



Oblates of St. Benedict

Oblate Program at Belmont Abbey, NC

November, 2017

'WELCOMED AS CHRIST...



'All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ.'

Monks and nuns might stay in their monasteries, but they are not cut off from the world. Instead of going about in the world, they invite the world to them.

The doorkeeper is an important person in Benedict's community, and

hospitality is still one of the great Benedictine traditions. In the past the monasteries were also the hospitals and schools, and today most monasteries host retreats and welcome guests for any and all reasons.

The Benedictine open door is an act of obedience to the command from Scripture which says we should practice hospitality because by doing so we may be 'entertaining angels unawares.'

Every Christian household should have a similarly open door. God has not given us homes only as secure bolt-holes. Instead the warmth and love of our home should always be offered to those in need.

Finally, the Benedictine spirit of hospitality should extend to our hearts as well as our homes. Benedict welcomes even the most unlikely person because the stranger often teaches us more than our friend. If our hearts are open to see Christ in both friend and stranger, he will thank us; for inasmuch as we welcomed the least of these we welcomed him.

Fr. Dwight Longenecker (Used with permission)

FOR THE NOVEMBER 19TH MEETING

The **Scripture study** for the first half of the meeting concerns Exodus 22:20; Leviticus 19:33-34; and Leviticus 23:22. The questions to ponder before the meeting are:

1. What can you recall from a time when you relied on the hospitality of others or when you were called upon to host a relative stranger?
2. What experiences have you had of feeling like an outsider? (This could occur in a neighborhood or town, a parish or a workplace)
3. When has a previous experience of some kind served as a life lesson for you?
4. How would you describe the difference between banning mistreatment and requiring love? Does it challenge you in a way to know that God's law requires such love?
5. Who is our neighbor today? Who are we being asked to love in practical ways?
6. Many of us are not in the business of farming. Nonetheless how could we cultivate an attitude of sharing from the best we have to offer?

LISTENING CAREFULLY

. . . it is Christ who speaks through human agents—the less overpowering they are, the more attentively the abbot must strain to hear what they say. The same principle applies here that Benedict enunciates concerning the poor: The terror that great ones inspire assures them of respect (53:15), but it is in listening carefully to the little people, the young, the marginalized, and the inarticulate, that Christ is more especially honored. Even the scoundrels of the community, supposing that there be some, are to be heard, since they often read situations more acutely than those blindly committed to the preservation of the status quo. . . . God will not abandon

(Continued on page 2)

ANTIPHONS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

For those Oblates currently using the first edition of the *Oblate Psalter*, antiphons for use during Advent and Christmas are available in PDF format from the Oblate website:

http://oblatesosbbelmont.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Advent_Christmas.pdf

A link has been placed on the home page. It can be printed locally. Download the file and then print the pages as you need them. They are arranged by week so print two pages at a time (two pages will fit on one 8.5 x 11 piece of paper) and trim them so you can place them in the *Psalter*.

(continued from page 1) ... any who whole-heartedly seek to know God's will in truth. God will in everything show them the way according to his will. For those who turn their heart to God's will, God will enlighten a little child to speak his will.

Such listening has an element of vigilance in it. Its greatest enemy is not rebellion or rejection but inattention. We can easily be distracted by dominant cares and anxieties so that we forget to pay attention to the messages that life brings us, in events and the actions of others as well as in words. Somehow or other our concentration relaxes and our powers human of attention are not engaged. Like the goats at the final judgement we protest that we were unaware of the challenges presented to us, but, frighteningly, this excuse is invalid. As Benedict's first step of humility reminds us, it is our task to remain focused on finding God's will and conforming to it. This is proactive form of listening, constantly cocking our ears for the slightest sound as if our life depended on it -- as indeed it does.

Michael Casey, OSCO, Strangers to the City, p. 93

RENEWAL OF OBLATION

Each Oblate is to renew their oblation once a year. Please renew your Oblation privately using the following form. ***Please sign it and return it to:***

Director of Oblates, Belmont Abbey, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Road, Belmont, NC 28012

Renewal of Oblation

I renew my oblation of St. Benedict for the community of Mary, Help of Christians Abbey and promise again to serve God and all people according to the Rule of St. Benedict.

God, most compassionate and loving, strengthen me in my commitment to follow you in the way of St. Benedict. Through my daily prayer and work may I be inspired to live in Christ and to bring his love to the world and his peace to all hearts. I make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Signature

Date

Name (Printed or typed)

ORDO

NOVEMBER

- 1 All Saints. Solemnity (Week III)
- 2 Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, Memorial
- 4 Charles Borromeo, Bishop. Memorial
- 5 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week III)
- 9 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, Feast
- 10 Leo the Great. Memorial
- 11 Martin of Tours, Bishop. Feast
- 12 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week IV)
- 16 Gertrude, Virgin, Memorial
- 19 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week I)
- 21 Presentation of the Virgin Mary. Memorial
- 22 Cecilia, Virgin. Memorial
- 24 Andrew Dung-lac and his Companions, Martyrs. Memorial
- 26 Christ the King (Week II)
- 29 *Begin novena in honor of Immaculate Conception*
- 30 Andrew, Apostle, Feast



OBLATE PSALTERS READY

We are currently have available a limited number of the *Oblate Psalter* available. If you would like a copy please email George Cobb at gkcobb0929@gmail.com. The cost is \$15.00 a copy plus shipping if you want it mailed.

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). It makes a nice compliment to *Benedictine Daily Prayer* for those who were not comfortable with the psalter in that volume.

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.

NECROLOGY



NOVEMBER

- 2 Fr. Lawrence McHale (1957)
- 3 Fr. Albert Goetz (1935)
- 5 Abbot Vincent Taylor (1959)
- 5 Fr. Wilfrid Foley (1968)
- 7 Fr. Raphael Beer (1893)
- 8 Br. Gilbert Koberzynski (1920)
- 9 Fr. Boniface Hilgenboecker (1890)
- 9 Fr. Cornelius Diehl (1957)
- 15 Fr. Thomas Oestreich (1943)
- 21 Fr. Anthony Meyer (1928)
- 22 Br. Willibald Marschall (1932)
- 24 Fr. Raphael Bridge (1996)
- 29 Fr. Bernard Haas (1933)

DECEMBER

- 1 Fr. Cuthbert Allen (1977)
- 5 Fr. Eugene Egan (1940)
- 6 Br. Albert Popp (1924)

WHY THE PSALMS

...This Book expresses the entire human experience with its multiple facets and the whole range of sentiments that accompany human existence.

In the Psalms are expressed and interwoven with joy and suffering, the longing for God and the perception of our own unworthiness, happiness and the feeling of abandonment, trust in God and sorrowful loneliness, fullness of life and fear of death. The whole reality of the believer converges in these prayers. The People of Israel first and then the Church adopted them as a privileged mediation in relations with the one God and an appropriate response to God's self revelation in history.

Since the Psalms are prayers they are expressions of the heart and of faith with which everyone can identify and in which that experience of special closeness to God — to which every human being is called — is communicated. Moreover the whole complexity of human life is distilled in the complexity of the different literary forms of the various Psalms: hymns, laments, individual entreaties and collective supplications, hymns of thanksgiving, penitential psalms, sapiential psalms and the other genres that are to be found in these poetic compositions.

Pope Benedict XVI: Importance of Praying the Psalter



NOVEMBER 5: ABBOT VINCENT TAYLOR



Abbot Vincent (George) Taylor, OSB was the second abbot-nullius of Belmont. A native of Norfolk, Virginia, he was born there on 19 September 1877. He came to Belmont as a student and stayed to enter the monastery on 11 July 1897. He professed vows one year later and solemn vows on 22 September 1901. He was ordained priest on 24 May 1902.

Thin and of only modest height, Taylor's constitution was thought weak, that being adjudged responsible for his limited academic attainments and athletic prowess. So after ordination Abbot Leo sent him into the missions. He reckoned that to be an easier assignment than the work of the schools. Taylor went to Greensboro in 1902 and did not resume residence at Belmont until he was elected abbot in 1924.

Abbot Vincent was a gentleman of fine manners and personable temperament. He won deep and abiding affection from his monks and the laity. His tenure as abbot was marked by prudent stewardship, a willingness to learn, and a natural gift for leadership. He guided the campus safely through the Great Depression, the schools into the modern age, and the monastic community into a revised commitment in both education and parochial ministry. He was especially attentive to the

Liturgy, both as a solemn exercise of the monks and as one of their foremost apostolates. Abbot Vincent was highly respected in the Order of Saint Benedict, and was returned repeatedly to office as Second Visitor of the Congregation.

Heart attacks weakened Abbot Vincent, eventually leading him to request a coadjutor. Rome granted him a vicar in 1956. From then until Abbot Vincent's death, the Vicar administered the monastery and Taylor the nullius.

Abbot Vincent Taylor died on 5 November 1959, and was buried in the Abbey Cemetery.

NOVENA PRAYER IN HONOR OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Thy love.

V. Send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created.

R. And Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.

O God, who hast taught the hearts of Thy faithful people by the light of the Holy Spirit; grant us in the same Spirit to relish what is right, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

Virgin most pure, conceived without sin, all fair and stainless from thy Conception; glorious Mary, full of grace, Mother of my God, Queen of angels and of men, - I humbly venerate thee as Mother of my Saviour, who, though He was God, taught me by His own veneration, reverence, and obedience to thee, the honour and homage which are due to thee. Vouchsafe, I pray thee, to accept this Novena, which I dedicate to thee. Thou art the safe refuge of the penitent sinner; it is very fitting, then, that I should have recourse to thee. Thou art the Mother of compassion; then wilt thou surely be moved with pity for my many miseries. Thou art my best hope after Jesus; thou canst not but accept the loving confidence that I have in thee. Make me worthy to be called thy son, that so I may dare to cry unto thee, "Show thyself a mother."

Source: St. Charles Borromeo Meninary Prayer Book, 2006



**The December meeting of the Oblates will be on the 17th at 2:30
unless otherwise announced.**