



## Oblates of St. Benedict Belmont Abbey

March, 2013



*Snow scene in Belmont Sunday morning, Feb. 17.*



*Richard Hansgen, OBlSB.*

### Meeting in March

Oblates will meet in March on the 17th.

First year novices meet at 2:30 p.m. on the first floor of Stowe Hall at the Belmont Abbey. They will continue reading *Finding Sanctuary: Monastic Steps for*

*Everyday Life* by Abbot Christopher Jamison and *Benedict of Nursia: His Message for Today* by Anselm Grun. They should continue to read *Step Two: Contemplation of Part Two: Monastic Steps* in the Jamison book.

There will be no meeting for second year novices since George will be out of town because of previous commitment. They should continue their reading of Michael Casey's *Living in the Truth*. At this point they should have completed Chapters 1-5. Second years are welcome to join the first year novices if they wish to come early

Due to weather cancellation in Feb., Richard Hansgen, OBlSB, from Columbus, Ohio has graciously agreed to return in March to tell the story of his pilgrimage last year to Eastern Europe at the Mar. 17 oblate meeting. That 14-week trip included many prayerful retreats at monasteries and convents -- Benedictine, Carmelite, Norbertine and Trappist

-- in the Czech Republic, Germany, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia. Richard is planning to share many photographs of the monasteries and countryside and read reflections from the journal he kept.

Classroom #215 in Stowe Hall at the Belmont Abbey has been reserved for this presentation at 3:30 p.m. We will still meet in the Gallagher Room before heading upstairs.

### Notification of changes in meeting times

In cancelling the Feb. 17 meeting because of a snowstorm, we followed the plan the group came up with in 2011 that was published in the Nov., 2011 newsletter: "At the last meeting the Oblates agreed on some procedures in case meetings need to be canceled or postponed due to bad weather. The website, <http://www.oblatesosbbelmont.org>, will be updated and an email sent the Friday before the meeting if road conditions are anticipated to be bad. Joan Link, OBlSB, has volunteered to call any oblates without Internet access. Please let her know if you have not given her your phone number and you need to be called. If Joan is out of town that weekend, Gary Nielson, OBlSB, will call them."

### 10 Facts about St. Patrick

1. St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, although he was born in Britain, around 385 AD. His parents Calpornius and Conchessa were Roman citizens living in either Scotland or Wales, according to different versions of his story.



St. Patrick

2. As a boy of 14, he was captured and taken to Ireland where he spent six years in slavery herding sheep. He returned to Ireland in his 30s as a missionary among the Celtic pagans.

3. Legend has it that he used the native shamrock as a symbol of the holy trinity when preaching and brought the Latin alphabet to Ireland.

4. Miracles attributed to him include the driving of serpents out of Ireland. However, evidence suggests post-glacial Ireland never had any snakes in the first place.

5. Wearing green, eating green food and even drinking green beer, is said to commemorate St Patrick's use of the shamrock - although blue was the original colour of his vestments.

6. St Patrick was said to have proclaimed that everyone should have a drop of the "hard stuff" on his feast day after chastising an innkeeper who served a short measure of whiskey. In the custom known as "drowning the shamrock," the shamrock that has been worn on a lapel or hat is put in the last drink of the evening.

7. Popular Irish toasts on St Patrick's Day, include: may the roof above us never fall in, and may we friends beneath it never fall out.

8. St. Patrick's Day was first celebrated in America in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1737. Around 34 million modern Americans claim Irish ancestry.

9. It is believed that St Patrick died on March 17 in 461 AD. It is a national holiday in Ireland, and on the island of Montserrat in the Caribbean, which was founded by Irish refugees.

10. Northern Ireland and a provincial holiday in the Canadian province of Newfoundland. Dublin has a parade that attracts hundreds of thousands of people, while in Chicago the river is dyed green for a few hours. The biggest parade is normally held in New York, while the largest celebration in the southern hemisphere is in Sydney, Australia.

**Note:** Oblate novice Jim Nielsen notes that on March 17 in the evening at 6:30 p.m., there will be a one-man play, *The Confessions of St. Patrick* at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, Charlotte, NC (St. Patrick) in Charlotte. Attendance is free. More info: <http://a1manplay.com/1manplay/>. Jim notes that the church invites people to mass beforehand which starts at 5 p.m. Church's number: 704-536-6520.

## Our Society

We live in a society whose whole policy is to excite every nerve in the human body and keep it at the highest pitch of artificial tension, to strain every human desire to the limit and to create as many new desires and synthetic passions as possible, in order to cater to them with the products of our factories and printing presses and movie studios and all the rest.

- Thomas Merton  
*The Seven Storey Mountain*

## 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/>.

## MARCH

- 17 5th Sunday of Lent; St. Patrick (Week I)
- 19 Joseph, husband of the Bl. Virgin Mary (Solemnity)
- 21 Passing of our Holy Father St. Benedict (Solemnity)
- 24 Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (Week II)
- 28 Holy Thursday
- 29 Good Friday
- 31 The Resurrection of the Lord (Week I)

## APRIL

- 1 Monday in the Octave of Easter (Solemnity)
- 2 Tuesday in the Octave of Easter (Solemnity)
- 3 Wednesday in the Octave of Easter (Solemnity)
- 4 Thursday in the Octave of Easter (Solemnity)
- 5 Friday in the Octave of Easter (Solemnity)
- 6 Saturday in the Octave of Easter (Solemnity)
- 7 2nd Sunday of Easter (Mercy Sunday) (Week II)
- 8 Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity)
- 11 Stanislaus, Memorial
- 14 3rd Sunday of Easter (Week IV)
- 21 4th Sunday of Easter (Week I)

## Meeting in April

Oblates will meet in April on the 21st. Should you have any questions, please contact:

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