



Oblates of St. Benedict Belmont Abbey

April, 2011



April Meeting

The next Oblate meeting is on Sunday, April 17 at 3:30 p.m. in the Gallagher Room. Fr. Arthur will be speaking, so there won't be any reflection questions this month.

Novices: Meeting at 2:30 p.m. in the Gallagher Room. Here are the assignments:

- First Years: Progressing a chapter each month since October, we are up to the discussion of spirituality that starts on page 137 of "Finding Sanctuary" by Abbot Christopher Jamison .
- Second Years: Progressing a chapter per month since October, we are up to the seventh chapter of "Cherish Christ Above All" by Demetrius Dumm as well as Chapter 15 in "Fully Human and Fully Divine" by Michael Casey.

Oblates: Meeting will begin at 3:30 p.m. in the Gallagher Room. Please read chapter 9 of "A Mystical Portrait of Jesus" by Demetrius Dumm.

New Life in Christ

The April calendar is dominated by the great Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, popularly known as Easter Day. The long Lenten Fast is ended, and we can have chocolate again! But what is the real significance of this for us? What do we mean when we say in the Creed that we believe in the resurrection of the body?

Both the Lord Jesus and the Apostle Paul, in speaking of this subject, use the image of a grain of wheat that is buried in the ground, to rise in due course as a fruitful and beautiful plant. While the grain is hidden in the earth, it appears to those above the ground to be dead; but in the silent darkness that grain is germinating, and sending out sprouts. Likewise, Jesus, after the Crucifixion, was buried in Joseph's tomb, dead. But the Bible tells us that during this period, He went and preached to the imprisoned spirits of those who had died in disobedience to God, enabling new life to develop even in those for whom all hope seemed at an end.

And the grain of wheat does not remain hidden forever. When the new plant appears, it does not look

much like the grain that was buried; to use St. Paul's terminology, it differs from the grain in glory. Yet there is enough connection between the grain and the plant that we know full well where the plant came from: it had to come from a grain like that. When Jesus appeared after His Resurrection, His body was different from what it had been like before: for instance, He now could pass through doors, and appear and disappear quite suddenly. But yet He was recognizable: His hands and side bore the marks of crucifixion; His gestures, like the breaking of bread, were of the same kind as before.

We believe that if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. This is the confidence that enables us to endure the grief caused by the death of a loved one, and to face with serenity the prospect of our own death. But the promise of Christ's Resurrection does not have to wait until after we are dead to be redeemed. The "Sunday Special" of new life in Christ is on offer now: a life that is different from what it was before, but recognizable as being like the life of Christ Himself. The 20th Century hymn-writer Fred Kaan sums it up like this:

He's back in the land of the living, the man
we decided to kill;
He's standing among us, forgiving our guilt of
Good Friday hill.
He calls us to share in His rising, to abandon
the grave of our past;
He offers us present and future, a world that is
open and vast.

- Angie Forde

Desert Wisdom



Maximos the Confessor: Love and Forgive
Let us love one another and be loved by God; let us be patient with one another and He will be patient with our sins. Let us not render evil for evil, and we shall not re-

ceive our due for our sins. For we find the forgiveness of our trespasses in the forgiving of our brothers; and the mercy of God is hidden in mercifulness to our neighbor. Therefore the Lord said: 'Forgive, and you shall be forgiven.' And: 'If you will forgive men their offenses, your heavenly Father will forgive you also your offenses.' And again: 'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.' And: 'With what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again.' See, the Lord bestowed on us the method of salvation and has given us eternal power to become sons of God. So finally then our salvation is in our will's grasp.

Oblate novice family expecting tenth child



Oblate novice Mike Williams and his wife Kelly are expecting a baby boy in August. It will be their tenth child. They already have five boys and four girls. The family lives in Landrum, S.C. and attend Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Taylors, S.C.

- Gary Nielson

New hour of prayer

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, the monastic community at Belmont Abbey added a new hour of prayer to their celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours. You are always welcome to join in this community prayer. The new schedule is:

Vigils 6:00 a.m.
 Lauds 7:30 a.m.
 Midday Prayer 11:45 a.m. (Monday-Saturday)
 Mass 5:00 p.m. weekdays; 11:00 a.m. Saturday-Sunday
 Vespers 7:00 p.m. weekdays; 5:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday.

- Gary Nielson

The Ordo

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

APRIL

3 Fourth Sunday of Lent (Week IV)
 10 Fifth Sunday of Lent (Week I)
 17 Palm Sunday (Week II)
 22 Good Friday (Divine Mercy Novena begins)
 24 Easter Sunday (Psalms for the Octave of Easter)

MAY

1 Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) (Week II)
 2 Anathasius
 3 Philip and James
 8 Third Sunday of Easter (Week III)
 11 Odo, Maiolus, Odilo, Hugh and Peter the Venerable
 14 Matthias
 15 Fourth Sunday of Easter (Week IV)
 22 Fifth Sunday of Easter (Week I)
 24 Mary, Help of Christians
 25 Bede the Venerable
 29 Sixth Sunday of Easter (Week II)
 31 Visitation of the Bl. Virgin Mary

Meeting in May

Oblates will meet in May on the 15th. Should you have any questions, please contact:

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