

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN. UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN.

**Oblates of St. Benedict
Belmont Abbey**

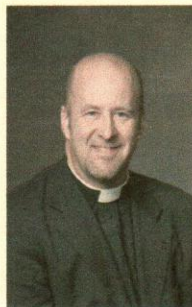
December, 2011

Advent Morning Of Reflection

There will be no oblate meeting in December since it is so close to Christmas. Instead, oblates and novices are encouraged to attend a very special Advent Morning of Reflection Dec. 3 beginning at 9 a.m. in the Haid Theatre at Belmont Abbey College.

Father Dwight Longenecker will present two inspiring talks exploring four powerful witnesses to the Incarnation of the Word among us:

- The Priest, Zechariah: the father of John the Baptist, who responds with doubt and fear to the angel of the Lord.
- The Prophet, John the Baptist: the forerunner of Christ who responds to the Word Incarnate with courageous obedience and reverence.
- The Angel Gabriel: who brings the Word of God to the Blessed Virgin.
- The Blessed Virgin: who responds to the Word with the simple obedience of innocence.



Father Longenecker is a married former Anglican priest who converted to the Catholic faith in 1995 and was ordained a Catholic priest in 2006. He now serves Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Parish in Greenville, S.C. He is the author of ten books, including *Listen My Son*, *St. Benedict and St. Therese*, *More Christianity*, *Adventures in*

Orthodoxy and *The Gargoyle Code*. He has appeared numerous times on EWTN and is a popular speaker and retreat leader.

Admission is a \$10 tax-deductible donation to the College.

The Abbey seating capacity is limited (less than 200) so please register online by Dec. 1 at <http://www.belmontabbeycollege.edu/> under the Alumni Events Calendar.

If you have any questions, please contact Jillian Maisano at 704-461-6869.

Message from St. Benedict: Slow down, be quiet and pay attention

The word Advent is derived from two Latin words: ad venire, which mean, "to come towards.. During the four weeks of Advent, we contemplate the coming towards us of the One who is Lord of Lords and King of Kings. As with so many of the activities of God, who was and who is and who is to be, this coming occurs in three tenses.

Past: Jesus the Christ came in history as a baby in Bethlehem, born into poverty. He grew up and gave us an example of Kingdom living, often rebelling against the norms of His time and culture. He died, and all seemed lost. He rose again, defeating the powers of oppression, death and darkness; He ascended to the Father, and there He ever lives, interceding for us.

Present: Christ comes to us daily, with His mercies that are "new every morning," in our neighbors, in the Church and especially in the Sacraments. He lives in us by His Spirit within us, given to us in our Baptism, and remakes us in His own glorious image, transforming us into the likeness of God that we were designed to be.

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Future: Christ shall come again in glory, “with clouds,” “with His holy angels,” “with the sound of the trumpet,” “to judge the living and the dead.”

During Advent, as we prepare for Christ’s coming, we run the risk of either being sentimentally fixated on an idealized past, wishing we could have been present at the manger in Bethlehem (without the least idea of what that was *really* like); or of consuming ourselves with longing for (or dreading) the future, with all those Apocalyptic images. In so doing, we can miss the wonders of the present; the many ways in which our King comes into our lives each day.

The culture around us is preparing too – for Santa Claus, over-indulgence and the post-season sales. This preparation involves rushing around madly, and usually results in physical and emotional exhaustion, followed by disappointment when the “season” does not result in the ecstasy promised by the commercials.

In the midst of this, the Church issues its counter-cultural call for a different kind of preparation, that sounds amazingly like the invitation from St Benedict: Slow down, be quiet and pay attention. Thus may we learn from the past to recognize Christ in our present lives, and be ready at any moment for that final Coming.

Marana tha! Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

- *Angie Forde*

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/>.

NOVEMBER

SEASON OF ADVENT

27 First Sunday of Advent (WEEK I)

30 Red Mon. Andrew, * Apostle. Feast.

DECEMBER

3 Francis Xavier, Memorial

4 Second Sunday of Advent (WEEK II)

7 Ambrose, Memorial

8 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity

11 Third Sunday of Advent; (WEEK III)

12 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Memorial

13 Lucy, Memorial

14 John of the Cross, Memorial

18 Fourth Sunday of Advent (WEEK IV)

25 Christmas Day, Solemnity (WEEK I)

26 Stephen, Feast

27 John, apostle, Feast

28 Holy Innocents, Feast

30 Holy Family

JANUARY

1 Mary, the Mother of God, Solemnity

8 Epiphany (WEEK I)

9 Baptism of the Lord, Feast

15 Maurus and Placid, Patron of Oblates, Abbot

Placid's name day, Memorial

Meeting in January

Oblates will meet in January on the 15th. 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.

The meeting will be held in the Gallagher Room.

Oblate novices may continue reviewing “Part One: Everyday Life” in “Finding Sanctuary” by Abbot Christopher Jamison (ISBN:13:978-0814631683).

Brother Edward asked that the oblates continue reading and reflecting on four items for the meeting:

- 1) Chapter 9 on short prayer from “Toward God” by Fr. Michael Casey, OSCO. (Brother Edward said he realizes he is jumping around the chapters, but just flow with it.)
- 2) The prologue to The Rule.
- 3) The first chapter of “The Life of Our Most Holy Father Saint Benedict.”
- 4) The Lord’s Prayer, to chew on its meaning and context related to the other readings.

Free copies of “The Life” were distributed to oblates who attended the last meeting. It is freely available on the Internet -- you can find it by googling the title -- and inexpensively priced at Amazon.com.

First year oblate novices will meet in the Gallagher Room one hour before regular meetings.

