



Oblates of St. Benedict Belmont Abbey

May, 2013



Meeting in May

Oblates will meet in May on the 19th.

At the last meeting, Oblates asked questions about the purpose and use of relics. So this month, George Cobb, OblSB, will lead a discussion about relics and their importance in Christian faith and tradition. Often misunderstood, the talk will center on the history of maintaining relics and their proper use in the modern Church. The talk will begin at 3:30 p.m. in the Gallagher Room on the first floor of Stowe Hall at Belmont Abbey. (For a cool panoramic photo of the Gallagher Room, type this URL into your browser: <http://bit.ly/12jpAkl>.)

First year novices will gather at 2:30 p.m. in the Gallagher Room. They will continue reading *Finding Sanctuary: Monastic Steps for Everyday Life* by Abbot Christopher Jamison. They should continue to read "Step Two: Contemplation of Part Two: Monastic Steps" in the Jamison book.

Second year novices will also meet to continue with their discussion of the rule of St. Benedict, in particular steps 2-4 in Chapter 7.

Passing: Veronica B. Jacinto

Only last week we were notified of the passing of Veronica Jacinto, OblSB, December 4, 2011. Veronica made her final oblation November 20, 2005. She earned a B.S. in Education from St. Bridget's College, an M.A. in Mathematics from Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines, and an M.A. in Counseling and Guidance from New Mexico State University.

Veronica was a prolific artist in all forms of mixed-media. Flowers, butterflies, and birds made her spirit sing and face dance with animated smiles. Her favorite daily exercise was prayer time. She was an active parishioner of St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, Winston-Salem and Holy Family Catholic Church, Clemmons.

Oblates should note the day of her passing. The Abby has only just now been notified. For many of you your association with Belmont Abby and your involvement with the Oblates community is very important in your life. Please share that with your family so that, in the event of your death, we may be made aware as soon as practical.



Ice cream social follows oblate meeting

"Love is sweet like ice cream;
Love is joy like ice cream;
Love is cool like ice cream
and Love is pure like white ice cream."

- Indian spiritual teacher

First, the bad news: Oblate Joan Link from Lincolnnton won't be in attendance this month. So no blueberry pound cake, which Joan faithfully bakes each month. The pound cake -- and Joan -- will be back in June.

Now for the good news. Following George Cobb's talk on relics, Brother Edward Mancuso is organizing an ice cream social in the Gallagher Room.

Brother Edward is fond of telling the story of a young man who wants to enter the monastery. As a test, the Benedictines offer him cake and ice cream and ask him to select one. If the young man chooses cake, he's told he's better suited to the life of a Franciscan.

Brother Edward is planning on obtaining the ice cream from Tony's Ice Cream in Gastonia, which has been making its own cream since 1915. The selection could be vanilla but may be Neapolitan, made up of blocks of chocolate, vanilla and strawberry ice cream side by side in the same container. Oblate Tina Lyon will provide an assortment of toppings.

"It's a celebration with God for the end of the oblate year," said Brother Edward, who will not be able to attend the final meeting in June.

The Lord's Prayer

If you study every word of the petitions of Scripture, you will find, I think, nothing that is not contained and included in the Lord's Prayer. When we pray, then, we may use different words to say the same thing, but we may not say different things.

— St. Augustine

Do not deny your soul what it needs



Every day you provide your bodies with good to keep them from failing. In the same way your good works should be the daily nourishment of your hearts. Your bodies are fed with food and your spirits with good works. You aren't to deny your soul, which is going to live forever, what you grant to your body, which is going to die.

- Gregory the Great

The prayer of a man past his prime

As I age, Lord, my sense of manhood seems to change. When younger it was about muscles and vigor, endurance and lots of armor, pushups, and handstands, and lifting heavy weights, never admitting weakness, or even knowing of any in any real

sense that I had any. I felt whole, strong, and together and foolishly thought my whole life would be thus.



I was a warrior of sorts when young, though I knew it not, so defensive to inner truth, as well as my own pain and, yes, unknown gifts and strengths, on my wild white horse racing forward. Now my path is strewn with this armor, and I feel naked at times, not knowing what to do with this new state, slowly arising over the years, this vulnerability, these soft, uncanny emotions that seem to want to melt

me, which I still fear. Yet I can't go back. My former armor would only crush me; I would not be able to breathe in its tight embrace. What was once needed would now be death dealing.

My wild ride, a white stallion, still bucks from time to time, but I can now calm its strident fear and anxious concern to run and trample in its fear and anger. I lean forward and whisper in its ear gently: "You are safe, in no danger; there is no rush, slow down." Behold it does, and now there can be hours, even a day can go by, without fear or anger intruding into my thoughts, studies and prayers.

I would not go back, nor do I regret my journey. My only sorrow is that I still fight you, but so did Jacob, and he was wounded, and so am I, and I am thankful for the wound, the pain, the struggle and you still 'knowing' in your gentle way.

So I am becoming unmanned, more gentle and even feeling from time to time, and then tears do flow, though I still don't know how that happens.....Some armor remains, perhaps only death will take that final resistance from me....so I stumble forward, Lord, in trust though I still struggle to what it now means to be a man of God.

I do know that it is in others that I see you, their beauty shows me your face and that you call us all to love more deeply and purely. I am glad that I am 64 years old, for it is then that each of us, as we age can perhaps be ourselves, as we move toward the horizon that awaits us all.

- Mark Dohle

Pope targets worldly Church as biggest threat

The "greatest danger" for the Church is if it becomes worldly, since this prevents her from communicating the message of the Cross, Pope Francis said.

"When the Church becomes worldly, when she has the spirit of the world within herself ... it is a weak Church, a defeated Church, unable to transmit the Gospel, the message of the Cross, the scandal of the Cross ... She cannot transmit this if she is worldly," Pope Francis preached April 30 at his daily Mass.



Pope Francis based his homily on today's Gospel reading from John 14 in which Jesus says to the disciples, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you.'

- CNA/EWTN News

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

ORDINARY TIME

- 19 Pentecost (Solemnity)
- 20 Begin Week I
- 24 Mary, Help of Christians (Solemnity)
- 25 Bede the Venerable
- 26 Trinity Sunday (Week II)
- 31 Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Feast)

JUNE

- 1 Justin
- 2 Corpus Christi (Week III)
- 3 Charles Lwanga and his Companions
- 5 Boniface
- 7 Sacred Heart of Jesus (Solemnity)
- 8 Immaculate Heart of Mary (Memorial)
- 9 10th Sunday of Ordinary Time (Week IV)
- 11 Barnabas
- 13 Anthony of Padua
- 16 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week I)
- 19 Romuald
- 21 Aloysius Gonzaga
- 23 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week II)
- 24 Nativity of John the Baptist, (Solemnity)
- 27 Cyril of Alexandria
- 28 Irenaeus
- 29 Peter & Paul (Solemnity)
- 30 13th Sunday in Ordinary time (Week III)

Meeting in June

Oblates will meet in June on the 16th. Should you have any questions, please contact:

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