



Oblates of St. Benedict Belmont Abbey

May-June, 2008



May Meeting

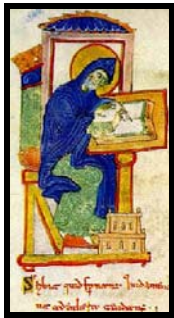
We will be gathering on May 18 in Holy Grounds at 3:30 for the social part of the meeting. We will then adjourn to the Gallagher Room for our discussion.



Depending on the monk's schedules (graduation is May 17th) the topic will be an introduction to Gregorian Chant. If you have ever wanted to be able to follow those black little dots in the Liturgy of the Hours, you do not want to miss this meeting!

Thank You Fr. John

Your talk on Lectio Divina at the last meeting was beneficial and many Oblates have expressed their gratitude for your insights. Thank you for taking the time to come and speak with us.



For those who missed, below is a summary of some of Father's comments. Fr. John explained how Lectio Divina, once the common prayer practice of all Christians, diminished as a result of the Renaissance, with its emphasis on the individual and the Reformation, with its emphasis of Sola Scriptura. The Church reacted by not encouraging individual scripture study.

Between the few commentaries available and the poor vernacular translations, Lectio soon languished.

Lectio was rediscovered as a result of the Second Vatican Council. The Council called on all religious orders to re-examine their roots and the Benedictines re-emphasized the need of Lectio. In addition, with Pope Pius XII came the call for new translations of the bible in the vernacular and for Catholic scholars to work with other religions in the development of translations and commentaries.

Fr. John then went over the particular "steps" of Lectio as outlined in the material sent out in the last newsletter. If you missed it you can see it on-line at <http://www.valyermo.com/ld-art.html>. He encouraged us all to continue to practice Lectio on a regular basis. Only then will we have a better understanding of ourselves and to realize what God's will is for us in our lives and in His plan.

Marie Boucher



Last month I had to report the sad news of the passing Marie Boucher on March 21. Marie was an Oblate of Belmont Abbey for 17 years. Her granddaughter was kind enough to send me the picture but the obituary notice is too long to place here. If you would like a copy please let me know and I will send it to you.

An Easter Baptism

Gary Nielson, an Oblate Novice, was baptized and confirmed at the Easter Vigil this year. His home parish is All Saints Catholic Church in Lake Wylie, SC. Please offer him your congratulations when you see him.



From Around the Monastery

Many of you have asked me about how the monks are doing in the Abbey. You will all be pleased to know that Abbot Oscar is recovering well from his knee replacement surgery and Fr. Raymond is also recovering from an upper respiratory infection. Please welcome to the Abbey Ricardo Correa-Torres, who is beginning his studies as the Abbey's newest postulate. Congratulations to Br. Anthony, who has completed his BA in Business from Belmont Abbey College. Fr. Agostino has elected to step down as sub-prior in order to pursue other interests and to devote more time to teaching and campus ministry.

Web Resources

There are a variety of resources on the web that provide excellent instruction on Lectio as well as provide material. Aside from the site mentioned earlier, St. John Abbey site <http://www.osb.org/lectio/> is probably a good place to start. It provides both biblical as well as Christian authors.

Another site that seems to have a wealth of material for Lectio is <http://www.sage.edu/faculty/salomd/ld/lectio.html>. Let me know if you find other sites that might be helpful.

From the Scriptorium

May has been one of the two traditional months Catholics have reserved to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. On May 13 we remember Mary under the title of Our Lady of the Rosary. I happened to acquire a copy of a book, not yet released, titled *The Last Secret of Fatima*. It was written by none other than Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, with a forward by His Holiness, Benedict XVI. It is not the typical book on Fatima but is written by the last two people to officially communicate with Lucia aside from John Paul II. It is less a re-hash of the event of Fatima but more an exploration of the impact Fatima had on the world and the pontificate of Pope John Paul II. Rather than the typical discussions of possible apocalyptic outcomes of the "secrets" it rather speaks to the hope that the messages give to all peoples. Cardinal Bertone also speaks frankly and openly about his discussions with Lucia, the secrets, how they were released and debunks some of the speculation that has been generated. Below are a few selections from the book that I thought you would benefit from and perhaps encourage you to read the whole book in the future.



"... in our era of globalization, it would be foolish to downplay the importance of an event such as Fatima. Fatima changed history. But it did so by creating more space for the Spirit, which is a dimension of reality that modern society derides or tries to ignore altogether. But the fact that you could fill an entire library with what has been written both about Fatima in particular and about apparitions in general suggests that God is trying to break through the hard shell of our indifference. Apparitions are meant to affect the business of real life, to play a role on the stage of history. This role is intended to challenge both believers and nonbelievers alike. Far from contradicting faith, authentic apparitions lead us to the heart of the Gospel message.

"There are certain times in history when it seems that the forces of evil are making a particularly concerted assault on the world. But they never stand unopposed. They must reckon with the resistance of another force, a power of love that upsets or, if you will, derails the course of events.

Moreover, love seems to have won. In fact, it has won. ...

"The point I am driving at with all of this is that the purpose behind the revelation of the Third Secret, and of the role John Paul II played in it, was not to stir up the emotions that some people wrongly believe are the real roots of religious experience. Fatima is not a myth but an objective fact and a substantive message that had a real impact on the twentieth century. Both the fact and the message were authoritatively confirmed by Sister Lucia, the only surviving witness, and they were echoed in the intense suffering experienced by Pope John Paul II."

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The Ordo

MAY

- 24 Mary, Help of Christians, Titular and Patron. Solemnity.
- 25 The Body and Blood of Christ. Solemnity.
- 30 The Sacred Heart of Jesus. Solemnity.
- 31 The Visitation of the Virgin Mary to Elizabeth. Feast.

JUNE

- 3 Charles Lwanga, Catechist, Martyr, and his Companions, Martyrs. Memorial.
- 5 Boniface, Bishop, Religious, Mission-ary, Martyr. Memorial.
- 11 Barnabas,* Apostle. Memorial
- 13 Anthony of Padua, Presbyter, Religious, Doctor of the Church. Memorial
- 19 Romuald, Abbot, Religious Founder. Memorial.
- 21 Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious. Memorial.

June Meeting

Please mark your calendar for June 15, 2008. For those who are Catholic and would like to attend, Abbot will be closing the year out with Mass in the Basilica at 3 PM. The subject this month will be the Psalms and Liturgy of the Hours, something many of you have requested. If you need to reach me please write to:

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