



Oblates of St. Benedict Belmont Abbey

May, 2012



Meeting in May

Oblates will meet on the third Sunday in May on the 20th. The meeting will be held as usual in the Gallagher Room.

Father Arthur will talk to the oblates about praying the Divine Office. Brother Edward, who will be away, asked that the oblates and novices continue reading and reflecting on Chapter 3 in Michael Casey's "Toward God."

Oblate novices will continue discussing "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.

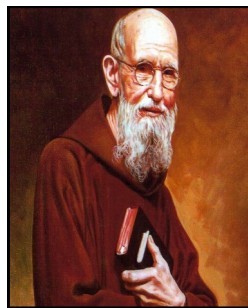
Oblate plans pilgrimage to eastern European monasteries

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

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.

"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.solanuscasy.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. Organized with the approval of the Capuchin Provincial Superiors, a Board of Officers was elected. 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.

Portions 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

WWJD: What was Jesus doing?

A clergy friend of mine remarked the other day that he found it difficult to preach during the Easter season – the excitement of the big day is past, he said, but the Lord has not yet ascended, and the Spirit has not yet come. For these 40 days until the Ascension, Jesus just keeps on popping up to convince the disciples that He was alive, and they keep on not getting it.

This got me thinking: what was really going on during those 40 days? We have done a good job documenting the events of the 40 days of Lent, especially Holy Week, but what about the first 40 days of Easter? What was Jesus doing? Among other things ...

He appeared to Mary Magdalen. Note that she was not chosen as the Apostle of the Resurrection because she was a woman, as certain feminists like to claim, or because she was Jesus' lover, as says a currently popular lie. She was chosen to be the first bearer of the Good News because she was the first one to show up at the tomb, intent on doing her duty even when it seemed futile. And great indeed was her reward. May we, like Mary, continue to do our duty, even when we are tired, discouraged, unappreciated, unrecognized, and just don't feel like being bothered any more. Our reward, like hers, will be an encounter with the Risen Christ.

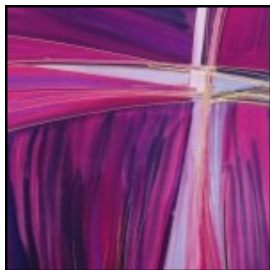
He presented the needed evidence of His Resurrection to Peter and John, two members on His inner circle, who came to check up on the incredible tale of Mary M. May we, like Peter and John, not dismiss without checking, even when we find the claims incredible. Remember, we serve an incredible Lord.

He dealt gently with Thomas' doubts, showing him by the evidence of the wounds in His hands and side that both Crucifixion and Resurrection were real. To this day there are those who "can't believe in a God who ..." But this is the God we have, and still He deals gently with our doubts and fears, showing us the wounds in His Body. Let us "touch and see" that it is He.

He explained the Scriptures to the Emmaus disciples – and also to us. Rather than joining the ranks of those "scholars" who tell us that the Gospels are an invention of the Evangelists (have you heard the latest, that the Shroud is the Resurrection?), let us continue to look to the Lord, who "opens our minds to understand the Scriptures."

What was Jesus doing? He was busy!!

-- Angie Forde



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"

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/>.

MAY

- 2 Athanasius Memorial
- 3 Philip & James Feast
- 6 Fifth Sunday of Easter (Week I)
- 11 Odo, Maiolus, Odilo, Hugh and Peter the Venerable Memorial
- 13 Sixth Sunday of Easter (Week II)
- 14 Matthias Feast
- 15 Pachomius Memorial
- 18 Begin Novena to the Holy Spirit in anticipation of Pentecost
- 20 Ascension of the Lord (Week III)
- 24 Mary, Help of Christians Solemnity
- 25 Bede the Venerable Memorial
- 27 Pentecost Solemnity
- 28 Ordinary Time begins(Week I)
- 31 The Visitation of the Virgin Mary to Elizabeth Feast

JUNE

- 1 Justin Memorial
- 3 Trinity Sunday (Week II)
- 5 Boniface Memorial
- 10 Corpus Christi (Week III)
- 11 Barnabas Memorial
- 13 Anthony of Padua Memorial
- 15 Sacred Heart of Jesus Feast
- 16 Immaculate Heart of Mary Memorial
- 17 11th Sunday of Ordinary Time
- 19 Romuald Memorial
- 21 Aloysius Gonzaga Memorial
- 24 Sunday: Nativity of John the Baptist Solemnity (Week IV)

Novena Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love.

V. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

R. And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise and ever to re-joyce in His consolation. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray. O Holy Spirit, divine Spirit of light and love, I consecrate to you my understanding, my heart, my will, my whole being for time and for eternity. May my understanding always be submissive to your heavenly inspirations and to the teachings of the Holy Catholic Church, of which you are the infallible Guide; may my heart ever be inflamed with love of God and of my neighbor; may my will always conform to the divine will, and may my whole life be a faithful imitation of the life and virtues of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to whom be honor and glory forever. Amen.

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. Should you have any questions, please contact:

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