



Oblates of St. Benedict Belmont Abbey

April, 2012



Meeting in April

Oblates will meet on the third Sunday in April on the 15th. The meeting will be held as usual in the Gallagher Room.

Brother Edward asked that the oblates and novices continue reading and reflecting on Chapter 3 in Michael Casey's "Toward God." He also asks that we chew on the meaning of the Lord's Prayer and its context related to the other readings.

Oblate novices will discuss "Part Two: Monastic Steps, Step 4: Humility" in "Finding Sanctuary" by Abbot Christopher Jamison. Novices will meet in the Gallagher Room one hour before the regular meeting.

Oblate plans pilgrimage to eastern European monasteries

Entirely by the grace of God, I have been planning a 14-week pilgrimage into eastern Europe this spring and summer. The overall intent is to allow the Holy Spirit to draw me closer to Him and to immerse myself in some of that peace and joy He so abundantly promises us. In addition to spending prayerful retreats in several monasteries, I will be visiting some towns and places where I have lived while teaching in eastern Europe in years past and which are very dear to my heart. During my travels, it is also, quite likely, I will indulge in some good Czech beers.

My pilgrimage begins with a six-day retreat at a new Benedictine monastery in central Slovakia. I then take a train into the Czech Republic where I will spend a week at a Trappist house and then a week at an ancient Norbertine monastery. Following a few "free" days, I travel into southern Germany where I will stay at two large Benedictine houses. I meet up with my wife and her sister in Stuttgart in late June, and we will pleasure travel in western Germany for two weeks. Then I fly to Lithuania where I spend time at a Benedictine monastery and a Carmelite convent, both, of which, I have made retreats at before. I end my trip with a final two weeks of peace, solitude, and silence doing a rural home-stay on an isolated lake in the far northeastern corner of Poland and then a final week of retreat at another Benedictine house in central Poland.

If my fellow oblates are interested, I would be pleased to make a presentation of my pilgrimage at one of our meetings in the fall or winter.

- Richard Hansgen

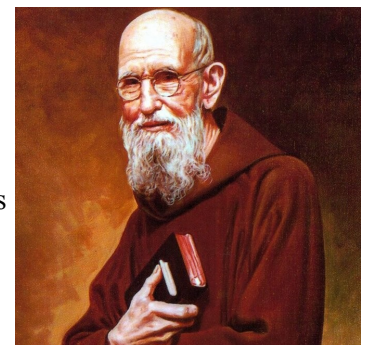
Fr. Solanus Casey Guild: An Interview with Br. Edward



Br. Edward

Brother Edward launched the Belmont Abbey's chapter of the Fr. Solanus Casey Guild last fall which is dedicated to the beatification of Fr. Solanus Casey, who performed many miracles. A Capuchin priest, Casey became the first United States-born man formally to be declared "Venerable" by the Roman Catholic Church.

We are all fans of saints and their miracles. Fr. Solanus is no exception. A student at our college, whose name Br. Edward did not disclose to protect his privacy, has an uncle who was a Capuchin in seminary. Coincidentally, or as Br. Edward says "God-incidentally", Fr. Solanus was visiting in the same seminary during the latter stage of his life. Having heard about Fr. Solanus's miracles, the uncle told Fr. Solanus that his grandmother had terminal cancer. Fr. Solanus said to take him to her. He prayed for her, and two days later the doctor said that there was no need for her to be in the hospital anymore and that she was completely cured. Among Fr. Solanus' other miracles are over 700 cases of healing, including blindness and cancer.



Fr. Solanus

"What really drew me to Fr. Solanus was the fact that he was so obedient. His humility is what led him to perform miracles," says Br. Edward. Speaking of Fr.

Solanus' spirit of humble recollection, Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR, an EWTN TV show host, once remarked that Fr. Solanus' holiness surpassed even that of John Paul II and Mother Teresa.

According to www.solanuscasey.org. The Guild was born on May 8, 1960 when a group of Fr. Solanus' friends met to discuss organizing a guild in his memory. Soon many friends of Fr. Solanus asked to join. Today, over 100,000 members span 43 countries.

When someone comes to visit the guild, Br. Edward usually asks "Have you dropped your rock yet?" The rock symbolizes the heavy burden or load of temptations, anxieties and distractions that we all carry around with us. Once you say yes to Jesus and thanks to God, it's time to drop that backpack, or rock, and the burden is replaced with happiness.

One of Fr. Solanus's favorite sayings was that, "Every day is Christmas. Christ child is born in your heart every day." He proved this by his strong faith in God and by renewing his faith every day. After struggling through seminary, Fr. Solanus was finally ordained as a simplex priest, a man in holy orders who can celebrate Mass but not hear confessions or give homilies.

The guild meets every first Sunday of every month at 2 p.m. in the Mezzanine on the second floor of the Student Commons at Belmont Abbey. Several oblates have become members.

Reprinted from The Crusader Online, the Belmont Abbey College student publication. The complete article is online at:

<http://thecrusaderonline.com/news/3047-fr-solanus-casey-guild-interview-with-br-edward.html>

Link to a YouTube interview with Br. Edward:
<http://bit.ly/HJQWWn>

- Anthony Perlas

We are not so much called to do as to become

The work to which God directs us is not an external task waiting for someone to come along and do it. It is not as though God has a roster of duties with a name placed beside each one of them. The work God gives us is not primarily determined by external factors. The work of God is to bring to actuality all the potential inherent in our individual human nature. We are not so

much called to do as to become. Our primary God-given task is to become the person whom God has called into being.

*- Michael Casey,
OSCO in "The Road to Eternal Life"*

Meeting in May

Oblates will meet in May on the 20th. Should you have any questions, please contact:

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