



Oblates of St. Benedict Belmont Abbey

October, 2011



October Meeting

The next Oblate meeting is on Sunday, October 16 at 3:30 p.m. in the Gallagher Room.

First year Oblate novices will discuss “Part One: Everyday Life” and “Step 1” in “Finding Sanctuary” by Abbot Christopher Jamison (ISBN:13:978-0814631683) while second year Oblate novices will discuss the first chapter, “The Heart of Benedict’s Rule” in “Cherish Christ Above All” (ISBN: 13:978-0970821621) by Fr. Christopher Dumm, OSB.

Oblates are invited to read the first chapter of “Toward God” by Fr. Michael Casey, OSCO.

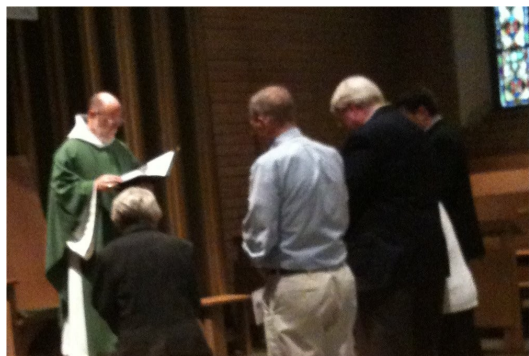
First and second year Oblate novices will meet in the Gallagher Room one hour before regular meetings.

Final oblation

Congratulations to Alice Broome, Philip McGee, Maureen Setlock, Gary Eugene Varnadore and Michael Williams. All six made their final oblation to Abbot Placid Solari Sept. 18, 2011.

Becoming novices were Cat Cambareri, Tiffany Galozzi, Karen Rubbo and Christine Vasar.

They will enter a 2-year program that will begin with discussing the book “Finding Sanctuary: Monastic Steps for Everyday Life,” by Abbot Christopher Jamison.



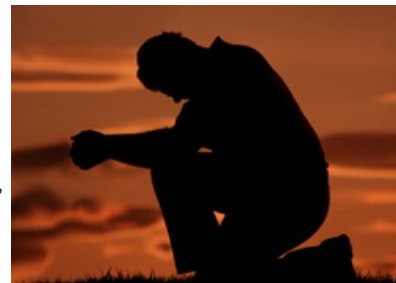
Alice Broome, Philip McGee, Maureen Setlock, Gary Eugene Varnadore and Michael Williams making their final oblation to Abbot Placid Solari Sept. 18, 2011

Oblate Communication

If any Oblates who have made their final Oblation have either lost their yellow enrollment card or need it replaced, please contact either Gail Warlick at the Abbey at gailwarlick@bac.edu or George Cobb at gkcobb0428@gmail.com. Email communication through the prayer line should be used for only prayer requests and official emails should be sent to either Gail or George.

Walking Humbly with God

We are all familiar with the well-loved and often quoted verse from the prophet Micah: He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the



LORD require of you but to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8). We usually then proceed to mount our soapboxes for our favorite cause concerning social justice or charitable acts. Very rarely do we explore the implications of “walk humbly”, perhaps because the “humbly” part is not at all popular in the culture of 21st century America.

The Hebrew root of the word translated “humbly”, tsana, describes a lifestyle that is not proud, not self-willed, and not arrogant. Humbly means that we are not primarily preoccupied with ourselves and how things look for us; instead, we focus on people other than ourselves, and think about the concerns of others.

Walking humbly means emulating St John the Baptist, who said: “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30). Walking humbly means emulating Jesus, who “did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but humbled himself, becoming obedient unto death” (Phil 2:8).

Humility involves practicing the art of listening to another: I forget myself for a few moments and actually focus on hearing what another person is saying to me, and the cares and experiences behind their words. It involves listening to God: I stop reviewing what I

think I need and actually listen to what God is saying to me through his Word.

I commend to our use an old Litany of Humility that asks for our Lord's assistance in humbly following in His footsteps and casting aside, or at least offering up to Him, all those nagging doubts and fears that come with our self-centeredness:

O Jesus! meek and humble of heart, Hear me.
From the desire of being esteemed,
Deliver me, Jesus. (repeat after each line)
From the desire of being loved,
From the desire of being extolled,
From the desire of being honored,
From the desire of being praised,
From the desire of being preferred to others,
From the desire of being consulted,
From the desire of being approved,

From the fear of being humiliated,
From the fear of being despised,
From the fear of suffering rebukes,
From the fear of being calumniated,
From the fear of being forgotten,
From the fear of being ridiculed,
From the fear of being wronged,
From the fear of being suspected,
Deliver me, Jesus.

This 1963 prayer by Cardinal del Val, secretary of state to Pope Saint Pius X from the prayer book for Jesuits, puts us in tune with our Lord's famous Gospel message "He who exalts himself will be humbled and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Matt 23:12). We will then be equipped to take the first step in our humble walk with our God.

-- Angie Forde

"It is time once again for the Church resolutely to set aside her worldliness"

It is time once again for the Church resolutely to set aside her worldliness. That does not mean withdrawing from the world. A Church relieved of the burden of worldliness is in a position, not least through her charitable activities, to mediate the life-giving strength of the Christian faith to those in need, to sufferers and to their careers. "For the Church, charity is not a kind of welfare activity which could equally well be left to others, but



is a part of her nature, an indispensable expression of her very being" (*Deus Caritas Est*, 25). At the same time, though, the Church's charitable activity also needs to be constantly exposed to the demands of due detachment from worldliness, if it is not to wither away at the roots in the face of increasing erosion of its ecclesial character. Only a profound relationship with God makes it possible to reach out fully towards others, just as a lack of out-reach towards neighbour impoverishes one's relationship with God.

- Pope Benedict XVI, September 25, 2011

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/>.

OCTOBER

16 Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time. (Week I)
17 Ignatius of Antioch, Memorial

18 Luke, Evangelist. Feast.
23 Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week II)
28 Simon and Jude, Apostles. Feast.
30 Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time. (Week III)

NOVEMBER

1 All Saints. Solemnity.
2 Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, Memorial
4 Charles Borromeo, Bishop. Memorial.
6 Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week IV)
9 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome. Feast.
10 Leo the Great, Pope, Doctor of the Church. Memorial.
11 Martin of Tours, Bishop. Feast.
13 Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time. (Week I)
16 Gertrude the Great, Memorial.
20 Christ the King. Solemnity. (Week II)
21 Presentation of the Virgin Mary, Memorial
22 Cecilia, Memorial.
24 Andrew Dung-lac and His Companions, Memorial.

SEASON OF ADVENT

27 First Sunday of Advent (Week I)
30 Red Mon. Andrew,* Apostle. Feast.

Meeting in November

Oblates will meet in November on the 20th. Should you have any questions, please contact:
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gkcobb0428@gmail.com.