



Oblates of St. Benedict Belmont Abbey

February, 2010



February Meeting

The next Oblate meeting will be on February 20 – NOT the 21st. This will permit Oblates and Novices to take advantage of the Day of recollection at the Abbey on that day. Novices are asked to meet February 20th at 3:30 in the Gallagher Room. Please read the chapter on Contemplation in *Finding Sanctuary*

Lenten day of Reflection



Come “prepare the way of the Lord” in your heart with our very special Lenten Day of Reflection, beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 20 in the Haid Theatre at Belmont Abbey College. Monsignor Stuart Swetland and Father Mark Lawlor will lead our reflection.

Father Lawlor, who was an engineer before embracing his vocation as a priest, is the pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte. He will be speaking in the morning (10:00-10:45 a.m.), on the engineered-to-inspire topic, “Lent: Learning, Enduring, Nurturing, Trusting.”

Monsignor Swetland, Director of Homiletics and Pre-Theology at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, is a Rhodes Scholar who was received into the Catholic Church while he was studying at Oxford. He has made numerous appearances on EWTN. Monsignor Swetland will speak in the afternoon (1:00-1:45 p.m.) on “Lessons from the Sunday Readings in Lent.”

Between the two talks, we invite you to join the monks of Belmont Abbey for Mass in the Abbey Basilica (beginning at 11 a.m.). Afterwards, please join your fellow reflection attendees for lunch in the ballroom of the Haid Theatre at noon.

Admission is just \$30 per person. A delicious box lunch, a special premium gift that will richly bless your Lent, plus a \$10 donation to the Chancellor’s Fund, are all included in the price. The purpose of the Chancellor’s Fund is to help Belmont Abbey College’s Chancellor, Abbot Placid Solari,

O.S.B., safeguard and defend the Catholic and Benedictine identity of the College, so that “in all things, God may be glorified.” Funds are disbursed solely at the discretion of Abbot Placid. Our seating capacity is limited, so please register online to reserve your seat call Jillian Maisano at (704) 461-6869.

Oblate Breviary

We have now had a chance to fully review the *Oblate Breviary* published by St. Meinrads. It has many good features. It follows the Rule but keeps in mind the time constraints of Oblates. It has a four week Psalter cycle and introduces chant into the Breviary. It has a simplified format that is easy to follow. The large print is also welcomed. However, there is no Proper of Seasons or Saints nor is there a Commons.

There are three suggestions for those who wish to purchase breviaries. The first is for someone who is just beginning to use the Breviary. Use any of the three simplified versions: *Work of God*, *Shorter Christian Prayer* (comes in both large and small print) and *The Oblate Breviary* of St. Meinrads. However, the *Shorter Christian Prayer* is the best of the three.

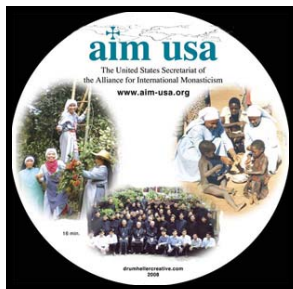
The second recommendation is for those wanting more and ready to go beyond the three mentioned above. In this case it is recommended to purchase the *Benedictine Daily Prayer* and use it in conjunction with *Shorter Christian Prayer* or the *Oblate Breviary*. This is because the *Benedictine Daily Prayer*’s Psalter is so difficult to complete and is not sensitive to the time constraints of Oblates. The simplified psalter of the other two compliments *Benedictine Daily Prayer* very well. It would provide for many of the short-comings of *Oblate Breviary* and the two together give a fairly complete Breviary with expansive readings – a nice alternative to the four volume Liturgy of the Hours. The standard one volume *Christian Prayer* is always an acceptable alternative but it lacks the extensive readings contained within *Benedictine daily Prayer*.

The third recommendation is the complete four volume Liturgy of the Hours. This is the most expensive alternative and not recommended until it is determined if the Holy See will permit the new translations of the Psalter. Probably the simplest alternative is what Abbot Placid recommended on a couple of occasion, just purchase a bible, pray the Psalms through at your own pace and select a book of the bible to take the place of the readings.

Website

The Oblate website finished the year with a total of 14,444 page hits, a significant amount considering how it's primary focus is toward the Benedictine Oblate Community here. While many of the people who come to the site are from the United States we can also now say it has regular visitors from every English speaking nation of the world. Again, I would encourage each of you to make use of the extension to this newsletter which is updated daily.

Lenten Alms

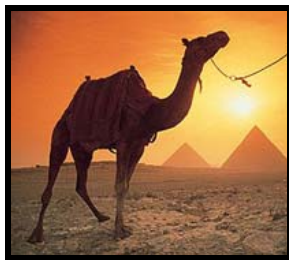


Annually it is suggested that sometime during Lent we make a special offering of alms. Oblates usually make this donation to AIM-USA. Their address is:
345 East Ninth Street
Erie, PA 16503-1107 USA
<http://www.aim-usa.org/>

Desert Wisdom

An old man said, 'If temptation comes upon a person, from all sides afflictions multiply against him in order to discourage him and make him grumble'. And the old man recounted the following story: There was a certain brother at Kellia and temptation came upon him, and if someone saw him, that person wanted neither to greet the brother nor invite him into his cell; if he lacked bread, no one supplied him with any; no one called him in from the harvest when it was time for the agape meal, as is the custom.

One time, therefore, when he returned from the harvest, he did not have any bread in his cell – and for all these things he gave thanks to God. When God saw his patient endurance, he removed from him the warfare brought on by the temptation – and suddenly someone was knocking on his door, having come from Egypt with a camel loaded with bread! And the brother began to cry out, 'Lord, am I not worthy to have a little affliction?' When the temptation passed by, the brothers prevailed upon him to rest himself in their cells and in the church.



Becoming Fire; ed. Tim Vivian, P. 341

The Ordo

Listed are the Feast days and Memorials that are observed at the Monastery and follows the Ordo of the American Cassinese Congregation. You can also see the observed feast days by going to: <http://oblatesosbbelmont.org/ordo/>.

FEBRUARY

10 Scholastica, Virgin, Religious Founder. Feast.
14 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. (Week II)

SEASON OF LENT

17 Ash Wednesday (Week IV)
21 First Sunday of Lent. (Week I)
22 Chair of Peter, Apostle. Feast
25 St. Walburga (Optional Memorial)
28 Second Sunday of Lent. (Week II)

MARCH

7 Third Sunday of Lent. (Week III)
13 Novena in Honor of Our Holy Father Benedict Begins
14 Fourth Sunday of Lent. (Week IV)
19 Joseph * Husband of the Virgin Mary. Solemnity.
21 Fifth Sunday of Lent. (Week I)
22 Passing of Our Holy Father Benedict, Abbot (21 Mar.) Solemnity.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions

for the Month of March

General: That the world economy may be managed according to the principles of justice and equity, taking account of the real needs of peoples, especially the poorest.

Missionary: That the Churches in Africa may be signs and instruments of reconciliation and justice in every part of that continent.

March Meeting

The Oblates will meet again March 21, 2010. If you have any question please write:

George K. Cobb, OblSB
Belmont Abbey Monastery
100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Road
Belmont, NC 28012

gkcobb0428@gmail.com