our Lady of the Rosary. Memorial.
- 10 **Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time. (Week IV)**
- 15 Teresa of Jesus, Virgin, Religious, Doctor of the Church. Memorial.
- 17 **Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time. (Week I)**