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OBLATES OF SAINT BENEDICT

Saint Vincent Archabbey

300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650-2690

724-805-2291

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Please note registration forms for Oblate Day and for the October day of recollection on the colored insert.

WALKING IN THE TRUTH:

GLORIFYING GOD AND BEING SANCTIFIED IN LITTLE THINGS

Dear Oblates, Oblate novices, and Friends,

Although there may be occasions when some of us are called to do “great things,” most of the time we are rightly called to be faithful in doing “little things” as best we can. We may at times become discouraged that our simple prayers and ordinary actions are not producing visible fruit; but the Scriptures and the *Holy Rule* assure us that if we are acting, for the most part, out of love for Christ, then the little things of our daily lives do, in fact, glorify God and help to bring about our own sanctification and others’ sanctification.

The end of June and most of July confronted me with more demands than I would have chosen, but there were also opportunities to observe the significance of little things. Amid the biennial NAABOD conference at St. Vincent, our intensive community meetings, the celebration of vows, and the hosting of Oblates and other guests, life was still full of opportunities to “walk in the truth” through faithfulness in little things. On a Sunday after most of the activity had wound down, I was on my way to Vespers when I encountered a monk who was scheduled for surgery the next day. Despite his own difficult situation, he was helping another monk to pack for a long journey. As I talked with him, he asked me if I had a safety pin, which for some reason was needed by the other monk. I said that I was not sure whether I had one but that I would look in a drawer of miscellaneous things in my cell. When I hurried back to search, I did indeed find one small safety pin. Not sure whether it would be adequate, I nonetheless offered it to the one monk to give to the other monk. Apparently it was adequate. Afterward I reflected on how amazingly God had used such a little thing to stop me in my tracks, to help me observe someone else’s generosity, and to challenge me to extend myself in a very small act of charity. Is it not of such small things and such seemingly insignificant decisions that most of our lives are made up? (Perhaps also, I thought, although being a “pack rat” is not generally commendable, it may be helpful for us to save such little things to anticipate someone’s future need, especially if the things would otherwise be thrown away. Anyway, such is my policy!)

Being faithful in little things often means that we do not see the fruits of our efforts. The meeting of

NAABOD (North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors) from June 26 to July 1 provided us participants with occasions to be obedient in unusual ways especially since we were all following a schedule different from our accustomed routines. On one evening, after a presentation about Oblate formation by a panel of Oblate directors, one participant asked me if she could have a copy of my notes. I felt that my notes were neither clear nor accurate, but because she insisted, I made it a point to photocopy my notes. After that I could not remember who the requester was, and I never did discover who she was. Still, I realized that I was right to obey God’s call in this small matter even if no one ever used the copy that I made. Should we not always strive to make such small actions (insofar as we can see them as doing God’s will) loving offerings to God whether or not we feel gratification or see someone benefiting?

On another occasion, early in July, one of our new novices told me that he thought he had spotted an error in one of the psalms in our Divine Office. Although I dreaded facing yet one more mistake, I dutifully went to check our master copy of the Grail psalter. As it turned out, there was no error. In the process, however, we both learned how similar are Psalms 14 and 53. Furthermore, I was impressed that a new novice had become so familiar with the psalms that he caught an apparent discrepancy. Also, seeking the master copy necessitated our going to the Liturgical Music Office, where several tasks over which I had been procrastinating awaited me. Since I was already there, I was finally motivated to do the tasks! At the same time the response to God’s will in checking our Office for accuracy was grace-filled and sanctifying in itself, even if the Lord did have a manifest bonus in store!

St. Benedict urges us, “With His [God’s] good gifts which are in us, we must obey Him at all times” (*RB* Prol: 6). Learning to obey God at all times, even in the smallest details of everyday life, is a matter of “walking in the truth,” as St. John exhorts us to do in 2 John:4 and 3 John:3. Blessed Columba Marmion, O.S.B., comments, “To walk in the truth means to regulate all our conduct in accordance with the views and intentions of God, in conformity with our state in life”

(*Christ the Ideal of the Priest*, p. 277). The blessed abbot continues, "In every circumstance we are faced with a choice. We must never give in to negligence, or to anxiety about our comfort, but prefer the joy of living according to the rectitude proper to our condition as human beings. ... We do not rise to God by fruitless complaints about the past nor by fine projects for the future, but by accomplishing every hour of the day the duty of the moment" (pp. 278-280).

The *Rule* of St. Benedict is replete with instances of care for small things as a means to sanctification. St. Benedict even calls the *Rule* "this little rule that we have written for beginners" (*RB* 73:8). The porter of the monastery has a small but significant role; when a visitor or a poor person arrives, the porter is to respond "with all the gentleness that comes from the fear of God" and is to give the guest "a prompt answer with the warmth of love" (66:4). Every person is important, and it is critical that we speak to each person with gentleness and genuine love. Every person brings a blessing (66:3) to the porter and to the whole community. The abbot himself is to have concern for small things. He is to "keep [the] rule in every particular" (64:20). In St. Benedict's time he was to be concerned about the measurement of the monks' garments – "that they not be too short" (55:8). These days most abbots are probably not directly responsible for such matters, but even today abbots and other superiors are still called to enter into the issues, big and small, that are the substance of monks' everyday lives. The details involved in caring for guests are important, too. Guests are to be greeted with prayer, bows, prostrations, a reading from "the divine law," and the showing of "every kindness," including the washing of their hands and feet (53: 7-13). The practices today differ, but it is still the little details of hospitality that make people feel welcome. Faithfulness to the monastery's daily schedule is also important. In Chapter 47 St. Benedict stipulates, "It is the abbot's care to announce, day and night, the hour for the Work of God. He may do so personally or delegate the responsibility to a conscientious brother, so that everything may be done at the proper time" (47:1). Doing things at the "proper time" is not just a matter of communal discipline; it is an essential aspect of our spiritual growth. Adherence to a fixed schedule is not in itself a virtue. However, when the schedule is followed for the "love of Christ" (4:21) and the brothers are served for the love of Christ and hospitality is shown for the love Christ, then God is glorified and hearts are expanded in the love of Christ as they are meant to be. When the monk observes all that he ought and humbly acknowledges total dependence on God, he "will quickly arrive at that perfect love of God which casts out fear" (7:67) and begin to observe the precepts of monastic life "no longer out of fear of hell, but out of love for Christ, good habit, and delight in virtue" (7:69).

The Bible, too, calls God's people to be attentive to

details as a way to return to God the lavish love they have received. Jesus asserts in St. Luke's Gospel, "If you can trust a man in little things, you can also trust him in greater; while anyone unjust in a slight matter is also unjust in greater" (Lk 16:10). Our Lord also speaks of reward for good stewardship in a "small matter" in Lk 19:17 and Mt 25:21. In the scene at the Last Judgment, Our Lord tells us that our salvation is determined by our loving attention to people considered the "least ones" (25:45), who are His brothers and sisters and in whom He Himself is served. Two passages from St. Paul (among my favorite in the Bible) address the issue of doing everything, including the smallest and most ordinary things, out love for Christ and for the glory of God. In First Corinthians St. Paul addresses a "little matter" about eating food that was offered in idol worship in the presence of fellow Christians who might be scandalized; he concludes that "whether you eat or drink – whatever you do – you should do all for the glory of God" (1 Cor 10:31). In Colossians St. Paul urges his fellow Christians to nurture such virtues as mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and forgiveness. Doing everything out love and in the name of Jesus is the way to be stretched in all the virtues. "Whatever you do," he concludes, "whether in speech or in action, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Col 3:17). All the evangelists show Our Lord's concern for small ways of caring for people. Jesus' use of His hands seems especially notable. On visiting St. Peter's house, He approached Peter's ailing mother-in-law and "grasped her hand and helped her up" (Mk 1:31). In raising up the daughter Jairus, Jesus took the hand of the girl, raised her up, and then "told them to give her something to eat" (Mk 5:43). In the miracles of the multiplication of loaves, Jesus accepts a very small contribution, which becomes the means of feeding huge crowds of needy people; furthermore, He uses this "sign" as a means to teach about God's generous gift of Self in the Eucharist.

How, then, can we become, in a grace-filled way, more attentive to the little things of life? Blessed Columba recommends, "In the most commonplace actions as well as in the greatest, [a Christian] should have his eyes fixed on God, with the intention of doing His will and pleasing Him." "It is not possible," he continues, "to have the intention of referring ourselves to God ever actively present in our minds, but if our souls rise up to God from time to time by an act of love, then the words of St. John will be realized in us, 'He that abideth in charity abideth in God and God in him' (1 Jn 4:16)" (*Christ the Ideal of the Priest*, p. 282). Furthermore, this charity, "more and more detached from all that is not God, has made of these apparently humdrum lives an unbroken canticle of praise, an unceasing prayer" (p. 283). In this way we learn to see that even people and situations that seem to be "imagined obstacles are intended to be transformed into ladders to lead us up to God" (p. 283).

Thus we give glory to God when we are faithful to our ordinary duties and strive to do them out of love for Christ. We glorify God not only by praying the Divine Office with attentiveness and by practicing *lectio divina* with reverence but also by obeying traffic laws (including speed laws), by blessing those who drive recklessly, by paying our bills on time, by keeping our houses neat and clean, by picking up others' litter (when possible to do safely), by being on time for appointments, and by striving to look presentable (but not showy) in our interactions with others. We give glory to God most especially by seeking to be charitable in little ways. We please God and grow in grace when we greet people cheerfully (no matter how pleasing or unpleasant they are to us), when we listen to others attentively, when we promise to pray for others in their need, and when we refrain from gossiping or violating confidentiality. On a recent day, when I was in the midst of writing this essay and hoping to make progress on about 10 other projects (with almost no success), a young man came into my office to seek directions to our dining-service office to apply for a job. I got up, took him to the office, and accomplished a couple of errands on the same trip. I believe that God sent this young man (and many other such people, sometimes also by phone or letter) to me

precisely to reorder my priorities, to help me overcome self-centered preoccupation with my agenda, and to form me further in the way of gentle, cheerful attention to others in need, however little the needs might be, out of love for Christ. (And are not all needs "great" for the one who is needy?)

Let us rejoice, then, that we are called to serve God and to serve one another in so many little ways each day. Let us rejoice in opportunities to wash towels, to serve food, to give directions, to write thoughtful notes, to shop caringly for needed items, to do thankless tasks with patience, and to fill in for others with gratitude and gentle, self-emptying love. It is in such ways that we learn to glorify God in all things (cf. *RB* 57:9 and 1 Pt 4:11) and to obey Him cheerfully with the good gifts He has given us (cf. *Prol*: 6). Let us thus persevere in walking in the truth, with our eyes ever refocused on Christ!

In the peace of Christ and Saint Benedict,

Fr. Donald S. Raila, O.S.B.,
Director of Oblates

N.B.: Along the above lines, may I make a plea for the return of long-overdue library books? Being punctual in returning books, ideally before six months, is a way of showing respect for others who may wish to borrow the books and of exercising God-given stewardship. It saddens me that a few of you have had books out for several years (one for six years) and have not responded to my persistent pleas. I do not wish to exaggerate this matter or to murmur, but I do plead with you once more to be responsible in this "little matter." Thank you!

A MESSAGE FROM ARCHABBOT DOUGLAS

August, 2009

Dear Oblates and Friends of Saint Vincent,

Greetings and warmest wishes! This summer at Saint Vincent has been a time of considerable activity. The Benedictine Community held its annual community meetings followed by the admission of four new novices to the community and the first profession of our five novices. We also had two solemn professions and three ordinations to the priesthood this year.

Several weeks ago I was in Taiwan for the ordination of Father David Ho, who is the first Benedictine solemnly professed and ordained monk from our Wimmer Priory in Taipei. Father David will be returning to the United States to continue graduate studies this year.

Throughout 2009, we are also celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of our beloved founder, Archabbot Boniface Wimmer. In July a group of pilgrims from Thalmassing, Germany, the birthplace of Archabbot Boniface, arrived for a visit. They were delighted to see how the monastery he originally established has grown over the years. I will travel to Thalmassing in October to celebrate Mass in the church where Boniface Wimmer was baptized in 1809. We will conclude the year of bicentennial celebrations of Archabbot Boniface's birth on November 19, 2009. A Mass of Thanksgiving will be offered by His Eminence Cardinal Justin Rigali here at the Archabbey Basilica.

Be assured of our continued gratitude and prayers!

Sincerely in Christ,

+Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B.

OBLATE DAY 2009 - September 20

All Oblates, Oblate novices, and their guests are welcome to attend Oblate Day on Sunday, September 20, from 9:00 A.M. to 6:30 P.M. The guest speaker will be Fr. Jacques Daley, O.S.B., if he has sufficiently recovered from surgery. See the registration form on the insert, and send in a completed form before September 14 if you plan to attend. Note that Mass will be offered in Mary, Mother of Wisdom Chapel at 10:30 A.M. Those who would like overnight accommodations should notify Fr. Donald in advance since guest rooms are limited. Be sure to indicate if you plan to be received as an Oblate novice or Oblate; if so, a completed application form is required.

OBLATE DAY OF RECOLLECTION - October 17

A day of recollection for Oblates, Oblate novices, and other interested persons will be held at the Archabbey on Saturday, October 17, from 8:30 A.M. to 6:30 P.M. **Registration will be on the first floor of Leander Hall from 8:30 to 9:00.** The day will include conferences by Fr. Matthias Martinez, O.S.B., who serves as the assistant rector and dean of students at St. Vincent Seminary; Saturday-morning Mass; the opportunity for confession; Midday Prayer and Evening Prayer with the monastic community; and lunch and supper. The cost will be \$33.00 (or \$26.00 for lunch only); one may send a check with registration or pay on arrival. Those who cannot pay the full price can request a discount. Please send the registration form [see the flier] to Chris Karem by October 10.

OBLATE RETREATS, May 15-17 and June 5-7

Some 50 people attended this year's first retreat on Benedictine spirituality, entitled "They continue joyfully because of Him who loved us" and directed by Fr. Donald; and some 20 attended the second (and silent) retreat on Benedictine spirituality, entitled "Reflections on the Wisdom of St. Benedict" and directed by Fr. Thomas More Sikora. On May 16 the retreatants participated in the Mass of ordination of Fr. Joseph Adams, O.S.B.

At Oblation ceremonies on the afternoon of May 16 at St. Gregory Chapel, Fr. Donald invested the following as Oblate novices:

Xavier Bingham of Newark, OH
Barry J. Krainack of Drums, PA
Jeanne Marie LeFay of Ferndale, MI .

Dr. Krainack is an alumnus of St. Vincent College. Xavier, age 14, had been a junior Oblate novice since August 17, 2005.

MEETING OF DEANERY REPRESENTATIVES, May 16

At 1:00 P.M. on May 16, representatives of Oblate deaneries met with Fr. Donald in the Brownfield Center. Attending were representatives from Anville, Baltimore, Chincoteague, Latrobe, the Niagara Area, Pittsburgh, State College, and Virginia Beach. The group discussed what each deanery was doing at monthly meetings, what books might be used for discussion, and how they might attract new members.

JULY 11 - FEAST OF ST. BENEDICT

Oblates and their guests, some 65 people, participated in the Archabbey's celebration of the Feast of St. Benedict, Patriarch of Western Monasticism. Several of the Oblates arrived on July 10 and thus were able to witness the first profession at Evening Prayer of Benedictine monks Br. John Paul Heiser, Br. Isidore Miner, Br. Albert Gahr, Fr. Jean-Luc Zadroga, and Br. Pio Adamonis. At the concelebrated Mass at 10:00 on July 11, Benedictine monks Br. Nathanael Polinski and Br. Elijah Joseph Cirigliano professed their solemn vows.

During Oblation ceremonies at 2:30 in St. Gregory Chapel, Fr. Donald received the following:

Oblates: **Lawrence M. (Elijah) Cuda** of Latrobe, PA
Susan Sherwin of Munhall, PA

Oblate novices: **Christine M. Rossmiller** of Donegal, PA
Susan E. Wykoff of Lock Haven, PA .

After the Oblations the following Oblate jubilarians were honored: Maria (Benedicta) DiCola – 25 years, Sandra (Virginia) Tucker – 25 years, Bruce W. Wells – 25 years, Dana (Maura) Grasha – 25 years, Denise (Elizabeth) Lawrence – 15 years, Jane (Hedwig) Siatkosky (15 years), Cheryl (Benedicta) Matta – 5 years, Mary Ann (Elizabeth) Wuycik – 5 years. Also, some Oblates who had wished to come but who could not were honored in absentia: Edward C. Angelilli – 50 years, Doris (Scholastica) Blase – 45 years, Stephen (Augustine) Roskoš – 40 years, Jean (Frances) Flessner – 30 years, Eileen (Scholastica) Brennen – 25 years, Domenic (Anthony) Maurizi – 20 years. Some of the

group also stayed for Evening Prayer in Mary, Mother of Wisdom Chapel and then for supper.

BR. JEREMIAH IS AGAIN THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF OBLATES

In July Archabbot Douglas once again appointed Br. Jeremiah Lange, O.S.B., as the Assistant Director of Oblates. Br. Jeremiah will be attending seminary full-time and also has two other part-time assignments, but Fr. Donald is grateful that he will be assisting in the Oblate Office several hours a week. Since Fr. Donald does not have e-mail, Oblates who need to send e-mail messages to St. Vincent regarding Oblate business may send their messages to Br. Jeremiah at jeremiah.lange@email.stvincent.edu.

FREE COPIES OF REDISCOVERING CATHOLICISM AVAILABLE

In July Oblate Carl Burlas of Latrobe informed the Oblate Office about a new book by young Catholic evangelist Matthew Kelly that is available for free. One can obtain the book by contacting the website www.DynamicCatholic.com.

PRAYER CHAIN BEGINS IN LATROBE AREA ON JULY 21

After much delay a "prayer chain" for Oblates in the Latrobe area began on July 21. Some 32 people are involved in four chains. The process begins with requests made to the Oblate Office. There were, as one can guess, a few problems at the first implementation, but we hope to iron them out. Those interested in submitting prayer requests may phone the Oblate Office at 724-805-2291. **Those interested in joining the prayer chain, which is activated every Tuesday evening, may contact Oblate Anthony Sunseri at 724-832-8068.**

OBLATE DIRECTORY BEING PREPARED FOR SEPTEMBER

A 2009 edition of the biennial Oblate *Directory* is being prepared by Oblate Bill O'Neil of Pittsburgh. This time we are starting from scratch to make sure that everyone's information is correct. We had hoped to finish the *Directory* in July, but some people wishing to be in the *Directory* had not realized that their previous entries would not be carried over. Also, in the last newsletter Bill's e-mail address was given incorrectly. If you wish to submit your entry, please use the flier, or contact Bill O'Neil with your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address at: Mr. William O'Neil, 4122 Beehner Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15217-2811, or 412-422-1313, or boneil222@gmail.com.

PREPARATION OF DEANERY HISTORIES

Just about all 19 deaneries have submitted histories, but one of the entries, a lengthy one, is still being edited. Hopefully, a booklet with all the entries may be available in September.

N.A.A.B.O.D. CONFERENCE AT ST. VINCENT, JUNE 26 – JULY 1, 2009

The biennial meeting of the North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors took place at St. Vincent for the first time this year. Some 90 Oblate directors and Oblates attended. The theme of the conference was "Formation for the Benedictine Way of Life." The keynote speakers were Mother Mary Anne Noll, O.S.B., prioress of St. Emma Monastery in Greensburg; Fr. Brian Boosel, O.S.B., of the Archabbey; and Sr. Cecilia Dwyer, prioress of St. Benedict Monastery in Bristow, VA. It is hoped that notes from the presentations will be available. Oblates Liz Hart of Latrobe and Joyce Collins of West Newton were the participating Oblates from the Archabbey, and they may have a report available soon. Also, many thanks are owed to the 15-or-so Oblate volunteers, coordinated ably by Oblate Carol Ramela of Acme, who made the guests feel welcome in many ways.

During a business meeting the group of Oblate directors reelected Sr. Antoinette Purcell, O.S.B., of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, IN, as president and elected Fr. Paschal Morlino, O.S.B., of St. Vincent Archabbey as vice-president. Fr. Paschal is the pastor of St. Benedict Parish in Baltimore and the moderator of the St. Walburga Deanery.

After an exchange of ideas about Oblate formation on June 27, a summary of suggestions was printed up, and copies are available. This seven-page report might be especially useful for deanery leaders. Some of these suggestions will be discussed at the Board of Advisors meeting on August 21.

OBLATE LIBRARY

Oblates and Oblate novices are always welcome to borrow books from the Oblate Library in person or by mail. You may contact Fr. Donald for a list of books that are in the library. If you borrow a book when you are personally present, please make sure to sign a card, and please do not keep books out for more than six months. Note that most issues of the *American Benedictine Review* from the late 1960's are available in the library.

RECOMMENDED READING:

The following recommended books are in the Oblate Library:

- Sr. Aquinata Böckmann, O.S.B., *Around the Monastic Table: RB 31-42: Growing in Mutual Service* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2009)
- Abbot Christopher Jamison, O.S.B., *Finding Happiness: Monastic Steps for a Fulfilling Life* (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2008)

NEW BOOKS ON BENEDICTINE SPIRITUALITY

- Wil Derkse, *A Blessed Life: Benedictine Guidelines for Those Who Long for Good Days*, trans. by Martin Kessler (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2009)
- Philip Zaleski, *The Recollected Heart: A Guide to Making a Contemplative Weekend Retreat* (Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 1995, 2009)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS

Eucharistic adoration is being held on every Sunday from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. in St. Gregory Chapel (at least while the Basilica Crypt is being renovated). Oblates are encouraged to attend to pray for vocations to the religious life and the priesthood.

Also, there is Eucharistic adoration every Friday in St. Gregory Chapel from 8:15 A.M. to 3:45 P.M., with the Divine Mercy Chaplet prayed at 3:00 and Benediction at 3:30. There is now an effort to make sure that there are people praying in the chapel at every hour or half-hour. **If you would like to be on a list of regular adorers or of substitutes, please phone the Oblate Office at 724-805-2291, or phone Andrea Galiardi at 724-925-3251.**

BENEDICTINE OBLATE PROGRAM ON RADIO WEDO, 810 AM: This program, hosted by Oblate John James of North Huntingdon, is broadcast from 8:45 A.M. to 9:00 A.M., Monday through Friday.

OBLATE MEETINGS IN LATROBE

Oblates from all locations are welcome to the monthly meetings of the Latrobe Deanery of Oblates at 6:45 P.M. in Brownfield Room 202 on Sundays. The next four meetings will be on August 16, September 13 (a week early because of Oblate Day on September 20), October 18, and November 15. Also, presentations on Benedictine spirituality are given in the same room at 3:00 P.M. on the same days. Those wishing to pray Vespers with the monks at 5:00 and to have supper in the guest refectory should phone Fr. Donald (724-805-2291) a day or so in advance.

VOCATIONS VIDEO AVAILABLE

The Archabbey's Vocation Office recently produced a vocations DVD entitled "I Only Show You the Cross." If any of you know young men who are thinking about a vocation to the religious life and might benefit from the DVD, please contact the Oblate Office or the Vocation Office (724-532-6655).

OBLATES WELCOME TO JOIN SAINT VINCENT DEVELOPMENT CLUB

The Development Club, a fund-raising program begun by the Archabbey 43 years ago, assists in the funding of the community's various apostolates. One becomes a member by purchasing a 10-month ticket for \$10.00 a month (or \$100.00 paid in full). There are five cash prizes each day, Monday through Saturday, totaling \$514,700.00, with two St. Vincent College scholarships. Winners are based on the 4-digit Pennsylvania evening lottery. The new program will begin on September 7, 2009, and will end on July 3, 2010. For more information, write to the Development Club Office at the Archabbey, or phone 724-805-2217.

LARGE-SIZE MEDALS OF ST. BENEDICT AVAILABLE

Fr. Gilbert has a supply of over 50 5"-diameter, gray-colored medals of St. Benedict which can be used for hanging on walls or above doors. If you would like one of these medals, contact the Oblate Office. If you come to the Archabbey, feel free to pick up a medal. If you want a medal mailed to you, please donate for postage. If you wish to make a donation for the medal itself, you may contribute to the Development Club or to the Oblate Office.

NEW REGULATIONS FOR OBLATION CEREMONIES: PERMANENT DEACONS MAY OFFICIATE

Because of pastoral concerns in various deaneries, Archabbot Douglas has given permission, after Fr. Donald's consultation with our canon lawyer, to change the regulations for ceremonies to receive Oblate novices and Oblates affiliated with St. Vincent Archabbey. As of August 1, 2009, permanent deacons, when given authorization by the Director of Oblates, may officiate at ceremonies to invest Oblate novices and to accept final Oblations. Permanent deacons may also serve as moderators of deaneries.

RETREAT AT ST. EMMA FOR MARRIED COUPLES BEING GIVEN BY FR. BONIFACE, O.S.B.

Fr. Boniface Hicks will be directing a retreat for married couples at St. Emma Retreat House from September 11 to 13, 2009. It will be entitled "Love Shared in Liturgy and *Lectio Divina*: Ways to Deepen Married Life in Christ." The retreat will show how couples can grow in experiencing the Lord Jesus and communicating through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Liturgy. Oblates are especially welcome to attend. The cost is \$270 per couple. For additional information or reservations, visit www.stemma.org or call 724-834-3060, ext. 113.

SECOND WORLD CONGRESS OF OBLATES IN ROME, OCTOBER 2-10

Through the coordination of Fr. Paschal Morlino, O.S.B., moderator of the St. Walburga Deanery in Baltimore, St. Vincent Archabbey will be sending nine delegates to the Second World Congress of Oblates in Rome from October 2 to 10, 2009. Our delegates are Joyce Collins, Ethel Galli, Liz Hart, Bernard Hughes, Grace Kolander, Mary Lynn Nicklas, Nancy Premoshis, Michael L. Russo, and Terry Seibel. Please keep them and the congress in prayer. Some additional financial assistance would be helpful. **If you can donate to help with some of the pilgrims' travel expenses, please send a check made out to ST. VINCENT ARCHABBEY to the Oblate Office.**

MAILING LIST TO BE REVISED BEFORE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

A number of people who have expressed interest in the Oblate Program and who are on a temporary mailing list have not contacted the Oblate Office for quite a while. If you are one of these inquirers and have not contacted the Oblate Office for a year or more, your name will be eliminated from this mailing list unless before October 1 you express a desire to continue to receive the newsletter. Therefore, please let us know soon if you are still interested. Thank you.

LIFE AND MIRACLES OF ST. BENEDICT TO BE ORDERED AT A DISCOUNT

Within the next several months the Latrobe Deanery will begin to use St. Gregory the Great's *Life and Miracles of St. Benedict* as a text for discussion at monthly meetings. We plan to obtain a discount of 20% by ordering from the Basilica Gift Shop. The list price is \$5.95 each, and the discounted price would be \$4.76. Please let the Oblate Office know if you would like to order one or more copies so that we can have an indication of how many books to order. There should be an order form in the November newsletter. Thank you.

BOARD OF ADVISORS MEETING, JUNE 19

At the bimonthly meeting of the Oblate Board of Advisors on June 19, the seven members present discussed the planned prayer chain, the forthcoming booklets of deanery histories and reflections on the *Rule*, the forthcoming NAABOD meeting, and potential names for the Oblate newsletter. The next meeting is scheduled for August 21 at 6:30 P.M. All deaneries are welcome to submit input, and representatives from any deaneries who happen to be at St. Vincent are welcome to attend.

POSSIBLE NEW GROUP OF OBLATE NOVICES IN SOUTHERN PINES, NC

A number of parishioners of the Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church in Southern Pines, North Carolina, have expressed interest in the Archabbey's Oblate Program. There will be a preliminary meeting of interested people on August 4. Please keep this endeavor in prayer.

OBLATE CONDOLENCES: Let us pray for healing and strength for members of our Oblate Community who have lost loved ones as well as for the repose of the souls of the deceased:

- Oblate Marsha Mencer of Ruffsedale, PA, whose mother, Molly Govi, died last November 30 (her name was omitted from a previous newsletter)
- Oblate Mary Lynn Nicklas of St. Marys, PA, whose brother Gordon Skull died in April
- Oblate Rev. Francis Balestino of Johnstown, PA, whose sister Rose Balestino died on April 22
- Oblate Gabriele Terrill of Annville, PA, whose father, Herman Nusser (in Germany) died on April 29
- Oblate novice John Jacoby of Greensburg, PA, whose aunt Marjorie Walker died on April 30
- Oblate Carl Burlas of Latrobe, PA, whose brother Donald died on May 5
- Oblate Robert Frey of Mercer, PA, whose aunt Dorothy Gressley died in June
- Oblate Marie LaMendola of Donora, PA, whose husband, Frank, died on June 6 [see below]
- Oblate Shirley Lazar of Belle Vernon, PA, whose mother-in-law, Ann Lazar, died on June 12
- Oblate William Uncapher of Derry, PA, whose grandmother Harriet Shawley died on June 23 .

OBLATE DEATHS: Let us pray that the recently deceased members of our Oblate Community attain the fullness of life with Christ and all the saints:

- 6 Jun 2009 – Frank J. LaMendola of Donora, PA (Oblate since Sept., 1971; worked for many years at St. Vincent Archabbey Press)
- 7 Jun 2009 – Margaret M. (Frances) Bott of Harrisburg, PA (Oblate since May, 1991; co-founder of St. Placid Deanery in Annville)
- 10 Jul 2009 – J. Patrick Dodaro of Monessen, PA (Oblate since Aug., 1963)
- 14 Jul 2009 – Mary M. Facchine-Spowart of St. Marys, PA (Oblate since Oct., 1986).

NEWS FROM OBLATE DEANERIES

Albion, PA (St. Paul Deanery) -- *monthly meetings at chapel in Albion*

Moderator Ralph DeCecco wrote on May 19. The meeting on May 16, attended by 12 people, began with the Liturgy of the Hours. Then Oblate James Knepp gave a presentation on holiness, based on Chapter 4 of the *Rule*, and there were some very thought-provoking questions and a lively discussion. The gist of the presentation was that "we work away at holiness not because we are ambitious...but because God wants us to be saints and is praised by our striving after sanctity."

Annville, PA (St. Placid Deanery) -- *meetings at 3 P.M. on 4th Sunday of each month, St. Paul the Apostle Church, Annville*

Secretary Gabriele Terrill wrote on May 26 and July 13. The meeting on April 26, attended by 13 people, began with Evening Prayer and a social with snacks. Then the group read and discussed *RB 6* and *RB 42*, about silence and silence after Compline, with emphasis on the need for discipline to pray in silence. One Oblate recommended a book, *Man of Blessing: A Life of St. Benedict*. The meeting closed with prayer.

Seven people attended the meeting on May 17; it began with silent prayer in the church. Then there was a social, and a newcomer was welcomed. The group read *RB 43* on tardiness at common prayer and meals and then closed with prayer.

The meeting on June 28, attended by 12 people, began, as usual, with Vespers in the church. Fr. John Peck, moderator, asked for feedback concerning the silent retreat at the Archabbey in June, which five deanery members had attended. These five people freely shared what they had gained from the conferences about the value of stability, the wisdom of living by the liturgical year, and the ringing of bells for prayer. They were also grateful for the hospitality experienced at St. Vincent. The discussion ended with refreshments, a social, and prayer. The next meeting was scheduled for August 23.

Asheboro, NC (Guardian Angels/St. Joseph Deanery) -- *monthly meetings at Lillian Hazelwood's home, 2nd Sat. of each month, 10:30 A.M.*

Secretary Robert O'Brien wrote on June 1. The deanery did not meet in January or February because of inclement weather. In March and April, two members met on the fourth Saturday of each month; other members were ill.

Baltimore, MD (St. Walburga Deanery) -- *meetings at 3:00-4:30 on 3rd Sun. of each month, parish house, St. Benedict Church*

A monthly meeting was held on May 25, with Fr. Donald visiting from the Archabbey. He gave a presentation, with some discussion, on "Obedience" based on Chapter 4 of *The Path of Life*. About 28 people attended, including

several inquirers. After the meeting the group proceeded to the church choir area to sing Vespers for the Ascension under the direction of Fr. Paschal Morlino, moderator.

Butler, PA (St. Hildegard Deanery) -- *monthly meetings at St. Fidelis Church, generally the 3rd Tues. of month*

Lay leader Ethel Galli wrote on May 5, May 29, June 29, and July 22. The meeting on April 16, in St. Fidelis Hall, began with the Liturgy of the Hours and a discussion of part of *RB 7* (the third step of humility). Then the group practiced some group *lectio divina* on the day's Gospel. Finally, the group reflected on an article, "How Do I Know I Am Advancing in Prayer?" before a closing prayer and fellowship with refreshments.

The meeting on May 21 began with the Liturgy of the Hours, and then the group discussed *RB 7:35-43* (the fourth step of humility), with emphasis on the need for perseverance and endurance. Next the participants engaged in group *lectio divina* on the day's Gospel. Finally, there was a reading on "The Conditions for True Joy" from homilies by Fr. Alfred Delp, S.J., a World War II martyr. The evening closed with a prayer, refreshments, and fellowship.

At the meeting on June 18, Vespers was followed by a discussion of *RB 7:44-50*, about opening one's heart to a spiritual director and being content with non-ideal circumstances. Then the attendees engaged in group *lectio divina* on the day's Gospel. Subsequently they read and discussed a passage from *The Life of Prayer and the Way to God*, with reflections on "the prayer of desire," consolations, and desolations. The meeting ended with prayer and fellowship.

At the meeting on July 16, after Evening Prayer the group discussed a summary of *RB 7:1-54*, with reflections on the cultivation of humility and purity of heart. Then they engaged in *lectio divina* on the day's Gospel. Next there was a lively discussion on the need for silence, especially in churches, based on an article by Br. Bruno, "Reclaiming Silence." The meeting closed with a prayer followed with fellowship with refreshments.

Carrolltown, PA (Sacred Heart Deanery) -- *monthly meetings at St. Benedict Church, in the church and/or a meeting room.*

Lay leader Mary Catherine Hoover wrote on June 29. The meeting on April 19 began with Vespers and continued with discussion on "Prayer" from *The Path of Life*. Fr. Jude, moderator, spoke about the prayer lives of monks, priests, and Oblates and how they are related.

Newly ordained Fr. Joseph Adams, who had done his deacon internship in Carrolltown, met with the Oblates on May 31. The group discussed the chapter on the Eucharist from *The Path of Life*, and Fr. Joseph spoke about the differences between a diocesan priest and a priest who is a consecrated religious.

Only one Oblate attended the meeting on June 28, and the session consisted of a prayer with Fr. Jude.

Chincoteague Island, VA (Our Lady of Guadalupe Deanery) -- *monthly meetings at St. Andrew Church.*

Lay leader Mary Hoffken wrote on May 15 and June 30. At the meeting on April 28, after an invocation to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Fr. Paschal Kneip, moderator, led the group of four in a discussion about spirituality, which has as its goal the living out of one's beliefs. The spirituality of various religious orders was described, with the Benedictines described as emphasizing the praise of God through Scripture, the Divine Office, and hospitality. The meeting ended with Evening Prayer.

The meeting on June 17 was attended by Fr. Paschal and eight others. After the invocation Fr. Paschal continued to speak about the Benedictine charism, which involves time for Scripture, the devotion of time and energy to praise God, and the seeking of God in community. Mary Hoffken gave a Power-Point presentation on her experience at the Oblate retreat at the Archabbey. The presentation also included scenes from St. Emma Monastery, the Gristmill, and the monks' section of the cemetery.

On July 11, the Feast of St. Benedict, Fr. Paschal invested three Oblate novices:

Henry Barnaby III of Chincoteague Island, VA

James Morris of Chincoteague Island, VA

Olive Morris of Chincoteague Island, VA. Jim and Olive are husband and wife.

Johnstown, PA (St. John Gualbert Deanery) -- *meetings on 2nd Monday of each month, 6:30 P.M., St. Benedict Church*

Lay leader Carl Motter wrote on May 13 and June 10. The meeting on May 11 consisted of a Mass celebrated by Msgr. Michael Becker, moderator, along with renewals of Oblation for the 20 Oblates present. After the Mass there was a social with refreshments. (continued)

At the meeting on June 8, after Evening Prayer, the attendees discussed conversion and stability from the book *How to Be a Monastic and Not Leave Your Day Job*. The meeting was brief since Msgr. Becker was away on vacation.

Latrobe, PA (St. Gregory the Great Deanery) -- *meetings usually on 3rd Sunday of month, 6:45 P.M., Brownfield 202*

The meeting on May 17 began with a presentation on the medal of St. Benedict by Fr. Brian Boosel, main archivist of the Archabbey and moderator of the Butler Deanery. He reviewed the history of St. Benedict and the medal with emphasis on the image of the Cross, whose power is the source of our salvation. Fr. Brian also explained the acronyms on the medal and passed around different samples of medals of St. Benedict that had been given to the monastery. After Fr. Brian's very well-received talk the group began a brief discussion of Chapter 8, "The Eucharist," from the book *The Path of Life*. There was an overflow attendance of some 30 people.

The meeting on June 14 was also very well attended. Fr. Donald led a continued discussion on the Eucharist, with emphasis on our entering into Christ's self-offering to the Father and on ways to be more reverent and attentive as the great mystery of our faith is celebrated. In the Archabbey Basilica, before the praying of Compline, Fr. Donald invested **Celeste Pileggi** of Charleroi, PA, as an Oblate novice.

At the meeting on July 19, some 30 people continued to reflect on "The Eucharist" from *The Path of Life*. Emphasis was made on the Eucharist as a "mystical sacrament" and on practical ways in which our celebration of the Eucharist can become more fruitful, largely through a change of attitude.

Lessons in Latrobe at 3:00 P.M. before Oblate Meetings

On May 17 Fr. Wulfstan Clough made a presentation about the Divine Office, with about 14 people attending. He made the points that the Office consecrates the hours of the day, that it includes psalms which speak to God very honestly as a central element, and that it has always been treasured by Benedictines. Fr. Wulfstan also reflected on *RB 20* and offered practical suggestions about maintaining reverence and dealing with distractions.

On June 14 Fr. Donald gave a presentation on "St. Benedict and His *Rule*," using the outline provided. He was substituting for Fr. Thomas Hart, who was ill in the hospital.

On July 19 Fr. Andrew Campbell gave a dynamic presentation on *lectio divina* to a full classroom. He spoke of his own experience of learning *lectio*; reviewed the four stages of *lectio*, and recommended the memorization of psalms. He commented that contemplation is the goal of every form of prayer and that *lectio* is beneficially countercultural in slowing us down to reflect prayerfully on the word of God.

Minersville, PA (St. Malachy Deanery) – monthly meetings at the chapel in Minersville

Lay leader Paul Mangiardi wrote on May 5, May 7, June 2, July 8 and July 23. The meeting on May 5, attended by 16 men, included a reading and discussion of *RB 9-17*, of pages 30-35 of the *Oblate Formation Booklet*, and of a letter from Fr. Donald. Then the group prayed for intentions of the Oblate community and the Archabbey and for the repose of the souls of deanery members' family and friends. There was also a communion service followed by a Litany of St. Benedict and devotional prayers.

On May 6, at a Mass attended by about 35 people, Rev. Robert J. Potts invested **Raymond Soto** of Minersville as an Oblate novice.

At the meeting on June 2, attended by 12 men, the group read Chapters 21, 23, 25, and 27-29 of the *Rule* and pages 27-28 of the *Oblate Formation Booklet*, prayed a novena for Sam Acchione and families of deanery members, engaged in an open discussion, and closed with prayer.

At the meeting on July 7, attended by 12 out of 18 members, the group read *RB 6-8* and an article entitled "Are You Really Catholic?" They also asked for St. Benedict's intercession for all Oblates and for their families. Then they gathered for the Eucharist, followed by some instructions about the Mass.

Members of the deanery met for a communion service on July 22, with Paul leading the service.

Niagara Area, Ontario, Canada (St. Henry/St. Gertrude Deanery) -- meetings on 4th Friday of each month, St. Patrick's Church, St. Catharines, Ont.

Secretary Trudy Bretzler wrote on April 25 and July 22. The meeting on March 27, attended by 17 people, began in the church with Evening Prayer, a rosary, and the Litany of St. Benedict. For the business meeting Brain Chisholm, lay leader, announced two deaths, and welcomed people to sign up for the Oblate retreat at the Archabbey. Those present agreed to donate 170 Divine Mercy pamphlets to be put into parish bulletins. Then Fr. Francis Hubilla, O.S.B., moderator, gave a presentation about our woundedness and brokenness and our ability to heal as "wounded healers"; we can choose to "become better instead of growing bitter." Fr. Francis also announced that he would be away in Indonesia and the Philippines from April until July or August to promote the Divine Mercy devotion in those countries. The meeting ended with the distribution of a prayer list, a closing prayer, a blessing, and the singing of "Salve Regina."

(continued)

The meeting on April 24, attended by 10 people, began with prayers in the church, with the rosary offered for the safety of Fr. Francis during his travels. Then the group dealt with a request for a mentor, with the Oblate retreat at the Archabbey, and with a list of prayer requests. Finally, they discussed Chapter 4, "Obedience," from *The Path of Life* before a closing prayer and the "Salve Regina."

At the meeting on May 22, after the prayers Trudy gave a report on the Oblate retreat at the Archabbey. After the submission of prayer requests, the group discussed "Silence." Oblate Murray Barrett gave a beautiful reflection on silence and asserted that the void created by silence can be filled only by God.

Pittsburgh, PA (St. Peter Deanery) -- meetings on 2nd or 3rd Wed. of each month, Our Lady Queen of Peace Worship Site.

Lay leader Bill O'Neil wrote on June 18. The meeting on June 17 was well attended despite a very bad storm. After Evening Prayer the group continued its discussion of *Introduction to the Devout Life* by St. Francis de Sales. The exchange was lively.

St. Marys, PA (St. Maurus Deanery) -- meetings on Thurs. before 1st Fri. of month, 7:00 P.M.

Secretary Peggi Gabler wrote on May 14 and June 17. On May 7 deanery members met for Evening Prayer, Benediction, and renewal of Oblation by the eight full Oblates who were present. Also, prayers were offered for those in need; Oblate Eileen Brennen read a passage from the *Rule* and an excerpt from the life of St. Benedict; and moderator Fr. Michael Ferrick offered some words of wisdom. Then the group helped to answer many questions posed by two inquirers before a closing with prayer.

Eleven people attended the meeting on June 3, which began with Peggi's reading of minutes from May and of a letter from Fr. Donald. She also distributed copies of *St. Benedict for Busy Parents*. Fr. Michael reflected on conversion of life and recommended a daily examination of conscience and Act of Contrition. Then some Oblates shared about how Oblation had changed their lives. Oblate Eileen Brennen read a passage from *Benedictus* and from the *Rule* (the fifth step of humility). Those present also signed a card for ailing Oblate Mary Facchine-Spowart, who had moved out of St. Marys to live with a daughter near Latrobe. (Mary has since died; see above.)

Saint Vincent College – monthly meetings during the school year, usually in Mary, Mother of Wisdom Chapel

Meetings will resume in the fall. One incoming freshman is an Oblate novice.

Savannah, GA -- special monthly events at Sunday Vespers at Benedictine Priory

On June 22 a packet was mailed to the Oblate community of the Savannah Deanery including a prayer schedule for June-December and Mass homilies by Fr. Ronald Gatman, O.S.B., moderator.

Scranton, PA (St. Boniface/St. Lioba Deanery) -- monthly meetings on 3rd Fri. of month at Immaculate Conception Church, Scranton.

Lay leader Gretchen Meyers wrote on May 27, June 26, and July 20. The meetings on April 17 and May 15 were not well attended, partly because of Oblates' health problems. In the course of those meetings the group finished discussing *The Path of Life* and began to read and discuss *Strangers to the City*.

The four Oblates who met on June 19 continued their reading of *Strangers to the City*.

Six people attended the meeting on July 17. The group decided to make donations to the Archabbey with the money they had been collecting for some months. Then they continued a discussion of *Strangers to the City* with the chapter "Leisure." Gretchen showed some comic strips that portrayed different attitudes toward leisure in our culture. There was also some conversation about Mass and popular devotions.

State College, PA (St. Joseph Deanery) -- meetings on 2nd Monday of each month, Benedictine residence.

Inquirer Thomas Liebner reported on May 12, and Secretary Ashley Leggett wrote on June 9. At the meeting on May 10, the group discussed St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy and his Letter to Titus. There was some initial discussion about the recent inter-faith meeting in Jerusalem and about methods of correction and discipline that are appropriate for Christians. From St. Paul's wisdom, they concluded that balance is necessary, which sometimes implies patient and gentle correction and sometimes calls for courageous action, but never with vengeance or hatred. It was also mentioned that the fruits of one's efforts to set things right are often not apparent for a long time; patient waiting may be necessary.

The Oblates held their annual end-of-season dinner meeting on June 8 at a restaurant in State College. About 20 Oblates, Oblate novices, inquirers, and spouses attended in addition to Fr. Boniface, moderator. Oblate Alice Fenlon presented him with a hand-made Job's-tear rosary from the deanery; the Job's tears had been supplied by Oblate Laura Schneider. The group also discussed possibilities for a program for the 2009-2010 year of meetings.

Virginia Beach, VA (St. Scholastica Deanery) -- meetings on 1st Wed. of month, 7 P.M., Computer Library, St. Gregory the Great School

Lay leader Dee Pauls wrote on June 26 and July 19. Because of Holy Week and Fr. Cristiano's heavy schedule, there was no meeting in April.

At the meeting on May 6, Fr. Cristiano, moderator, gave a reflection on the verse "Idleness is the enemy of the soul" from *RB* 48. He spoke, in particular, about remaining spiritually focused, not wasting time, and using Sundays for *lectio divina*.

At the meeting on June 3, Fr. Cristiano gave a presentation on *lectio divina*, with emphasis on becoming united with God through praying the Scriptures. Through *lectio* one learns to "listen with the ear of the heart" and thus grows spiritually. Also, Oblates Peggy Gambardella and Barbara Sauter reported about their experiences from the Oblate

retreat at the Archabbey.

At the meeting on July 1, two inquirers submitted applications to be invested as Oblate novices. Fr. Cristiano continued to offer reflections on *lectio divina*, which requires prayerful listening. He mentioned the Blessed Virgin Mary as a model for us in her pondering of the word of God in the depth of her heart and in her acting on it with radical faith.

Williamsport, PA (Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus Deanery) -- meetings on last Sunday of each month, 1 P.M., St. Boniface Church (or rectory) meeting room

Lay leader Ted Richardson wrote on June 15. Only three people attended each of the meetings in April and May. It is possible that the deanery may no longer be able to meet at St. Boniface Church because of new pastoral assignments in the diocese. There is some thought of meeting at Mater Dolorosa Church in Williamsport.

Various Locations

On May 8 at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Mission in Raleigh, NC (temporarily located at St. Thomas More Academy),

William D. (St. Paschal Baylon) Smith of Youngsville, NC, made his final Oblation in the presence of Very Rev. Mark W. Shuey. The ceremony was held during a Mass with a congregation. Bill had recently transferred his novice Oblation to St. Vincent from Belmont Abbey.

On May 17 during Mass at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Gujrat, Pakistan, **Nadeem (Benedict) Feroze** of Gujrat, Pakistan, made his final Oblation in the presence of Rev. Tariq Bhatti, pastor, and the congregation gathered for Sunday Mass. Nadeem promises his prayers for all the Oblates and monks of St. Vincent Archabbey and asks for ours. Nadeem had wanted to make his Oblation at St. Vincent but was unable to obtain a visa to travel to the U.S. Nadeem later sent to the Oblate Office many photographs of his ceremony of Oblation, other photographs of parish activities, and a CD-R of the ceremony along with a program. Anyone who would like to see these or borrow them may contact the Oblate Office.

On May 16, during a Vigil Mass at St. Peter's Chapel in Somerset, PA, **Eric C. (Eugene) Brown** of Somerset, PA, and **John (Eric) Bushyager** of Somerset, PA, made their final Oblation in the presence of Rev. James Dugan, chaplain, and the congregation at Mass.

On May 28, at Infant of Prague Catholic Church in Jacksonville, NC, Rev. John Gillespie, pastor, invested **Joseph B. Pierce, Jr.**, of Jacksonville, NC, as an Oblate novice. Oblate James Hough, a fellow parishioner, was also present for the ceremony.

On June 14, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, **Laura (Mary Veronica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus)** of Howell, NJ, made her final Oblation during the 10:00 Mass at St. Luke Church in Toms River, NJ. Rev. Louis W. Kralovich received her Oblation, and a number of Laura's family and friends were present among the congregation, which filled the church.

On June 22 **Marian (Josepha Benedicta) Jones** of Eagle River, Alaska, transferred her Oblation to St. Vincent Archabbey from Holy Cross Abbey in Colorado, which has been suppressed.

On June 27, at Sacred Heart Church in Coshocton, OH, Rev. William A. Hritsko invested **Kathryn E. Stuart** of Coshocton, OH, as an Oblate novice in the presence of family and friends.

On July 11, at St. Basil Church in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Fr. Andrew Leung, C.S.B., invested **Paul S. Nash** of Toronto, Ontario, as an Oblate novice. Also present for the ceremony was Oblate Nancy Navkar, who also belongs to St. Basil Parish and who renewed her Oblation during the ceremony.

SICK & INFIRM MONKS: The following monks of the Archabbey have been hospitalized or otherwise seriously ill or infirm over the past three months and could use the Oblates' prayers: Fr. Jacques Daley, Br. Fred Supek, Fr. Paul Rubadue, Fr. Cuthbert Jack.

DECEASED MONKS

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Br. Miguel Saviato (of São Bento Priory, Brazil), who died on June 13 at the age of 82, and of Fr. Roland Ripoli, who died on July 10 at the age of 72.

OVERDUE OR MISSING LIBRARY BOOKS AND TAPES: PLEASE RESPOND!

During the past year a number of books from the Oblate Library have been found to be missing, presumably because people withdrew them without signing them out. Others were admittedly lost by their borrowers. **Please check your bookshelves to see if you have any of the missing books.** Also, if anyone would like to donate a copy of any of the lost books, such a donation would be welcome.

- St. Bernard of Clairvaux, *Selected Works*
- Roberta C. Bondi, *To Pray and to Love*
- Rev. William Burk, *Protect Us from All Anxiety: Meditations for the Depressed*
- Rozanne Elder (ed.), *The Contemplative Path: Reflections on Recovering a Lost Tradition*
- Fr. André Gozier, O.S.B., *Fifteen Days of Prayer with Saint Benedict*
- Rev. Bernard Head, *Blessed Marmion: A 21st-Century Appreciation* (pamphlet)
- Fr. Terrence G. Kardong, O.S.B., *Day by Day with Saint Benedict*
- Fr. Thomas Keating, O.C.S.O., *Intimacy with God*
- Fr. George A. Maloney, S.J., *The Jesus Prayer* (pamphlet)
- John Moschos, *The Spiritual Meadow*
- Susan Annette Muto, *Meditation in Motion*
- Fr. Guy-Marie Oury, O.S.B., *A Monastic Pilgrimage: Following the Footsteps of St. Benedict*
- Abbot David Parry, O.S.B., *Household of God*
- Basil M. Pennington, O.C.S.O., *Lectio Divina: Renewing the Ancient Practice*
- Pseudo Macarius, *The Fifty Spiritual Homilies and the Great Letter*
- Ghislane Salvail, *At the Crossroads of the Scriptures: An Introduction to Lectio Divina*
- Fr. Michael Scanlon, O.F.M., *Let the Fire Fall*

Cassette Tapes and Compact Disks:

- Esther de Waal, *Seeking God* (3 tapes)
- Sr. Jean Francis Dolan, O.S.B., "Group *Lectio*," from 1995 NAABOD meeting
- Msgr. Francis Mannion, "Holy Dwelling: Monastic Stability in an Unstable Culture"
- Sr. Anne McCarthy, O.S.B., presentation on AIM meeting, from 1995 NAABOD meeting
- *Preaching Today*: "Guarding Human Life"
- Janet F. Smith, "Is Pre-Marital Sex Wrong?"
- Fr. Columba Stewart, O.S.B., "Formation in Benedictine Spirituality," from 2001 NAABOD meeting
- Christopher West, "John Paul II's Theology of the Human Body"

SCHEDULE FOR OBLATE DAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2009

- 9:00 A.M. - 10:20 - Registration & get-together, Faculty Dining Room (Placid A) (no registration during Mass)
- 10:30 A.M. - Mass for participants, Mary, Mother of Wisdom Chapel (college chapel in Carey Center)
- 11:40 A.M. - Midday Prayer, Placid A
- 11:55 P.M. - Lunch, Placid Dining Room B
- 1:00 P.M. - Basilica Gift Shop open (also all morning)
- 1:45 P.M. - Oblation ceremonies, basilica
- 2:15 P.M. - Confessions, basilica
- 3:00 P.M. - Social with the monastic community, Assembly Room

3:45 P.M. - Presentation by Fr. Jacques Daley, O.S.B., Assembly Room
5:00 P.M. - Evening Prayer with the monastic community, basilica
5:35 P.M. - Supper, Placid Dining Room B
6:45 P.M. - Departure .

Registration Form for Oblate Day, September 20, 2009

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

___ I plan to attend Oblate Day on Sept. 20 at St. Vincent.
___ (number of reservations) for lunch at \$5.50 each (money enclosed).
___ (number of reservations) for supper at \$6.50 each (money enclosed).

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

(Please make out checks to St. Vincent Archabbey.)

___ I plan to be received as an Oblate (application required for those invested after 1/1/96);
I wish to take _____ as an Oblate name.
___ I wish to be received as an Oblate novice (application required).
___ I would like overnight accommodations for ___ Sept. 19, ___ Sept. 20. (Please contact Fr. Donald several weeks in advance.)

Please send this form to Mrs. Christine Karem, 2012 Souli St., Greensburg, PA 15601 (phone: 724-216-5830), and not to the Oblate Office. Please mail in this form by September 12.

Schedule for Oblate Day of Recollection, October 17, 2009, Fr. Matthias Martinez, O.S.B.

8:30 A.M. Registration, Leander Hall
9:00 A.M. First conference, St. Gregory Chapel
9:30-10:10 Confessions, Leander parlor and near-by office
10:15 A.M. Mass, St. Gregory Chapel
11:30 A.M. Midday Prayer, St. Gregory Chapel
11:45 A.M. Lunch, Placid Dining Room B
1:00 P.M. Second conference, St. Gregory Chapel
1:30 P.M. Oblation ceremonies, St. Gregory Chapel
3:30 P.M. Third conference, St. Gregory Chapel
5:00 P.M. Evening Prayer, St. Gregory Chapel
5:35 P.M. Supper, Placid Dining Room B

Registration Form for Oblate Day of Recollection, October 17, 2009

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

___ I plan to attend Oblate day of recollection on Oct. 17 at St. Vincent.
___ Enclosed is the fee of \$33.00 (or \$26.00 for only one meal).

(Please make out checks to St. Vincent Archabbey; please make out separate checks for the day of recollection and Oblate Day if you are attending both. Thank you!)

___ I would like overnight accommodations for ___ Oct. 16, ___ Oct. 17 (Please contact Fr. Donald several weeks in advance.)

Please send this form to Mrs. Christine Karem, 2012 Souli St., Greensburg, PA 15601 (phone: 724-216-5830) and not to the Oblate Office. Please mail in this form by October 10.

DIRECTORY OF OBLATES: Application form

I would like to be included in the summer, 2009, edition of the *Directory* of Oblates affiliated with Saint Vincent Archabbey. **(Entries in the 2007 Directory will not automatically be carried over.)**The information that I would like to have included in given as follows:

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ e-mail address _____

Please send this form to William O'Neil, 4122 Beehner Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15217-2811, or phone Bill at 412-422-1313, or send him an e-mail at boneil222@gmail.com .

Poem "The Monks on the Hill," by Oblate novice Susan Wykoff, July 11, 2009
(based on Zephaniah 3:17 and a visit to the monks' graves at St. Vincent Cemetery)

SAINT VINCENT BASILICA ORGAN PROJECT

It is hard to believe that the pipe organ installed in the basilica in 1956 and now no longer functioning cost \$40,000. Now the replacement of this organ is one of the last projects remaining as part of the total renovation project of the basilica begun in 1996. Over the course of the last 10 years, our beautiful church, which can be seen from miles around, has undergone significant changes, including a new roof and interior renovations such as artwork and window restoration, painting, plastering, and lighting.

An organ fund was begun several years ago. However, the cost of a custom-made pipe organ today is extremely expensive compared to that of 1956. The project is now estimated to be well over a million

dollars; however, the beauty and the sound will be well worth the cost. It will be built by hand and will take several years of labor and skilled craftsmanship. The result should be outstanding. Music is very critical to any liturgical celebration, and it is hoped that a new pipe organ will do much to enhance liturgies in the basilica.

Please consider a donation to the Organ Fund. To discuss this project further, please contact the Director of Development, Paul Whiteside, at 724-532-6740, or e-mail Paul at paul.whiteside@email.stvincent.edu.

OBLATE DIRECTORY FOR 2007 TO BE READY IN AUGUST

Thanks to Oblate Bill O'Neil of Pittsburgh, the 2007 *Directory* of Oblates will soon be available for distribution. If your name is included and you have not yet received one, please contact the Oblate Office. Copies will be given out at the August 21 and September 11 meetings of the Latrobe Deanery and then on Oblate Day on September 18. All those not picked up will then be mailed out. If you wish to be included in the next edition, which will probably be issued in the summer of 2007, please contact Oblate Bill O'Neil. (Write, phone, or e-mail: Mr. William O'Neil, 4122 Beehner Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15217, 412-422-1313, boneil2@stargate.net .)

PUBLICITY FOR OBLATE PROGRAM FOR BULLETINS OF NON-BENEDICTINE PARISHES

If any Oblates would like to inform their fellow parishioners (or parishioners in near-by parishes) about the Oblate Program, they may wish to ask their pastors if they are willing to place in their parish bulletins a flier that invites people to consider becoming an Oblate novice. The flier includes a card for inquirers to fill out and is accompanied by a cover letter for pastors. These are available from the Oblate Office.

DIRECTORY OF OBLATES: Application form

I would like to be included in the summer, 2009, edition of the *Directory* of Oblates affiliated with Saint Vincent Archabbey. **(Entries in the 2007 Directory will not automatically be carried over.)**The information that I would like to have included in given as follows:

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ e-mail address _____

Please send this form to William O'Neil, 4122 Beehner Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15217-2811, or phone Bill at 412-422-1313, or send him an e-mail at **boneil222@gmail.com** .