



## Oblate Community of Saint Martin's Abbey

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Volume 2 Issue 36

### A Letter From the Oblate Director—Brother Edmund Ebbers, O.S.B.

Dear brother and sister Oblates and friends:

On this day, that I am writing, I have been pondering on what to write about. I was reading the Gospel of John 15:12-17 as I meditated and reflected on the days reading the topic of “love” became important. You can well imagine this is a very difficult subject, as it involves so much. I choose to write about what I believe John wants us to know.

Jesus says to His disciples, “This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.” In another place, I recall reading, “it is easier to lay down your life for a friend than for an enemy.” Christ did both.

Telling someone that you love them, alone without action, does very little to show or give aid to the other. Christian love must have action with or without words. Love without action loses its power and urgency. We read in the Gospels, loving is hard work because action is demanded to be a part it.

We all must be able to come up with ways to bring action to our love. First, I would like to offer, that praying for another is good BUT what action is there to seat the love? Often, maybe always, there are personal sacrifices made to show this love. Remember we are bearers of Christ. Christ/God is Love. The action brings love/God from the heart to another. Do we know of someone in need? Then I say, do something for them or give them food, or clothing. Anyone traveling will run across a homeless or needy person, then give them food or a few dollars. Don’t worry about what they will do with it, that is their business, your business is to give aid. If you can care for a child or adult, while the family takes a respite, offer this service. If you can give someone a ride then see how and when you can be of assistance. If someone needs cheering then offer what you can.

I recall when I was much younger, neighbors and families giving food to one another. This was always an expression of out-pouring love toward the needy. Some of this continues today and perhaps in some ways on a large scale through food-banks. Reaching out to those in need of food, clothing, money, and a home is love in action.

Communities are formed to protect and serve. How are we supporting this model of community? How do we protect and serve in an Oblate Community? This is not just for the police and fire departments! In protecting and serving one another, we are pouring out Christ/love for our brothers and sisters.

“By our Love for one another, they will know that we are Christians”

Yours in Christ & St. Benedict,

**Bro. Edmund Ebbers, OSB**

## Abbot's Reflection - Abbot Neal Roth, O.S.B.

As you know, in the Prologue, St. Benedict encourages the monks to walk in the path of the Gospel. Scripture is the foundation of the Rule with some 240 references to the Bible. But, the heart of the Rule is certainly the gospel. Following the word of Benedict faithfully, naturally, leads us to the Word of the Lord. Scripture is the most tested path to the Benedictine life. The other side of this is the development of the life we all received at Baptism.

We need to be grateful that the Benedictine life does offer opportunities for us to live out the Christian life with the aid of the Rule, the vows or Oblate promises, the sacraments, as well as all that the Church offers any Catholic. Saint Teresa of Calcutta often reminded her questioners that all Christians share a common vocation, and that is the call to holiness. All Christians pass through the same Paschal mystery of Christ to live their joy and sorrow, their success and failure. All are called to seek God. The Abbey has a candidate petitioning entrance to the novitiate. When we examine a man entering the novitiate, we look to see if he is seeking God. That is the big question. It is good for us to remember that we are all called to seek God, to find God, to contemplate God, and to be united with God. It is through Baptism that we are initially given this opportunity.

When I was a pastor, I witnessed some really holy people, who, I suspect, are viewed as ordinary in their parishes. I cannot help but remember Mark Twain's comments that we might be surprised at who is in heaven; he concluded by saying "...heaven for climate, and hell for company." (From Mark Twain's Notebooks and Journals, vol. 3)

The gospel is the guide of every Christian, and Benedict certainly lets us know that in the Rule. Very likely, our vocation as Benedictines is the best way we as individuals can seek God. Maybe it will end up being the only way we will get to heaven. We all have a shadow side. And we all have something in our life that creates, at times, a narrow entrance. And that does not mean we are in the wrong life vocation. After all, the narrow entrance leads to glory as we are instructed in the Prologue. Let us always be encouraged by the gospel and the wisdom of Benedict.

## In the Beginning - Father Gerard Kirsch, O.S.B.

On January 20, 1956, **Abbot Raphael Heider (1903-2000)**, chancellor of Saint Martin's College, and **Father Michael Feeney (1919-1930)**, secretary of the college corporation (at this time there was only one corporation at Saint Martin's) went to Seattle to sign and submit to the Housing and Home Finance Agency the final application for loan assistance for the construction of a men's dormitory. (Baran Hall, completed in September 1957.)

...On January 21, **Brother Francis Hehn (1881-1966)** was completing the construction of an electric gong to be used in the Brothers' choir chapel as a signal and to maintain proper pitch for the recitation of the divine office. ...On January 22, Father Maurus Keller left for the University of Notre Dame, where he will complete work for his master's degree in history. **Father Denis Purcell (1902- 1967)** that same day returned from his parochial assignment in Olympia with a case of mumps! ...On January 25, **Father Eugene Kellenbenz (1917-1982)** delivered a paper on sacred music at the regular monthly theological conference. ...On January 27, the clerics were called upon to expedite unloading 16 tons of hay from a boxcar on the siding at Lacey. ...On January 30, **Edward Laverdiere (the future Brother Bruno)** became a postulant for the Brotherhood.

On February 5, 1956 **Abbot Raphael** drove to Mount Angel to visit the Saint Martin's clerics, with whom he went to Lafayette, Oregon to visit the new Trappist abbey. ...On February 10, **Frater Peter (Matthias) Sand (1924-1981)** pronounced his first vows at a quasi-pontifical Mass offered by **Abbot Raphael**. ...On February 12, **Father Alphonse Fuchs (1904-1971)** left that evening for Nez Perce, Idaho because of the serious illness of his mother. ...On February 15 (Ash Wednesday) **Father Walter Hellan (1920-1968)**, the procurator (abbey financial officer) and **Abbot Raphael** attended the meeting of a local accountants' organization. **Father Walter** had been at Saint John's Abbey (Collegeville, Minnesota) February 7-9 for a meeting of all the procurators of the American-Cassinese Congregation.

In other news, **Father Bede Ernsdroff (1909-1982)** was preaching a series of Lenten sermons to both college and high school students. **Father Damian Glenn (1907-1986)** was giving Wednesday evening sermons at Visitation parish, Tacoma, and **Father Meinrad Gaul (1907-1984)** at Holy Rosary, Tacoma. **Father Luke O'Donnell (1913-1999)** was preaching Lenten sermons at Saint Mary's Centralia. ... For Easter, **Father Bede** and **Father David Prebula (1918-2009)** were assisting at Visitation, Tacoma; **Fathers Christopher Abair (1924-1988)** and **Bertrand Trautman (1918-1972)** at Queen of Angels, Port Angeles; **Father Damian Glenn** at Saint Anthony, Kent; **Father Meinrad Gaul** at Saint Paul's Cathedral, Yakima; **Father Leonard Feeney (1908-1980)** and deacon **Father Thaddaeus Arledge (1927-2015)** at Saint Edward, Shelton; **Father Conrad Rausch (1921-2011)** at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Everett; **Father Michael Feeney** at Our Lady of Sorrows, Snoqualmie; **Father Felix Wirth (1913-1984)** at Saint John the Baptist, Cle Elum; and **Father Timothy Lamm** at Immaculate Conception, Raymond.

## From The Hill - Boniface V. Lazzari, O.S.B.

Once, long ago, in a small Benedictine abbey in the Pacific Northwest, where the cedars meet the sea, there lived a very erudite monk of a venerable age who was known far and wide for his writings on sacred themes. In that same abbey, there lived some young novices, neophytes in the monastic life. At that time, it was still the custom for the monks to take their meals together at long tables, seated in the order of their entrance into the monastery. Small teams of novices, who set up the monastic refectory for meals, served the meals, and then bused the dishes, served the monks, in turn, and set up for the next meal. One night, there was lemon meringue pie for dessert. A special treat, to be sure. When the novices cleared the tables, and set up for breakfast with clean cutlery, they temporarily placed one of the leftover pies on the chair of the erudite monk. In their haste to finish their work and attend community recreation, they forgot about the pie when they closed up the monastic refectory for the night. In the morning, alas, the erudite monk discovered it when he sat down in his customary seat for breakfast. That erudite monk is now long deceased. One of the novices of that time long ago is himself an erudite monk and of a venerable age. Recently, he recounted this tale of long ago to some of his younger confreres. The monks of that small Benedictine abbey, where the cedars meet the sea, Saint Martin's, continue still to pray and work together there as they have for over one hundred and twenty years.



At the time of the pie incident, **FATHER CLEMENT PANGRATZ** had already been ordained a priest about five years, and **FATHER BEDE CLASSICK** was a child in elementary school. This year at the annual retreat, the monastic community celebrates the seventieth anniversary of **FATHER CLEMENT'S** priestly ordination, and the golden anniversary -- fifty years, -- of **FATHER BEDE'S**. **FATHER CLEMENT** is retired and in poor health, but

exercised his priestly ministry in many areas of the Seattle Archdiocese during his working life, including the parish in Port Angeles, Washington, where he has strong family ties. **FATHER BEDE** serves as University Treasurer, and on the University's Board of Trustees. **FATHER BEDE** was for many years a member of the Benedictine community of St. Paul's Abbey, Newton, New Jersey, but transferred to Saint Martin's in 2003. At St. Paul's, he had been retreat master, Oblate director, business manager and prior at various times. He did theological studies at St. Mary's, Morristown, where he was ordained to the priesthood in 1967. Congratulations to both confreres on their jubilees. *Ad multos annos.*

Two of our confreres "walked" this spring. **BROTHER LUKE DEVINE** traveled to Berkeley, California, so as to participate with his GTU classmates and formally receive recognition of his recently received Doctorate in Theology. **BROTHER NICOLAUS WILSON** received his Master's in Theology at Mount Angel, Oregon. **BROTHER AELRED WOODARD** represented the Abbey at **BROTHER NICOLAUS'** graduation. Both men will be celebrated at the time of our annual retreat.

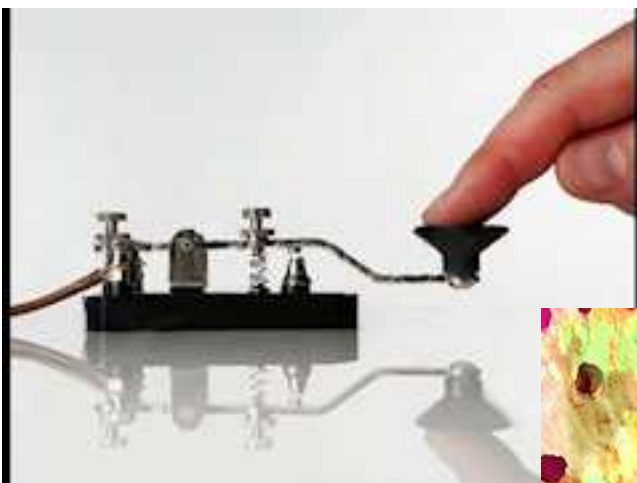
This summer, **BROTHER LUKE** will again travel to California, though this time to the southern part of the state. He is scheduled to deliver a paper at the bi-annual conference of C.I.V.A. (Christians in the Visual Arts). **ABBOT NEAL ROTH** has appointed **BROTHER NICOLAUS** to the positions of Vocation Director and Novice Master, as well as given him an appointment as a member of the Abbey's Senior Council and Board of Directors. **FATHER GERARD KIRSCH** steps down from the position of Novice Master, which he has held for many years. **FATHER PAUL WECKERT** continues as Director of Vocations.

This May, the university's student newspaper named **FATHER PAUL** the "monk of the month" and ran an extensive article on him. **FATHER PAUL** is spending the first part of the summer in Europe, attending a program on monasticism at the Benedictine abbey of San Anselmo in Rome...**ABBOT NEAL** has been assisting the Archbishop of Seattle this spring. The Archbishop is recovering from serious surgery and has delegated **ABBOT NEAL** to do many confirmations in the parishes of the archdiocese...The Abbey has commissioned a set of banners and gifted them to the University. They will be used in the Marcus Pavilion when Mass is celebrated there. Last September, **ABBOT NEAL** asked this writer to work with a local artist in designing and executing them. The banners created by Michelle Clinton made their debut at the graduation Mass for the class of 2017.

*Have a blessedly renewing  
summer.*

"The meaning is in the writing." R.S.Thomas

I am typewriting  
my soul on paper mirrors,  
opaque self-images  
which Morse code a story  
so old it creaks ennui.



I voyeur my mind,  
unshadowing the unspeakable,  
flashing words which  
expose my heart  
to public view,  
leaving me  
a lonely nude,  
a poet in puris naturalibus.



I spume tales  
about events  
which mean something  
only to me and my muse.  
Myths unwind.



## July 2nd 2017—Oblate Community Sunday

Come join us for Mass in the Abbey church at 11 A.M. , followed by our annual potluck picnic. Drinks, plates, and flatware will be provided. Bring your smile and healthy food to share. We will have tables set up in the East balcony of “Old Main”. If you need to use an elevator to get to this level go into the north door, first floor and the elevator is on the right. Get off on floor 2.

At 1:30 attend a presentation in the Abbey Church where Brother Nicolaus will speak on his thesis “Nicolaus Steno, Theology of Nature.”

### Retreat day - August 12th

"Opening the Door-Insights: Saint John of the Cross Saint Teresa of Calcutta"

Presenter:

Oblate Mary Randall, MA, MaC, LMHC.

Mary has presented many workshops on this material and delights in engaging and stretching minds.

Mark your calendars now and be part of this spiritual journey. Mary worked as a pastoral assistant at Saint Patrick Parish in Tacoma for 18 years and has returned to Olympia for her retirement years.

If possible join us for Mass at 8:00 am in the Abbey church. Then carpool to Lambert lodge. Retreat begins around 10:00. This is a potluck event, so bring something to share. We will be done and return to the abbey around 4:00 pm If you need direction to the Lodge please call Brother Edmund at 360-438-4457.

### Oblate Community dates for 2017

September 3rd

December 3rd Br. Luke



Weclome Oblates  
Scott Bonney and Matthew  
Atkins. Our newest novices.



We hope you continue to grow with us  
and become an active participant of the  
community.





## Prayer Requests

Let us Pray:

For the numerous refugees caught in civil strife through the world.

For the all the sick, aged, homebound.

For the street people that charity will be shown them.

That Christians have in their hearts the burn of “love” that it be seen by all around them.



Image found at [thebirdhousechick.com](http://thebirdhousechick.com)

## On the Book Shelf

*Laudato Si.* An Encyclical letter of the Holy Father, Pope Francis: *On The Care of Our Common Home* 2015.

*Listening Community* by Sr. Aquinata Bockman, OSB.

*Monastic Practices* by Charles Cummings.



Image found at [theodysseyonline.com](http://theodysseyonline.com)

## Events of interest

There are two events coming up in July you may wish to look into. I, Brother Edmund, have been a part of these events and they are well worth attending, growing in Faith, experience faith in action. There are fees for these events.

(1) **Ignite Your Torch, July 6-9, 2017.** Will be held here at St. Martin's Campus. Contact Director Lauren White and phone 360-535-3999 or go to the web site [www.ignitenw.org](http://www.ignitenw.org). This program is for teens.

(2) **Faith on Fire is July 14-16, 2017: Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima**

Faith on Fire Family Weekend is the signature Catholic Event of the Pacific Northwest, a spiritually transformative celebration of Catholic fellowship, family, and vocations.

Held at St. Mary's in Anacortes. This year's speakers are: Monsignor Charles M. Mangan, Wesley Vaina, Donna Cori Gibson, Brother Mauricio Torres, Sisters Margaret Mary and Mary Danielle, and Dr. Sarah Smith Bartel.

Web site [stmaryanacortes.org](http://stmaryanacortes.org).



AW SHUCKS

Thanks" was omitted in the last Newsletter to Patricia McClure. So MANY THANKS for being our editor and so many other services she does for the Oblate program. Let us pray she has a long healthy life, and continued service to our Oblate Community.

# GOOD WORKS

Contact Brother Edmund at 360-438-4457

Email: [br\\_edmund@stmartin.edu](mailto:br_edmund@stmartin.edu)

## LAMBERT LODGE WORK

Time: 10:00 - 3:00

**2017** Dates: Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>

The day includes, Prayers,  
Work, and a Potluck. In you  
are interested in lending a  
hand contact Brother Edmund.

## Gardening and Wood:

Saturdays 1:00pm to 3:30pm

Spring is here and so are many chores  
here at the Abbey. Many hands make  
the work lighter. Gardening and fire-  
wood work is beginning to pick up.

Please call Br. Edmund to schedule a  
time.

## Rosary Makers will meet:

Time: 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm.

Rosary Makers are in need to continue  
this work of God. Please check your  
schedules and try to come and help  
out.

Location: Guest dining room of Old  
Main across from the  
Monastery refectory.

June 3rd,

July 1st,

Aug. 5th,

Sept. 2nd,

Oct. 7th,

Nov. 4th,

Dec. 2nd.

## Oblate Advisory Meeting

Time: 10:00AM

Place: St Gertrude's Hall. (student  
cafeteria)

2017: July 1st, Sept. 2nd, Dec. 2nd.

If you are interested in becoming  
more involved please contact Brother  
Edmund.