



Oblates of St. Benedict

Oblate Program at Belmont Abbey, NC

Sept.-Oct., 2016

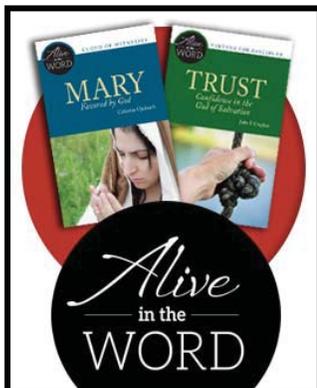
MEETING DATES

There is some confusion over meeting dates so let's set the calendar. Oblates will meet the third Sunday of every month unless notified in the newsletter. The only exception would be inclement weather and a notice will be placed on the website. Future meetings will be:

- October 16
- November 6 (Mass and Renewal of Oblations)
- November 20
- December 18
- January 15
- February 19
- March 19
- April 23 (Fourth Sunday of April)
- May 21
- June 18 (last meeting for the year)

READINGS FOR THE YEAR

In the next meetings discussions will be concerned with two different readings. First, we will continue CS Lewis' *Reflections on the Psalms*. Chapter VI will be discussed at the October 16 meeting.



In addition we will be starting a new series developed by Liturgical Press, *Alive in the Word*. This was explained in the June-July Newsletter but briefly, our first subject will be *Mercy, God's Nature, Our Challenge*. Booklets were passed out at the last meeting but if you read John 8:2-11 (The Woman Caught in Adultery) and answer the

following questions from the booklet you will not be lost.

1. When you hear the word "mercy," what words, people, or actions come to mind?
2. The next time you pray "Lord, have mercy" in the penitential rite at Mass, imagine how this accused woman might have hoped that Jesus would have mercy on her. What sin in your life do you pray that God will have mercy on?
3. In the midst of an angry mob, Jesus does not respond immediately but chooses silence as he writes on the ground. When have you chosen silence before speaking? What difference did it make?
4. Have you ever wanted to condemn someone quickly, but then decided to take a step back from the situation? How did your attitude change with time?
5. Who are people in your life that you need to show mercy toward?
6. Pope Francis reminds us that mercy is at the heart of God's love for us: "God never tires of reaching out to us" (*Misericordiae Vultus* 19). When have you felt God reaching out to you in your time of need?

MORNING COFFEE, WEATHER AND THE INTERIOR LIFE

After our first morning office (prayer service), I got a cup of coffee and went outside our retreat house. Nice cold morning, I guess about 40 degrees, which for me is a very nice temperature. It was raining, very softly. I was standing there, sipping my java and enjoying the soothing sound of the rain and so thankful for simple weather. I doubt that I can think of anything that I enjoy as much as rain that is gently falling from the sky. Well,

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maybe the sound of waves pounding the beach, I think I may love that better. . . .

Weather always reminds me of my interior life. All the weather in the world that comes in and out of existence around me does mirror what goes on inside me as well. Nice peaceful moments, sudden storms and cold snowy days, I experience

them all. They all pass, but I don't seem to; I just observe and sometimes I get absorbed by my inner weather and lose the sense that I am actually an observer it all. When that occurs, I forget that 'this too will pass'.

Time passes so fast in fact, that it is hard to keep up with it all ...both a consolation, and something that can cause anxiety. At least for me, this is my understanding of our temporary status in this world. We have nothing to hold on to in this world- not even ourselves. Sometimes hard to grasp that, becoming history, an old grave site that someone will visit and perhaps wonder.... Hmmm wonder what this clown was like.

The awareness that all will pass, or if we live long enough we will lose everything, what is the actual effect it has on us? Do we live in terror on a deep unconscious level, even if we tell ourselves we don't? Why do we rush around, here and there, like gerbils on a running wheel trapped in a cage, working ourselves to exhaustion? Or worry about things that in reality are just a bubble floating for a time, only to pop and disappear?

Anyone who seeks to live an authentic life is in my estimation worthy of respect. Those who don't, are worthy of pity perhaps....however I doubt that I am astute enough to really know who is who, appearances can be tricky. As a Christian many of the things I find central to my life may seem an escape or a waste of time to others. So it is easy for me to make the jump for those who see life from a different angle from me and not worry about judging or weighing their worth....not my place.

Br. Mark Dohle, OCSO
Holy Spirit Monastery

VOTER'S GUIDE FOR SERIOUS CATHOLICS

There has been a lot of information distributed through the media and the internet on the different positions of the candidates on the issues, particularly those issues that have an impact on Christians. The enclosed comparison, provided by Priests for Life, might help clarify the positions of the different political parties and candidates. Further information can be obtained at:

- <http://www.VotingInfo.net>
- http://www.catholic.com/sites/default/files/voters_guide_for_serious_catholics.pdf
- <http://www.politicalresponsibility.com/voterguide.htm>

Nothing enclosed should be construed as an endorsement for any particular candidate or party. It is provided so that you may make an informed decision after prayerful discernment of the issues.

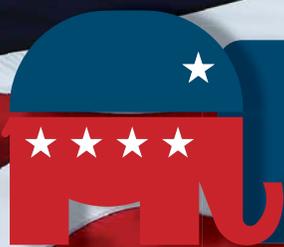
ORDO

SEPTEMBER

- 20 Rev. Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang, and Companions, Martyrs. Memorial
- 21 Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist, Feast
- 23 Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest. Memorial
- 25 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week II)
- 27 Vincent De Paul, Priest, Religious Founder. Memorial
- 29 Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels. Feast
- 30 Jerome, Doctor of the Church. Memorial

OCTOBER

- 1 Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin, Religious, Doctor of the Church. Memorial
- 2 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week III)
- 4 Francis of Assisi, Religious Founder. Memorial
- 6 Bruno, Priest, Hermit, Religious Founder. Memorial
- 7 Our Lady of the Rosary. Memorial
- 9 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week IV)
- 15 Teresa of Jesus, Virgin, Religious, Doctor of the Church. Memorial
- 16 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week I)
- 17 Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop, Martyr. Memorial
- 18 Luke, Evangelist. Feast
- 23 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week II)
- 28 Simon and Jude, Apostles. Feast



A Comparison of the 2016 Republican and Democratic Platforms

A non-partisan guide on issues of concern to the electorate



REPUBLICAN PLATFORM	KEY ISSUE	DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM
<p>"The Constitution's guarantee that no one can "be deprived of life, liberty or property" deliberately echoes the Declaration of Independence's proclamation that "all" are "endowed by their Creator" with the inalienable right to life. Accordingly, we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed. We support a human life amendment to the Constitution and legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to children before birth." (p.13)</p>	Human Life	<p>"Democrats are committed to protecting and advancing reproductive health, rights, and justice. We believe unequivocally that every woman should have access to quality reproductive health care services, including safe and legal abortion—regardless of where she lives, how much money she makes, or how she is insured. We believe that reproductive health is core to women's, men's, and young people's health and wellbeing.... We will continue to oppose—and seek to overturn—federal and state laws and policies that impede a woman's access to abortion, including by repealing the Hyde Amendment." (p.37)</p>
<p>"We oppose the use of public funds to perform or promote abortion or to fund organizations, like Planned Parenthood, so long as they provide or refer for elective abortions or sell fetal body parts rather than provide healthcare." (p.13)</p>	Planned Parenthood	<p>"We will continue to stand up to Republican efforts to defund Planned Parenthood health centers, which provide critical health services to millions of people." (p.37)</p>
<p>"We support the appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life." (p.13)</p>	Judges	<p>"We will appoint judges who defend the constitutional principles of liberty and equality for all, protect a woman's right to safe and legal abortion, curb billionaires' influence over elections because they understand that <i>Citizens United</i> has fundamentally damaged our democracy, and see the Constitution as a blueprint for progress." (p.25)</p>
<p>"We value the right of America's religious leaders to preach, and Americans to speak freely, according to their faith. Republicans believe the federal government, specifically the IRS, is constitutionally prohibited from policing or censoring speech based on religious convictions or beliefs, and therefore we urge the repeal of the Johnson Amendment." (p.11)</p>	Religious Liberty	<p>"Democrats know that our nation, our communities, and our lives are made vastly stronger and richer by faith in many forms and the countless acts of justice, mercy, and tolerance it inspires. We believe in lifting up and valuing the good work of people of faith and religious organizations and finding ways to support that work where possible." (p.19)</p>
<p>"We firmly believe environmental problems are best solved by giving incentives for human ingenuity and the development of new technologies, not through top-down, command-and-control regulations that stifle economic growth and cost thousands of jobs." (p.22)</p>	Climate Change/ Global Warming	<p>"Climate change is an urgent threat and a defining challenge of our time.... We believe America must be running entirely on clean energy by mid-century." (p.27)</p>
<p>"We support options for learning, including home-schooling, career and technical education, private or parochial schools, magnet schools, charter schools, online learning, and early-college high schools. We especially support the innovative financing mechanisms that make options available to all children: education savings accounts (ESAs), vouchers, and tuition tax credits." (p.34)</p>	Education/ School Choice	<p>"Democrats are also committed to providing parents with high-quality public school options and expanding these options for low-income youth. We support great neighborhood public schools and high-quality public charter schools, and we will help them disseminate best practices to other school leaders and educators. Democrats oppose for-profit charter schools focused on making a profit off of public resources." (p.34)</p>

Continued On Reverse



The full texts of the party platforms may be found at www.VotingInfo.net.

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A Comparison of the 2016 Republican and Democratic Platforms

A non-partisan guide on issues of concern to the electorate

REPUBLICAN PLATFORM	KEY ISSUE	DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM
<p>"We renew our call for replacing "family planning" programs for teens with sexual risk avoidance education that sets abstinence until marriage as the responsible and respected standard of behavior." (p.34)</p>	Sex Education	<p>"We recognize that quality, affordable comprehensive health care, evidence-based sex education, and a full range of family planning services help reduce the number of unintended pregnancies." (p.37)</p>
<p>"Any honest agenda for improving healthcare must start with repeal of the dishonestly named Affordable Care Act of 2010: Obamacare....To simplify the system for both patients and providers, we will reduce mandates and enable insurers and providers of care to increase healthcare options and contain costs." (p.36)</p>	Obamacare	<p>"Thanks to the hard work of President Obama and Democrats in Congress we took a critically important step towards the goal of universal health care by passing the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which has offered coverage to 20 million more Americans and ensured millions more will never be denied coverage on account of a pre-existing condition." (p.34)</p>
<p>"We condemn the Supreme Court's ruling in <i>United States v. Windsor</i>, which wrongly removed the ability of Congress to define marriage policy in federal law. We also condemn the Supreme Court's lawless ruling in <i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i>....In <i>Obergefell</i>, five unelected lawyers robbed 320 million Americans of their legitimate constitutional authority to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman." (p.11)</p>	Marriage	<p>"Democrats applaud last year's decision by the Supreme Court that recognized LGBT people—like every other American—have the right to marry the person they love. But there is still much work to be done." (p.19)</p>
<p>"We call for expanded support for the stem cell research that now offers the greatest hope for many afflictions — through adult stem cells, umbilical cord blood, and cells reprogrammed into pluripotent stem cells — without the destruction of embryonic human life. We urge a ban on human cloning for research or reproduction, and a ban on the creation of, or experimentation on, human embryos for research." (p.37-38)</p>	Medical Research	<p>"Democrats believe we must accelerate the pace of medical progress, ensuring that we invest more in our scientists and give them the resources they need to invigorate our fundamental studies in the life sciences in a growing, stable, and predictable way....We recognize the critical importance of a fully funded National Institutes of Health to accelerate the pace of medical progress." (p.36)</p>
<p>"We consider the Administration's deal with Iran, to lift international sanctions and make hundreds of billions of dollars available to the Mullahs, a personal agreement between the President and his negotiating partners and non-binding on the next president....Because of it, the defiant and emboldened regime in Tehran continues to sponsor terrorism across the region, develop a nuclear weapon, test-fire ballistic missiles inscribed with "Death to Israel," and abuse the basic human rights of its citizens." (p.46)</p>	Iran	<p>"We support the nuclear agreement with Iran because, if vigorously enforced and implemented, it verifiably cuts off all of Iran's pathways to a bomb without resorting to war." (p.43)</p>
<p>"The integrity of our country's foreign assistance program has been compromised by the current Administration's attempt to impose on foreign recipients, especially the peoples of Africa, its own radical social agenda while excluding faith-based groups — the sector with the best track record in promoting development — because they will not conform to that agenda. We pledge to reverse this course...." (p.52)</p>	Foreign Assistance	<p>"We will support sexual and reproductive health and rights around the globe. In addition to expanding the availability of affordable family planning information and contraceptive supplies, we believe that safe abortion must be part of comprehensive maternal and women's health care and included as part of America's global health programming." (p.46)</p>

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Please remember to pray for the following deceased monks of the Abbey.

SEPTEMBER

20 Fr. Gerard Pilz	1891
24 Br. Francis Zwiesler	1929
24 Fr. Cornelius Selhuber	1962
25 Fr. Dominic Vollmar	1942
25 Br. Stephen Schockling	1974
25 Fr. Gregory Eichenlaub	1975
27 Fr. Jerome Finn	1958
30 Fr. Gregory Windschiegel	1912

OCTOBER

1 Br. Obl. Timothy Guidera	1951
4 Fr. Paschal Baumstein	2007
9 Br. William Murray	1926
10 Fr. John Oetgen	2009
12 Br. Boniface Schreiber	1928
14 Fr. Charles Rettger	1916
20 Fr. Augustine Ecker	1934
24 Fr. Alcuin Baudermann	1975
26 Fr. Lawrence Willis	2003
27 Fr. Patrick Donahue	1994
29 Fr. John Smith	1942
31 Fr. Walter O'Brien	1932
31 Fr. Stanislaus Bethel	1941

ST. PADRE PIO AND THE ROSARY

St Padre Pio is one of the greatest saints of all times. He is well known in the world for the spiritual gifts he had: Stigmata, healing, prophecy, reading of hearts, levitation, bilocation, apparition, and “odour of sanctity”. He is a great miracle-worker and a powerful intercessor. Often he has been referred to as “the greatest mystic of the 20th Century.”



St Padre Pio called the rosary a weapon because that's exactly what it is. It's not just some fuzzy-feeling meditation – the very gates of hell tremble when the rosary is prayed fervently. As Catholics, we know that the prayers of the rosary are more than just vain repetitious words. Saint Padre Pio said: “The rosary is the ‘weapon’ for these times.” If we truly focus on the meditations of the mysteries, we examine deep into the heart of the Gospel of truth. Some might still be thinking “Why the rosary?” The simple answer is because it's powerful. Because it fosters a love for the Immaculate and asks for her powerful intercession. Padre Pio always wore the rosary around his arm at night. Concerning the rosary, Our Lady herself said to Padre Pio: “With this weapon you will win.” Convinced of the power of the rosary, Padre Pio always held the rosary in his hands. When his death was approaching, he recommended the rosary to his spiritual children saying: “Love Our Lady and make her loved. Always recite the rosary.” Padre Pio had an astonishingly unconditional, total, perennial, unwavering love for the Virgin Mary. He used to tell a story: “One day Our Lord making rounds of Paradise saw some strange faces. He asked Peter: ‘Who let these people in?’ Peter replied: ‘There is nothing I can do.’ The Lord said, ‘But you have the key.’ Peter said: ‘There is nothing I can do, and you can't do either.’ The Lord said: ‘What do you mean?’ ‘It's your mother. She has another key. She lets them in.’”

The secular culture is also powerful and is built on lies and the twisting of good and evil. If we are ever going to shake the very foundation of falsehood that secularism is built on, we must arm ourselves with the truth. Praying the rosary is such a powerful way in which we will begin to take down the secret walls of hidden shame in our homes; praying the rosary for those nailed down by addictions of this world is the silent prescription for this disease.

The rosary is the Gospel on a chain. The prayers of the rosary help us gain insight into the One who is the Divine Truth and Truth Giver. Not only do we arm ourselves with the truth, but we also implore the one who is the Mother of Truth to act with us. In the rosary we ask the model of purity herself, Mary, to pray for our purity. We have a Goliath to take down and just as David had five stones in his arsenal, we have five decades in ours. The rosary has been the chain or the seat belt that we need in these times of turbulence.

[Fr Steve Rodrigues](#)

SEPTEMBER 29: FEAST OF THE ARCHANGELS MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL



A Very Curious Legend of St Raphael

The revised version of Butler's Lives of the Saints, in the notes to the entry for the feast of St Raphael the Archangel, says that "In the Ethiopic Synaxarium... is a curious account of the dedication of a church to St Raphael in an island off Alexandria early in the fifth century." A reference is given for an English translation of this Synaxarium, which is basically the Eastern version of the Martyrology, but no further information is given about the dedication or what makes it curious. In the marvelous age of the internet, I was able to track the text down at the following website, ([http://www.stmichaeleoc.org/The Ethiopic Synaxarium.pdf](http://www.stmichaeleoc.org/The_Ethiopian_Synaxarium.pdf)) where I discovered what a spectacular understatement "curious" is in describing this legend.

"On this day are commemorated the glorious angel Raphael the archangel, the third of the vigilant, holy and heavenly archangels; and the dedication of his church, which was built to him on an island outside the city of Alexandria in the days of Saint Theophilus the Archbishop (385-412, the predecessor of St Cyril); and the miracle which was made manifest therein, and took place thus.

A certain rich woman from the city of Rome came to Saint Theophilus the Archbishop, and with her were her son and a picture of the glorious Archangel Raphael, and much money, which she had inherited from her parents. ... And Saint Abba Theophilus built many churches, and among them was the church, which was on the island outside the city of Alexandria, and was dedicated in the name of the glorious Archangel Raphael; and Abba Theophilus the Archbishop finished the building thereof and consecrated it as it were this day.

And whilst the believers were praying in the church, behold the church trembled, and was rent asunder, and it moved about. And they found that the church had been built upon the back of a whale... on which a very large mass of sand had heaped itself. Now the whale lay firmly fixed in its place, and the treading of the feet of the people upon it cut it off from the mainland; and it was Satan who moved the whale so that he might throw down the church.

And the believers and the archbishop cried out together, and made supplication to the Lord Christ, and they asked for the intercession of the glorious Archangel Raphael. And God, the Most High, sent the glorious angel Raphael, and he had mercy on the children of men, and he drove his spear into the whale, saying unto him, 'By the commandment of God stand still, and move not thyself from thy place'; and the whale stood in his place and moved not.

And many signs and wonders were made manifest, and great healings of sick folk took place in that church. And this church continued to exist until the time when the Muslims reigned, and then it was destroyed, and the whale moved, and the sea flowed back again and drowned many people who dwelt in that place."

The Walters Art Museum in Baltimore has a mid-19th Ethiopian painting in tempera on canvas which represents this legend, in which we see the Archangel fixing his spear through the church building. Unfortunately, the lower part of it, which would have shown the whale, is missing.

Gregory Dipippo

New Liturgical Movement

<http://www.newliturgicalmovement.org/2015/10/a-very-curious-legend-of-st-raphael.html>