



Oblates of St. Benedict Belmont Abbey

June, 2012



Fr. Arthur, O.S.B. talked to oblates in the Gallagher Room at the Belmont Abbey May 20. He spoke on praying The Divine Office. He noted that the psalms hint about salvation history; they prophesy about Christ and New Testament happenings and teachings -- all this if we are alert.

Meeting in June

Oblates will meet in June on the 17th. Note: Brother Edward plans to take oblates and novices on a tour of the monastery and Basilica during the June meeting. So oblates need to meet in the Basilica at 3:30 pm.

Oblate novices will continue discussing "Part Two: Monastic Steps, Step 5: Community" in "Finding Sanctuary" by Abbot Christopher Jamison. Novices will meet in the Gallagher Room one hour before the regular meeting.

Belmont Abbey's oldest monk, Father Matthew McSorley, passes away

Father Matthew McSorley, O.S.B., the senior professed monk of our community, died peacefully at the abbey on Thursday, May 24, our patronal feast of Mary Help of Christians. The son of the late John and Mary McSorley, he was born on April 10, 1921 in Richmond, Virginia, and given the name Thomas. Family circumstances brought about moves to Baltimore, Maryland, and Cleveland, Ohio, but he graduated from Benedictine High School in Richmond. After a brief period at the University of Richmond, he transferred to Belmont Abbey College in 1941. He made his novitiate for Belmont Abbey at Saint Vincent Archabbey, professing

triennial vows on July 2, 1943. He was solemnly professed in 1946 and was ordained a priest at the cathedral in Richmond, Virginia, on June 4, 1949.

Father Matthew earned his Bachelor's Degree from Saint Benedict's College, Atchison, Kansas, in 1945 and his Master's Degree from Villanova University. He pursued advanced studies at New York University. He taught in the English Department at Belmont Abbey College from 1945 until 1979, earning a reputation as a skilled and demanding teacher. Father Matthew was a mentor to countless students, many of whom attribute their subsequent professional careers and success to his encouragement. He also acquired a deserved reputation as a formidable competitor on the handball and tennis courts.

From 1949 until his retirement from active ministry in the 1990s, Father Matthew served the Catholics in Belmont and, especially, at Saint Helen's Church in Spencer Mountain. He is remembered with affection and gratitude by the African American communities in both places for his solicitude and his promotion of civil rights and integration. At Belmont's Martin Luther King Day celebration in 2008, Father Matthew received the Humanitarian Award for his outstanding service.

Father Matthew is survived by the monks of Belmont Abbey, by his sister, Sister Ellen McSorley, R.S.M., and by his niece, Charlene Curry. His last act of service was to donate his body to the medical school at Duke University. A Funeral Mass was celebrated by the monastic community on May 24. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, June 2. In your kindness, we ask that you please offer the customary suffrages for the deceased monks of our Congregation.

- *Christopher Lux*

Pilgrimage to eastern European monasteries

April 29, Sunday

Monastery of the Lord's Resurrection
Sampor, Slovakia

Could there be a more perfect Sunday morning and a more peaceful setting on this Earth than where I am. If so, I cannot imagine such. As I sit in the guest's refectory over my kava and doing my Lectio Divina, the pretty village of Sampor with its red-tile roofs spreads itself out immediately below me a mere 200 meters from the monastery. On the distant horizon, looms the snow-capped Slovakian Ore Mountains, a part of the great Carpathian chain, and, along that chain in Slovakia, Poland, and Romania, I have spent many other prayerful and restoring days.

On yon sun-lit hillside, a large herd of sheep move ever so slowly as they graze in the green pasture attended and watched over by their shepherd and his dog. What an analogy, as I know my Good Shepherd is guiding me in my own green pastures on this pilgrimage and in every day of my life. And, in my heart, rests an infinitely wise and good God and, what a wonder, to know that I am "the object of His benevolence and tender care."

O Lord, why hast Thou brought me to this holy and beautiful place and in the midst of 11 Benedictine monks and 18 visiting Sisters of the Holy Cross? Why me Lord, by what justice do I deserve to be here in the presence of these consecrated religious and even, Lord, in Thy presence? Only by Thy exceeding great mercy grace, Lord Jesus, only by Thy infathomable Wisdom, and by Thy infinite circumspection.

Following Compline last night, the lights in the church were dimmed, and a few of the monks and all of the nuns remained in the dark and silent sanctuary to pray. One of the nuns walked over to the side chapel that is devoted to Mary and knelt before her image and prayed. There is an act of pure love. There is an outward sign of what the inward religious life is all about. For some reason, my thoughts turned to my good nephew, Joe, and to his Christian mother and father, to my dear wife who made this trip possible, and to this holy nun, and a flood of tears of joy and love fell from my eyes. Yes, that is love. That is God at work in my life.

3.00 Vigils Only on Sundays and Feast Days
5.30 Lauds
6.30 Mass
7.30 Breakfast In the guest's refectory
12:20 Office of Readings
13.00 Dinner In the monk's refectory
14.30 None Dayprayer
17.00 Vespers
18.30 Supper In the guest's refectory
20.00 Compline
The Great Silence

- *Richard Hansgen, ObISB*

St. Hildegard of Bingen, OSB, to be declared Doctor of the Church

Pope Benedict XVI has announced that he will declare St. Hildegard of Bingen and St. John of Avila as Doctors of the Church on Oct. 7 2012 at the beginning of this year's Synod of Bishops in Rome.

St. John of Avila was a 16th century Spanish priest, mystic, preacher and scholar. Pope Benedict announced his intention to name him a Doctor of the Church at World Youth Day in Madrid last August but had not set a specific date for doing so. St. Hildegard was a 12th century German nun, writer, composer, philosopher and mystic, as well as an abbess and founder of several monasteries. This month Pope Benedict formally added her to the Church's roster of saints, extending her liturgical feast throughout the world.

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/>.

JUNE

- 15 Sacred Heart of Jesus Feast
- 16 Immaculate Heart of Mary Memorial
- 17 11th Sunday of Ordinary Time Solemnity (Week III)
- 19 Romuald Memorial
- 21 Aloysius Gonzaga Memorial
- 24 Nativity of John the Baptist Solemnity (Week IV)
- 28 Irenaeus Memorial
- 29 Peter & Paul Feast

JULY

- 1 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week I)
- 3 Thomas Memorial
- 8 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Solemnity (Week II)
- 11 Benedict, Patriarch of Western Monasticism Feast
- 13 Henry, Emperor, Co-Patron of Oblates Opt. Memorial
- 15 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Solemnity (Week III)
- 22 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Solemnity (Week IV)
- 25 James Feast
- 26 Joachim & Anne, parents of the Bl. Virgin Mary Mem
- 29 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Solemnity (Week I)
- 31 Ignatius of Loyola Memorial

Meeting in September

Oblates will meet in September on the 16th. There will be no meetings in July or August. Mass will be held so we'll all need to meet in the Basilica. Should you have any questions, please contact:

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