



Oblates of St. Benedict Belmont Abbey

September, 2011



September Meeting

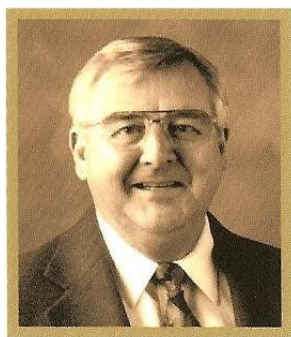
The next Oblate meeting is on September 18, the third Sunday of the month, and will begin at 3 p.m. in the Abbey Church with Mass. Abbot Placid will be principal celebrant and will receive the new Oblates' and Novices' Oblations.

If you are making your novice or final oblation for the first time, please notify George Cobb, OblSB, by email immediately (gkcobb0428@gmail.com) or send a request to Gail Warlick, Office of the Abbot, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Road, Belmont, NC 28012 no later than September 14.

Oblates who are present will also renew their Oblations at that time. Oblates who cannot attend because of health and distance need to send in the enclosed Oblation renewal form to maintain their name on the mailing list. If you wish to make either your first or final Oblation, please fill out the enclosed form and mail to the Abbey no later than September 14.

Former Belmont Abbey president dies

Former Belmont Abbey College President Robert Preston died at noon on Saturday, Aug. 20 in High Point of pancreatic cancer, said his wife, Helen, of 53 years.



She said Preston, 80, found out he had terminal pancreatic cancer on July 26 after a visit to the doctors' office. He attended a family reunion in the western part of the United States in July when he began not feeling well. He was diagnosed shortly after returning to their apartment in a High

Point retirement community. Helen Preston said her husband's cancer diagnosis and death happened "very fast."

He graduated from Belmont Abbey College in 1953 and would go on to serve as president from 1995-2001. The Prestons moved from their home at Lake Wylie, S.C., to High Point in 2008.

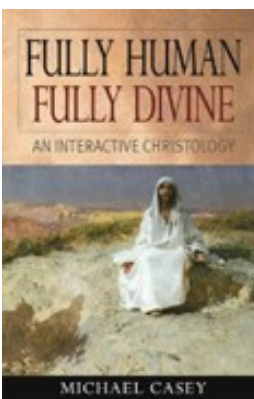
Oblate study for 2011 and 2012

After discussing it with Abbot Placid and with his approval, the Oblates are invited during this year to read *Toward God* by Fr. Michael Casey, OSCO. This will be the book discussed at the meetings starting in October.

First year Oblate novices will be reading *Finding Sanctuary* by Abbot Christopher Jamison (ISBN: 13:978-0814631683) while second year Oblate novices will begin *Cherish Christ Above All* (ISBN: 13:978-0970821621) by Fr. Christopher Dumm, OSB. First and second year Oblate novices will meet in the Gallagher Room one hour before regular meetings starting in October.

Keeping the adoration chapel open

Kenneth Davison, vice president of College Relations at Belmont Abbey, is asking for our help in keeping the St. Joseph Adoration Chapel on campus open. Building the chapel began five years ago and Davison says it is in constant use with students and people from the local community. He notes that it costs \$55 per day on average to keep the Adoration Chapel open and is asking people to support it for a day or provide for a "half day" with a gift of \$27. If interested, send to the Office of Alumni Relations, Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont Mt. Holly Road, Belmont, NC 28012-9987.



Michael Casey on "Fully Human, Fully Divine"

Below is an interview of Fr. Casey January, 2010:

Fully Human, Fully Divine, which I think is my best book, is really just closely tied to the Gospel [of Mark] but it's also, in a very clear way, a continuation, if I wanted to be ambitious, of what the Cistercian Fathers were doing. By taking

the Scriptures and interpreting them in a behavioristic kind of light and drawing in our own contemporary experience. . . . It's being read in a lot of Benedictian refectories. The two biggest Benedictian communities

in this country, which is Saint Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, Pennsylvania and Saint John's Collegeville, in both, every monk received a copy of it. It's unabashedly from the Cistercian end of the Benedictian spectrum, it's talking about Cistercian values, but I was interested in just the wide spread acceptance of what I had to say. It tells me to trust in my own instincts. To say what I want to say and if people want to hear it, they will hear it. Perhaps, as often happens, they will hear more than I thought I was saying. So it's a very monastic book which has had a wide readership. It's a bit the same with Thomas Merton. His most monastic writings are the one that people seem to enjoy the most.

Question: Are your non-monastic readers challenged by your work?

Fr Michael Casey: I hope so, I suspect so. They try to put my writings into their context. I think that's far more realistic for the reader to put it into his or her context than for me to try and imagine where the reader might be and try to talk to that imaginary person. Read the complete interview at <http://oblatesosbbelmont.org/2011/08/18/michael-casey-on-fully-human-fully-divine/>



Desert Wisdom: If you do not strive, you will not find

Look what good things occur to someone as a result of divine care! Sometimes, when a person is on his knees at the time of prayer, with his hands outspread or extended heavenwards, his eyes gazing on the Cross, and

with the whole movement of his mind, as it were, stretched towards God in entreaty, during the time while such a person is thus engaged in supplication and groanings, all of a sudden a fountain of sweetness is stirred up from his heart. His limbs become feeble, his sight dim, he bows his head; his thoughts are altered and he can no longer kneel on the ground as a result of the exultation at the sign of grace which surges through his entire body.

Therefore, my reader, pay attention to what you are reading. Indeed, can such things as these be known from writings in ink? Can the taste of honey pass over from a written text to the palate of the reader?

If you do not strive, you will not find; and if you do not knock eagerly at the door and keep long vigil before it, you will not receive an answer.

- *St. Isaac the Syrian (of Nineveh), 7th century*

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

- 3 Gregory the Great, Feast.
- 4 Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week III)
- 8 Birth of the Virgin Mary. Feast.
- 11 Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week IV)
- 13 John Chrysostom, Memorial.
- 14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Feast.
- 15 Our Lady of Sorrows, Memorial.
- 16 Cornelius and Cyprian, Memorial.
- 18 Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week I)
- 20 Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang, and their Companions, Memorial.
- 21 Matthew, Feast.
- 23 Pio of Pietrelcina, Memorial.
- 25 Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary (Week II)
- 27 Vincent de Paul, Memorial
- 29 Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels. Feast.
- 30 Jerome, Presbyter, Doctor of the Church. Memorial.

OCTOBER

- 1 Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Memorial.
- 2 Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time. (Week III)
- 4 Francis of Assisi, Memorial.
- 6 Bruno, Presbyter, Memorial.
- 7 Our Lady of the Rosary. Memorial.
- 9 Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time. (Week IV)
- 15 Teresa of Jesus, Memorial.
- 16 Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time. (Week I)

Meeting in October

Oblates will meet in October on the 16th. Should you have any questions, please contact:

George K. Cobb, OblSB, Belmont Abbey Monastery
100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Road, Belmont, NC 28012
gkcobb0428@gmail.com.



Each Oblate should renew their oblation once a year. If you do not plan on attending the meeting on September 18, please renew your Oblation privately using the following form and sign below it:

Renewal of Oblation

I renew my oblation of St. Benedict for the community of Mary, Help of Christians Abbey and promise again to serve God and all people according to the Rule of St. Benedict.

God, most compassionate and loving, strengthen me in my commitment to follow you in the way of St. Benedict. Through my daily prayer and work may I be inspired to live in Christ and to bring his love to the world and his peace to all hearts. I make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Signature

Date

Name (Printed or typed)

Mailing List

The Oblate community would like to create a directory to improve communication. The directory would include Name, Mailing address, phone number and email address. If you would like to be included in the directory please check here:

Please take a moment and update your email address: _____

Would you prefer to receive the newsletter by email (Please check only one)? Yes No

Name (Printed or typed)

Please return this form *no later* than September 21, 2011 to:

Director of Oblates,
Belmont Abbey Monastery
100 Belmont-Mount Holly Road
Belmont, NC 28012