



IMPORTANT!: MEETING PLACE CHANGE

At the last meeting it was announced that Abbot Placid has given permission for the Oblates to use one of the rooms in the old Music Building for our meetings. Everything has moved along very quickly. With the efforts of Eagle Scout Candidate Kyle Holland and Boy Scout Troop 501 in Cramerton, NC, the meeting room has been renovated and is now ready to be used. Meetings

will no longer be in the Gallagher Room. The new room is handicapped accessible and parking is immediately adjacent to the building.

Directions. Coming onto the main driveway into campus make a left at the top of the hill. Turn right into the first driveway. The old Music Building is immediately on your left. Please follow the map below.

QUESTIONS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

We begin a new booklet this month: Hope: An Anchor in Today's World. The first chapter pertains to Psalm 145:13b-21. Reflect on this psalm and then answer the following questions:

1. How do you pray with the psalms? What kinds of feelings—about God, about yourself—do the psalms call forth in you? Are you learning to delve into the variety of experiences of God found there?
2. What recent events in your life have given you reason to focus on praising God?
3. What life experiences have helped you discover the transcendence of God? And the nearness of God? Do you tend to think of or experience God as predominantly transcendent or predominantly immanent?
4. In what ways might you help others discover God's care in the midst of daily living? How and when have you experienced God's care "in due season"—just when you needed it?
5. Feeling hopeless and feeling distant from God are often connected. How does the language of Psalm 145 invite us to go beyond our feelings to a deeper truth about God's abiding presence?
6. What role does praising God play in your ability to be hope-filled? Think of a recent time in which you praised God; what triggered that prayer of praise for you?



AIM LENTEN APPEAL

Dear Friends,

Jesus showers his love upon us and asks that we do the same for others. With this in mind, AIM USA comes to you with its Lenten Appeal asking that you join in our mission. AIM promotes cooperation and solidarity among monasteries throughout Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

By supporting developing communities in their birth, growth, and development, the communities in turn are able to assist with the needs of the people in their surrounding areas.

- During Lent, please join us in:
- Saying the AIM prayer each day (see below);
- Fasting in a special way on Wednesday and/or Friday;
- Donating to the projects that are listed below.

Through your response to the 2018 Lenten Appeal, you will make grants possible in the following areas:

Education

- In Brazil formation studies will be provided for Camaldolese men and women.
- A brother in Peru will pursue studies in theology.
- A group of monks and nuns in the Congo will take theological classes.
- Three brothers from the Ivory Coast will be able to study theology.
- Two sisters in Uganda will be provided a formation course.
- Six monks from India will study theology.
- In the Philippines three communities of nuns will take part in a formation and retreat program.

Ecumenical Program: An opportunity for Monastic Interreligious Dialogue (DIM-MID) will be provided.

Community Prayer: Sisters in India will purchase materials for prayer for themselves and their retreat house.

Community Living

- After an earthquake, Sisters in Mexico will be able to repair their monastery.
- Sisters in Burkina Faso will construct a wall around their monastery for safety.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call or write. We can be reached at 814-453-4724 or aim@aim-usa.org.

Any donation you make to this Lenten Appeal is greatly appreciated. By helping these monasteries your love and concern spreads throughout the world. Checks may be sent to: AIM USA, 345 East Ninth Street, Erie, PA 16503. Thank you.

A PRAYER OF AIM FOR MONASTIC LIFE

O loving God, We ask your blessing, on all monastic men and women, especially those who live and work in the most destitute parts of the world. Help us to become people of prayer and peace. May we be visible signs that strangers can live together in God's love. Give us hearts wide enough to welcome the traveler, the outcast, the neighbor. Enable us to listen to and learn from the people we serve, especially the poorest. May our communities be models of wise stewardship, of dignified human labor, of sacred leisure, and of reverence for all living things. Above all, O God, may a monastic presence in the world be a constant witness of justice, compassion and hope to all. Amen.



Pax,
Sister Theresa Zoky, OSB
Executive Director



ORDO

MARCH

- 4 3rd Sunday of Lent (Week III)
- 11 4th Sunday of Lent (Week IV)
- 12 *Begin novena in Honor of Our Holy Father St. Benedict*
- 17 *Patrick, Bishop, Missionary* (opt. Mem.)
- 18 5th Sunday of Lent (Week I)

- 19 Joseph, Spouse of the Virgin Mary. Solemnity
- 21 Passing of Our Holy Father Benedict, Abbot. Solemnity
- 25 Palm Sunday, (Week II)
- 29 Holy Thursday
- 30 Good Friday (*Begin Divine Mercy Sunday Novena*)

APRIL

- 1 Resurrection of the Lord

NECROLOGY



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

MARCH

- 3 Fr. Michael McInerney (1963)
- 10 Fr. Vincent Campbell (1965)
- 14 Fr. William Mayer (1904)
- 17 Br. Christian Hierl (1930)
- 18 Fr. Florian Checkhart (1951)
- 18 Fr. Joseph Tobin (1978)
- 21 Prior Nicholas Bliley (1943)
- 24 Br. Celestine Wiegerle (1928)
- 25 Fr. Patrick Dolon (1913)
- 28 Fr. Ambrose Gallagher (1946)
- 28 Fr. Richard Graz (1952)

APRIL

- 13 Br. Xavier Segerer (1903)
- 16 Br. Richard Kleiner (1940)



NOVENA TO SAINT BENEDICT

Glorious St. Benedict, sublime model of all virtues, pure vessel of God's grace! Behold me, humbly kneeling at thy feet. I implore thy loving heart to pray for me before the throne of God. To thee I have recourse in all the dangers which daily surround me. Shield me against my enemies, inspire me to imitate thee in all things. May thy blessings be with me always, so that I may shun whatever God forbids and avoid the occasions of sin.

Graciously obtain for me from God those favors and graces of which I stand so much in need, in the trials, miseries and afflictions of life. Thy heart was always so full of love, compassion, and mercy towards those who were afflicted or troubled in any way. Thou didst never dismiss without consolation and assistance anyone who had recourse to thee. I therefore invoke thy powerful intercession in the confident hope that thou will hear my prayers and obtain for me the special grace and favor I so earnestly implore (mention it), if it be for the greater glory of God and the welfare of my soul.

Help me, O great St. Benedict, to live and die as a faithful child of God, to be ever submissive to His holy will, and to attain the eternal happiness of heaven. Amen.

ANTIPHONS FOR LENT AND EASTER

For those Oblates currently using the *Oblate Psalter*, antiphons for use during Lent and Easter are available in PDF format from the Oblate website:

http://oblatesosbbelmont.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Seasonal-Antiphons_revLent_Easter.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 8.5x11 piece of paper) and trim them so you can place them in the *Psalter*.

AN OBLATE PSALTER

We are almost sold out of the second printing of *An Oblate Psalter*. We are preparing the texts for a third printing. 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 TRINITY BY ANDRIE RUBLEV

Three icons were chosen to be the focal point of the Oblate meeting room: *The Trinity by Andrie Rublev*; *Christ Pantocrator* and the *Theotokos Enthroned*. This month follows a brief explanation of *The Trinity*.

"The Trinity" (also called "The Hospitality of Abraham") is an icon created by the Russian painter Andrei Rublev in the 15th century. It is regarded as the most famous of all Russian icons and as one of the highest achievements of Russian art. It has been copied countless times with some variations on the basic theme. What you see on these pages is an interpretation of this icon in mixed fabrics. While not the traditional medium for icon "writing," it captures the spirit of the original.

The icon depicts the three angels who visited Abraham at the Oak of Mamre (see Gn 18:1-8), but the painting is full of symbolism and is interpreted as an icon of the Holy Trinity.

The symbol that dominates the entire composition is the circle, a shape that speaks of divinity, without beginning or end. Rublev intentionally does not place the three angels within the circle, but rather he creates the circle with their bodies. Thus our eyes can't stop at any of the three, suggesting we are invited to rest in the company of the "Three in One." The center of the composition is the cup filled with bright red wine. It hints at the cruci-



fixion sacrifice and serves as a reminder of the Eucharist, reminiscent of Christ breaking bread with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

Icons are universally appreciated because of their innate spiritual quality. They invite us to prayer in the presence of something we instinctively know is holy. Why is this? I suggest that it is due to the two-dimensional nature of their design. In traditional icons, there is no shadow created by one material source of light. Rather, icons show the world bathed in divine grace and saints radiant with the indwelling Holy Spirit. Even the rocks flash out this light. Alt-

though the garments follow the essential logic of drapey, they are not naturalistically rendered. They are abstract and rhythmical. The inanimate landscape shares in the spiritual dynamic of the event.

Unlike works in three dimensions that use perspective to draw us into the picture, icons are flat, almost protruding out into our space to make the mystery present to us. It is their abstraction that conveys the holy. We tend to think of abstraction as a departure from reality. The opposite is true. It gives us direct access to the reality behind the physical form.

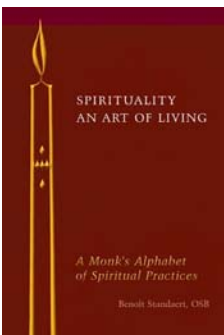
It may not be too far-fetched to see in icons a precursor of the abstract art of our own day.

Fr. Vincent de Paul Crosby
Our Sunday Visitor, May 20, 2017

SPECIAL OFFER THROUGH MARCH 15:

SPIRITUALITY: AN ART OF LIVING

At the last Oblate meeting mention was made of *Spirituality: An Art of Living*. It is a good general introduction to Benedictine Spirituality made up of short chapters linked by subject. Liturgical Press has been kind enough to extend a special offer to our Oblates of 30% off and free shipping. The offer expires March 15 so call (800-858-5450) or email sales@litpress.org with the code BASA30.



From Liturgical Press: *Spirituality: An Art of Living* was born out of a generous impulse: to pass on lessons from the monastic tradition to lay people so as to help them achieve a more ardent and fulfilling spiritual life. In this book, Benedictine monk, teacher, and scholar Benoît Standaert provides ninety-nine entries covering topics like abba, humility, listening and time. The entries are divided in twenty-six chapters according to the letters of the alphabet. A perfect book for all spiritual seekers to sit with and enjoy again and again.

Benoît Standaert is a Benedictine monk of Saint Andrew's Abbey in Bruges, Belgium. He teaches Scripture, spirituality, and interreligious dialogue. After completing a doctorate at the University of Nijmegen on the composition and literary genre of the Gospel of Mark, he published numerous works on Scripture and spirituality in Dutch, several of which have been translated into French, English, and Italian. He is also the author of Sharing Sacred Space: Interreligious Dialogue as Spiritual Encounter (Liturgical Press, 2009).