



Oblates of St. Benedict Belmont Abbey

March, 2011



March Meeting

The next Oblate meeting is on Sunday, March 20. (We are back on the third Sunday of the month schedule.)

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 community that starts on page 111 of "Finding Sanctuary" by Abbot Christopher Jamison
- **Second Years:** Progressing a chapter per month since October, we are up to the sixth chapter of "Cherish Christ Above All" by Demetrius Dumm as well as Chapters 13 and 14 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 eight of "A Mystical Portrait of Jesus" by Demetrius Dumm. Here are reflection questions posed by Dr. Marilyn Martin-Schwan:

1. As an oblate, what does the statement "Stop making my Father's house a marketplace" mean to you?
2. On page 93 referring to the statement "When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them "What are you looking for?" What are you looking for when coming to the oblate program?
3. Refer to the statement on pg 95 "Since both of these words mean 'rock', the characteristic represented by Peter is stability." How would you compare this meaning of stability to a monk's vow of stability? How do you view this meaning of stability in your life as an oblate?

Announcing Good News

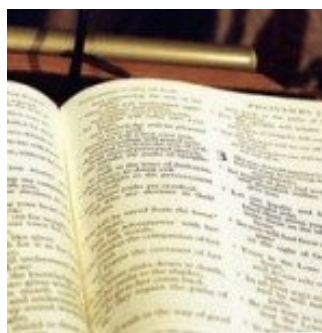
The season of Lent, a time devoted to fasting, prayer and almsgiving, begins on March 9 this year. Lent helps us to prepare us for the maximum celebration of the joys of Easter. Therefore, we should take some time to read and reflect on Benedict's thoughts as written in the Rule, Chapter 49. We should keep in mind that during Lent, there are many occasions for remembering the good news of our salvation, and announcing that good news to a world that is hurting.

A major celebration during the month of March is the feast of the Annunciation. In the midst of our Lenten discipline, we remember with joy the good news announced by an angel named Gabriel (whose name means *strength of God*) to a little girl in the ancient Near East. Of course, this is not the first annunciation ever; it is simply, for us, the most significant. But from the beginning, God has been announcing good news to us through His angels, prophets and other messengers. A few examples:

- In the book of Genesis, Abraham's angelic visitor announced the good news that the previously barren and ancient Sarah was going to have a child. Not surprisingly, she laughed. But sure enough, several years later, the child called laughter, Isaac, was born to them.
- The prophet Isaiah sang: *How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns!*
- In the New Testament, the first annunciation was to another old couple, Elisabeth and Zechariah, as the angel said: the angel said, *I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news that they were to be the parents of John the Baptist, Forerunner of the Messiah.*
- We also celebrate this month the Solemnity of Joseph, who received from an angel the good news that Mary, his betrothed, had not been playing him false, as appeared to be the case, but was instead the chosen vessel of God Himself for the salvation of the world.
- At the beginning of our Lord's ministry, He gave His job description: *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has appointed me to preach Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the downtrodden will be freed from their oppressors, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come.*

During this Lent let us constantly remember that we are charged with announcing good news from God. The Chronicler and the Psalmist both encourage us to proclaim everywhere and every day the good news that God saves. Our society certainly needs to hear it!

Revised New American Bible Released on Ash Wednesday



The New American Bible, Revised Edition was made available March 9, Ash Wednesday. The new translation aims for better accuracy, better adaptation to contemporary English, and easy singing or recitation of the Psalms.

The new edition is available in a variety of print, audio and electronic formats, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops reports.

The translation takes into account both advances in the study of the biblical languages and changes in the English language. It also takes into account newly discovered and more accurate ancient manuscripts so that the best possible text is used.

The revised edition includes the first revised translation of the Old Testament since 1970 and a complete revision of the Psalter. Special effort was made in translating the Psalter to provide a "smooth, rhythmic translation" for easy singing and to retain the concrete imagery of the Hebrew text, the U.S. bishops' conference explains.

The New American Bible, Revised Edition is approved for private use and study and will not be used for the Mass, which uses an earlier modified version.

Lenten Alms

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

Desert Wisdom - Temptations can be a Blessing

An old man said, "For nine years a brother was tempted in thought to the point of despairing of his salvation, and being scrupulous he condemned himself, saying, 'I have lost my soul, and since I am lost I shall go back to the world.' But while he was on the way, a voice came to him on the road, which said, 'These nine years which you have been tempted have been crowns for you; go back to your place, and I will allay these thoughts: Understand that it is not good for someone to despair of himself because of his temptations; rather, temptations procure crowns for us if we use them well.'"



What would you like to see in the newsletter?

A lot has been happening behind the scenes with this monthly newsletter. Several of us have volunteered to help George K. Cobb, the Director of Oblates, publish it. The February edition contained the first article by Angie Forde, ObISB, who will be writing monthly. Gary Nielson, ObISB, is also writing. Novice Philip McGee is handling layout. Cobb will be Editor.

This also presents an opportunity for you to weigh in with your thoughts about what you'd like to see in the newsletter. wide open for you to write for it, too.

Please provide your feedback. And of course, the door is wide open for you to write for it, too.

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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>

MARCH

- 3 Katharine Drexel
- 4 Casimir
- 7 Perpetua & Felicity
- 8 John of God
- 9 Ash Wednesday (Wednesday of week IV)
- 17 First Sunday of Lent (Week I)
- 18 Cyril of Jerusalem
- 19 Joseph, husband of the Bl. Virgin Mary
- 20 Second Sunday of Lent (Week II)
- 21 Passing of St. Benedict
- 23 Toribio de Mogrovejo
- 25 Annunciation of the Lord
- 27 Third Sunday of Lent (Week III)
- 28 Anniversary of Dedication of Belmont Abbey

APRIL

- 2 Francis of Paola
- 3 Fourth Sunday of Lent (Week IV)
- 4 Isidore
- 5 Vincent Ferrer
- 7 John Baptist de la Salle
- 10 Fifth Sunday of Lent (Week V)
- 11 Stanislaus
- 13 Martin
- 17 Palm Sunday (Week II)
- 22 Good Friday
- 23 Adalbert
- 23 George
- 24 Easter Sunday (Psalms for the Octave of Easter)
- 25 Mark
- 28 Peter Chanel; Louis Mary de Montfort

Meeting in April

Oblates will meet in April on the 17th. Should you have any questions, please contact:

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