



# Oblates of St. Benedict

*Oblate Program at Belmont Abbey, NC*

*October, 2015*

## OUR LADY OF FATIMA, QUEEN OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

October 13 is the anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady to three shepherd children in the small village of Fatima in Portugal in 1917. She appeared six times to Lucia, 9, and her cousins Francisco, 8, and his sister Jacinta, 6, between May 13, 1917 and October 13, 1917.



The story of Fatima begins in 1916, when, against the backdrop of the First World War which had introduced Europe to the most horrific and powerful forms of warfare yet seen, and a year before the Communist revolution would plunge Russia and later Eastern Europe into six decades of oppression under militant atheistic governments, a resplendent figure

appeared to the three children who were in the field tending the family sheep. "I am the Angel of Peace," said the figure, who appeared to them two more times that year exhorting them to accept the sufferings that the Lord allowed them to undergo as an act of reparation for the sins which offend Him, and to pray constantly for the conversion of sinners.

Then, on the 13th day of the month of Our Lady, May 1917, an apparition of 'a woman all in white, more brilliant than the sun' presented itself to the three children saying "Please don't be afraid of me, I'm not going to harm you." Lucia asked her where she came from and

she responded, "I come from Heaven." The woman wore a white mantle edged with gold and held a rosary in her hand. The woman asked them to pray and devote themselves to the Holy Trinity and to "say the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world and an end to the war."

She also revealed that the children would suffer, especially from the unbelief of their friends and families, and that the two younger children, Francisco and Jacinta would be taken to Heaven very soon but Lucia would live longer in order to spread her message and devotion to the Immaculate Heart.

In the last apparition the woman revealed her name in response to Lucia's question: "I am the Lady of the Rosary."

That same day, 70,000 people had turned out to witness the apparition, following a promise by the woman that she would show the people that the apparitions were true. They saw the sun make three circles and move around the sky in an incredible zigzag movement in a manner which left no doubt in their minds about the veracity of the apparitions. By 1930 the Bishop had approved of the apparitions and they have been approved by the Church as authentic.

The messages Our Lady imparted during the apparitions to the children concerned the violent trials that would afflict the world by means of war, starvation, and the persecution of the Church and the Holy Father in the twentieth century if the world did not make reparation

The next Oblate meeting will be October 18, 2015 at 3:30 PM in the Gallagher Room on the first floor of Stowe Hall.



*70,000 people witnessed the "Miracle of the Sun." As stunning as it was Our Lady said it was not as great because of the arrest of the children in August that kept them from coming to the cova.*

for sins. She exhorted the Church to pray and offer sacrifices to God in order that peace may come upon the world, and that the trials may be averted.

Our Lady of Fatima revealed three prophetic "secrets," the first two of which were revealed earlier and refer to the vision of hell and the souls languishing there, the request for an ardent devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the prediction of the Second World War, and finally the prediction of the immense damage that Russia would do to humanity by abandoning the Christian faith and embracing Communist totalitarianism. The third "secret" was not revealed until the year 2000, and referred to the persecutions that humanity would undergo in the last century: "The good will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; various nations will be annihilated". The suffering of the popes of the 20th century has been interpreted to include the assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II in 1981, which took place on May 13, the 64th anniversary of the apparitions. The Holy Father attributed his escape from certain death to the intervention of Our Lady: "... it was a mother's hand that guided the bullet's path and in his throes the Pope halted at the threshold of death."

What is the central meaning of the message of Fatima? Nothing different from what the Church has always taught: it is, as Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict the XVI, has put it, "the exhortation to prayer as the path of "salvation for souls" and, likewise, the summons to penance and conversion."

Perhaps the most well known utterance of the apparition of Our Lady at Fatima was her confident declaration that "My Immaculate Heart

## ORDO

### OCTOBER

- 1 Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Memorial
- 2 Guardian Angels, Patron of Congregation. Feast
- 4 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week III)
- 6 Bruno, Memorial
- 7 Our Lady of the Rosary. Memorial
- 11 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week IV)
- 15 Teresa of Jesus, Memorial
- 17 Ignatius of Antioch, Memorial
- 18 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week I)
- 22 John Paul II, Pope, Opt. Memorial
- 25 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week II)
- 28 Simon and Jude, Apostles. Feast

### NOVEMBER

- 1 All Saints. Solemnity (Week III)
- 2 Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, Memorial
- 4 Charles Borromeo, Bishop. Memorial

will triumph". Cardinal Ratzinger has interpreted this utterance as follows: "The Heart open to God, purified by contemplation of God, is stronger than guns and weapons of every kind. The fiat of Mary, the word of her heart, has changed the history of the world, because it brought the Saviour into the world—because, thanks to her Yes, God could become man in our world and remains so for all time. The Evil One has power in this world, as we see and experience continually; he has power because our freedom continually lets itself be led away from God. But since God himself took a human heart and has thus steered human freedom towards what is good, the freedom to choose evil no longer has the last word. From that time forth, the word that prevails is this: "In the world you will have tribulation, but take heart; I have overcome the world" (Jn 16:33). The message of Fatima invites us to trust in this promise.

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## WHY THE PSALMS



"...the real meaning of the Psalms is held to be a spiritual kernel which must be arrived at by penetration of the "letter." To cling to the literal meaning alone is, according to this line of thought, to miss the whole significance of the Psalms. . .

Thomas Merton, OCSO  
*Breadcrumbs in the Wilderness, p. 23*

## FOR THE NEXT MEETING...

Questions from Br. Edward to think about before we meet.

*Strangers to the City*, Chapter 13: Perseverance

*"How awesome is this place is! This is nothing else but the house of God, the gateway to Heaven!" (Gen 28-16)*

1. What is the reward of short term chores and long term goal? (p.192 middle of 1st par.)
2. What is the benefit of committing yourself 100% to something, as opposed to only committing partially and keeping other options open? (p.193)
3. In regards to perseverance, Is a good community as important as the individuals in the community ? (p.193 2nd par)
4. What does geographical mobility give us? (193 1st par)
5. What is simplicity? (196 middle of 1st par)
6. Are the sacrifices in life made for God worth it? ( 197 second par- top)
7. What is self according to Casey? (197 near top 2nd par)

## NECROLOGY



### OCTOBER

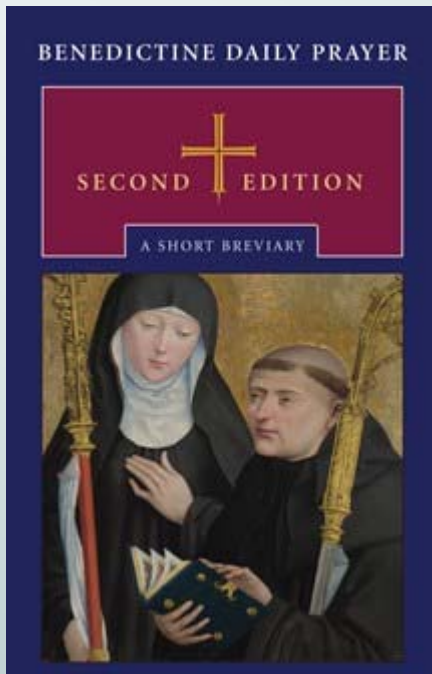
- 1 Br. Obl. Timothy Guidera (1951)
- 4 Fr. Paschal Baumstein (2007)
- 9 Br. William Murray (1926)
- 10 Fr. John Oetgen (2009)
- 12 Br. Boniface Schreiber (1928)
- 14 Fr. Charles Rettger (1916)
- 20 Fr. Augustine Ecker (1934)
- 24 Fr. Alcuin Baudermann (1975)
- 26 Fr. Lawrence Willis (2003)
- 27 Fr.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

### 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)



## BENEDICTINE DAILY PRAYER (SECOND EDITION)



Newly revised, *Benedictine Daily Prayer* provides an everyday edition of the Divine Office for people who desire to pray with the church in a simple manner. Based on fifteen hundred years of liturgical prayer within the Benedictine monastic tradition, *Benedictine Daily Prayer* offers a rich diet of classic office hymnody, psalmody, and Scripture. This fully revised edition includes:

- ◆ A more user-friendly layout
- ◆ A new organization for the Office of Vigils, structured on a two-week cycle
- ◆ Daily Offices also arranged on a two-week cycle
- ◆ Patristic readings for each Sunday
- ◆ Concluding prayers for the daily and seasonal offices
- ◆ Slightly taller format

Benedictine Daily Prayer is designed for all who pray in the monastic tradition including Benedictine oblates and Benedictine monastics. Small enough to fit in a briefcase for travel, it is arranged by date. Scripture readings are from the NRSV.

Due out in November, Liturgical Press is now accepting pre-orders. You can order through their website:

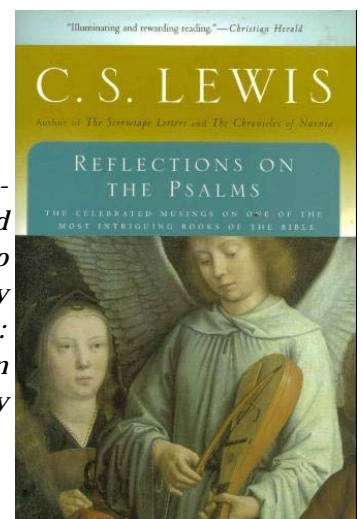
<https://www.litpress.org/Products/3702/Benedictine-Daily-Prayer> or call 1-800-858-5450.

## FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING: REFLECTIONS ON THE PSALMS

**Starting at the November meeting the group will be discussing *Reflections on the Psalms*. The book is readily available at most book stores.**

*"I had not noticed how the humblest, and at the same time most balanced and capacious, minds, praised most, while the cranks, misfits, and malcontents praised least...Except where intolerably adverse circumstances interfere, praise almost seems to be inner health made audible....I had not noticed either that just as men spontaneously praise whatever they value, so they spontaneously urge us to join them in praising it: 'Isn't she lovely? Wasn't it glorious? Don't you think that magnificent?' The Psalmists in telling everyone to praise God are doing what all men do when they speak of what they care about."*

CS Lewis



**The November meeting of the Oblates will be on the 15th at 3:30 in the Gallagher Room.**