

Oblates of St. Benedict

Oblate Program at Belmont Abbey, NC

December, 2016

IMPORTANT NOTICE: MEETING TIMES CHANGED TO 2:30

Many of the Oblates travel more than an hour to attend the monthly meetings. In addition, several have difficulty driving after dark so it makes it difficult to attend. To make everyone's return travel safer the meeting times for Oblates will be moved to 2:30 during Daylight savings time. Those who wish to attend Vespers are welcome to stay and socialize.

MONASTERIES OF NORTHERN SPAIN



Oblate Richard Hansgen came to the November meeting and gave a wonderful presentation of his pilgrimage to the monasteries of northern Spain. Oblates who were unable to attend truly missed out because there is simply no way to capture the impressions and the impact the experience had on Richard. He shared with us his thoughts and perhaps the closing paragraph will give a little understanding of the importance of this pilgrimage in his life:

“... These weeks in northern Spain have provided God with a unique opportunity to further His plan for me and to draw us into a more intimate relationship. I thank our gracious God for his gift, and I thank the Holy Spirit for allowing me to be cognizant of all these blessings.

Late that last evening, as the hilltop and the monastic complex were cast into darkness, I joined the monks in their homely chapel for the final prayer of the day, *Completas*. *Compline* is one of the shorter prayers of the liturgical day, and it is my favorite, for, with the subdued lighting and the faintly glowing candles, one can feel an immediate sense of His presence. I was especially touched that particular evening, for sitting beside and across from me in the choir stall were six men who had exclusively committed themselves to God, and whose lives were hidden in Christ. These men serve as inspiring models for me. As the lights were dimmed for the final and hauntingly beautiful anthem to Our Lady, *Salve Regina*, I silently offered the monks, my brothers in Christ, this prayer:

May the love of God touch your hearts before you fall asleep, and may you awake with the glorious face of Christ shining on you. Amen.”

READINGS FOR THE NEXT MEETINGS

Please refer to the November newsletter for the questions and material that we will go over in the December meeting. If you do not have a copy it can be obtained on the Oblate website: OblatesOSBBelmont.org.

The next Oblate meeting will be December 18 at 2:30 PM in the Gallagher Room. We will also be having a small Christmas gathering and everyone is requested to bring a refreshment to share.



CHARLESTON, S.C. — Father Edmund McCaffrey, a retired priest of the Diocese of Charleston who was a former Benedictine monk and former abbot of Belmont Abbey, died Nov. 13, 2016.

He died in Louisville, Ky., where he resided with the Little Sisters of the Poor. He was 83.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at noon on Monday, Nov. 28, 2016, at St. Michael Church in Garden City, S.C. Father McCaffrey helped found St. Michael Church in 1976 and was its first pastor.

Visitation will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27, and from 9-11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 28, at the church. There will be a prayer vigil service at 7:15 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27, also at St. Michael Church.

As a Benedictine, he was a founder and former head of the political science department at Belmont Abbey College, as well as a visiting professor and writer, then abbot of the Belmont Abbey monastery. He was incardinated in the Diocese of Charleston Oct. 1, 1993.

In the diocese, he served at St. Andrew Parish in Myrtle Beach, was the priest in charge of the Garden City Catholic Community, helped found St. Michael in Garden City at Murrells Inlet, and served as pastor at Divine Redeemer Church in Hanahan.

He retired Jan. 1, 2003, after serving as pastor of Holy Family Church on Hilton Head Island. Even in retirement, he spent time traveling, giving retreats and parish missions all over the country.

“I’m proud of the work I did at St. Michael Church,” he said in a 2008 interview with The Catholic Miscellany, Charleston’s diocesan newspaper. “When I started, it was a little church and we didn’t have any money, but what we built has become one of the largest parishes in South Carolina.”

Father McCaffrey was an avid supporter of vocations, and in 1974 he served as co-founder of the Institute on Religious Life in Chicago with Jesuit Father John Hardon, Bishop James J. Hogan of Altoona-Johnstown, Pa., and William Isaacson. He was executive vice president and executive director from 1975 to 1980. The institute’s mission is to promote the growth and renewal of consecrated religious life. He started the organization when he was abbot of Belmont Abbey.

“We wanted to preserve the gift of consecrated life as envisioned by Vatican II, which not only included religious but the laity, too,” said the priest.

Father McCaffrey received the institute’s 2003 Pro Fidelitate et Virtute Award for manifesting “notable support and promotion of the consecrated life.”

In 1990, Fathers McCaffrey and Hardon also were two of the co-founders of Eternal Life, a Catholic pro-life organization that would focus more on the educational aspect of pro-life work. In the first few years, they held more than 20 “Make a Moral Miracle Happen Conferences” all over the country.

Father McCaffrey returned to Myrtle Beach in 2003 because he had so many friends there. Besides giving retreats and parish missions, he led more than 23 pilgrimages to Fatima in Portugal and still tried to go annually.

NECROLOGY



DECEMBER

- 1 Fr. Cuthbert Allen(1977)
- 5 Fr. Eugene Egan(1940)
- 6 Br. Albert Popp(1924)
- 7 Fr. Boniface Bauer(1974)
- 8 Fr. Philip Tierney(1971)
- 9 Abbot Jude Cleary(2005)
- 21 Br. Alphonse Schoene(1889)
- 23 Prior Willibald Baumgartner(1930)
- 25 Br. Louis Marschall(1945)
- 26 Fr. Jerome Dollard(1985)
- 27 Br. Obl. Thomas MacPherson
(1955)
- 28 Fr. Mark Cassidy(1928)
- 28 Abbot Walter Coggin(1999)
- 29 Br. Joseph Ringelstaetter(1920)
- 30 Fr. Robert Brennan(1964)
- 30 Fr. Aloysius Wachter(1977)

JANUARY

- 3 Fr. Gerard Rettger(1944)
- 4 Fr. Herman Grones(1936)
- 5 Fr. Benedict Rettger(1952)
- 7 Fr. Paul Milde(1979)
- 8 Br. Benedict Marschall (1945)
- 9 Fr. Anselm Biggs (2001)

He said some of his most important work was promoting the sacraments.

“I like to talk about the Eucharist and the importance of confession,” the priest said. “Those are my main apostolic works. I preach about those things all the time.”

He was born Jan. 9, 1933, in Savannah, Ga., to Joseph E. McCaffrey and Ruby Elizabeth Johnson Fairbanks McCaffrey.

He was a graduate of Belmont Abbey Preparatory School, Belmont Abbey College and Belmont Abbey Seminary in Belmont, and The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

He had a bachelor’s, a master’s and a doctorate in political science, and also had a doctorate in sacred theology doctorate.

He made his profession as a Benedictine monk (American-Cassinese Congregation) July 2, 1953, and was ordained a priest May 23, 1959.

He was elected the fourth abbot of Belmont Abbey on March 2, 1970.

In retirement, Father McCaffrey did everything but slow down.

“I don’t think that a priest should ever retire,” said Father McCaffrey in an interview. “When a man gives himself to God, it should never end with a retirement.”

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: Eternal Life, 902 W. Stephen Foster Ave. Bardstown, KY .

ORDO

DECEMBER

- 3 Francis Xavier, Memorial
- 4 **Second Sunday of Advent (Week II)**
- 7 Ambrose, Memorial
- 8 **Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary. Solemnity**
- 11 **Third Sunday of Advent (Week III)**
- 12 **Our Lady of Guadalupe. Feast**
- 13 **Lucy, Memorial**
- 14 John of the Cross, Memorial
- 18 **Fourth Sunday of Advent (Week IV)**
- 25 **Nativity of the Lord, Solemnity**
- 26 Stephen, First Martyr. Feast
- 27 **John, Apostle, Feast**
- 28 Holy Innocents, Martyrs, Feast
- 30 **Holy Family. Feast**

JANUARY

- 1 **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**
- 2 Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Memorial (Week II)
- 8 **Epiphany, Solemnity (Week III)**
- 9 **Baptism of the Lord, Feast**



Christmas Prayer of St. John XXIII

O sweet Child of Bethlehem,
grant that we may share with all our hearts
in this profound mystery of Christmas.
Put into the hearts of men and women this peace
for which they sometimes seek so desperately
and which you alone can give to them.
Help them to know one another better,
and to live as brothers and sisters,
children of the same Father.
Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness and purity.
Awaken in their hearts
love and gratitude for your infinite goodness.
Join them all together in your love.
And give us your heavenly peace. Amen.

SPECIAL OFFER FROM LITURGICAL PRESS

Liturgical Press is making a special offer for *Benedictine Daily Prayer*.

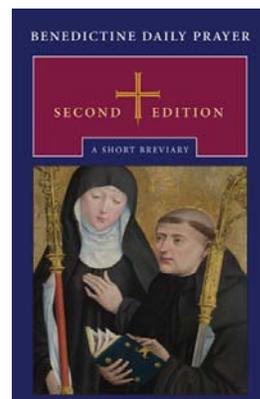
For a limited time, when you place a new order for Benedictine Daily Prayer direct from Liturgical Press, you will receive a 30% discount, FREE SHIPPING*, and a FREE copy of *Psalm-Shaped Prayerfulness*, a unique resource for people who treasure the psalms, by Margaret Daly-Denton.

This offer expires on December 17, so order now to get it in time for the new year. To order, call Liturgical Press at 1-800-858-5450 x2059 or email Liz at ewens@litpress.org. Liz will be happy to take your order!

If you are new to praying with a breviary, the new year is a great time to start. Highlights of the revised second edition include:

- A simple layout to help maintain the focus on prayer
- A new organization for the Office of Vigils, structured on a two-week cycle
- Daily Offices arranged on a two-week cycle
- Patristic readings for each Sunday
- Concluding prayers for the daily and seasonal offices

*This offer expires December 17, 2016. Some exclusions may apply. Free shipping is to US addresses only via media mail.



OBLATE PSALTER COMPLETED

It has been a few years and at least five drafts but we can finally announce that the *Oblate Psalter* is complete and will be sent to the bindery in the next few weeks. It is hoped they will be completed and ready for the January meeting. If you will remember from previous meetings, the need for the psalter arose when Oblates discovered that *Magnificat* and *Give Us this Day* were not breviaries. Since then we have attempted to develop a system for the Liturgy of the Hours that would permit individual Oblates to continue to use the devotionals they were used to using and at the same time being faithful to the Rule.

The design is in compliance with the *General Instruction for the Liturgy of the Hours* and the *Directive Norms for the Celebration of the Monastic Liturgy of the Hours*. It should be remembered, however, that the use of this psalter is meant for private or small group recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours. While attending public recitation, the you should follow the custom of the Monastery, Convent, or Parish church you are attending.

The Oblates that have tested this psalter have found the system preferable to the traditional breviary because of its:

- simplicity;
- flexibility;
- updated Psalm translations, and
- revised collects (with use of the devotionals).

The cost is \$15 for a hard-bound copy. We are printing only a limited number of copies and will print additional ones as needed. Also, if you are wondering, it makes a nice compliment to *Benedictine Daily Prayer* for those who did not like the psalter in that volume.

**The January meeting of the Oblates will be on the 15th at 2:30 unless
otherwise announced.**