

Oblates of St. Benedict

Oblate Community of Saint Martin's Abbey

Volume2, Issue 37

September 2017

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

Dear brothers and sisters in St. Benedict:

When I write these letters I often find myself writing about something that I am momentarily dealing with in my life. So, the messages I send out are messages I am sorting through in my memory and soul. Some of the Instruments of Good Works, chapter 4, have appropriate instructions regarding material items and those who may be cause for our hardship. I would like to preface my remarks by mentioning incidents of vandalism and theft here at the University, Abbey and Lambert Lodge. The rise of violent acts is catching up with us all. One wonders what the purpose of such violence is. For many of us, we try to make some sense of it, as we seek some consolation.

What Christian message could be learned, when you or your property is violated? The Holy Rule quotes the scriptures saying, "Your way of acting should be different from the world's way; the love of Christ must come before all else." (RB4:20) You are not to act in anger or nurse a grudge (against the vandals). Do not repay (or think) one bad action allows another such action.

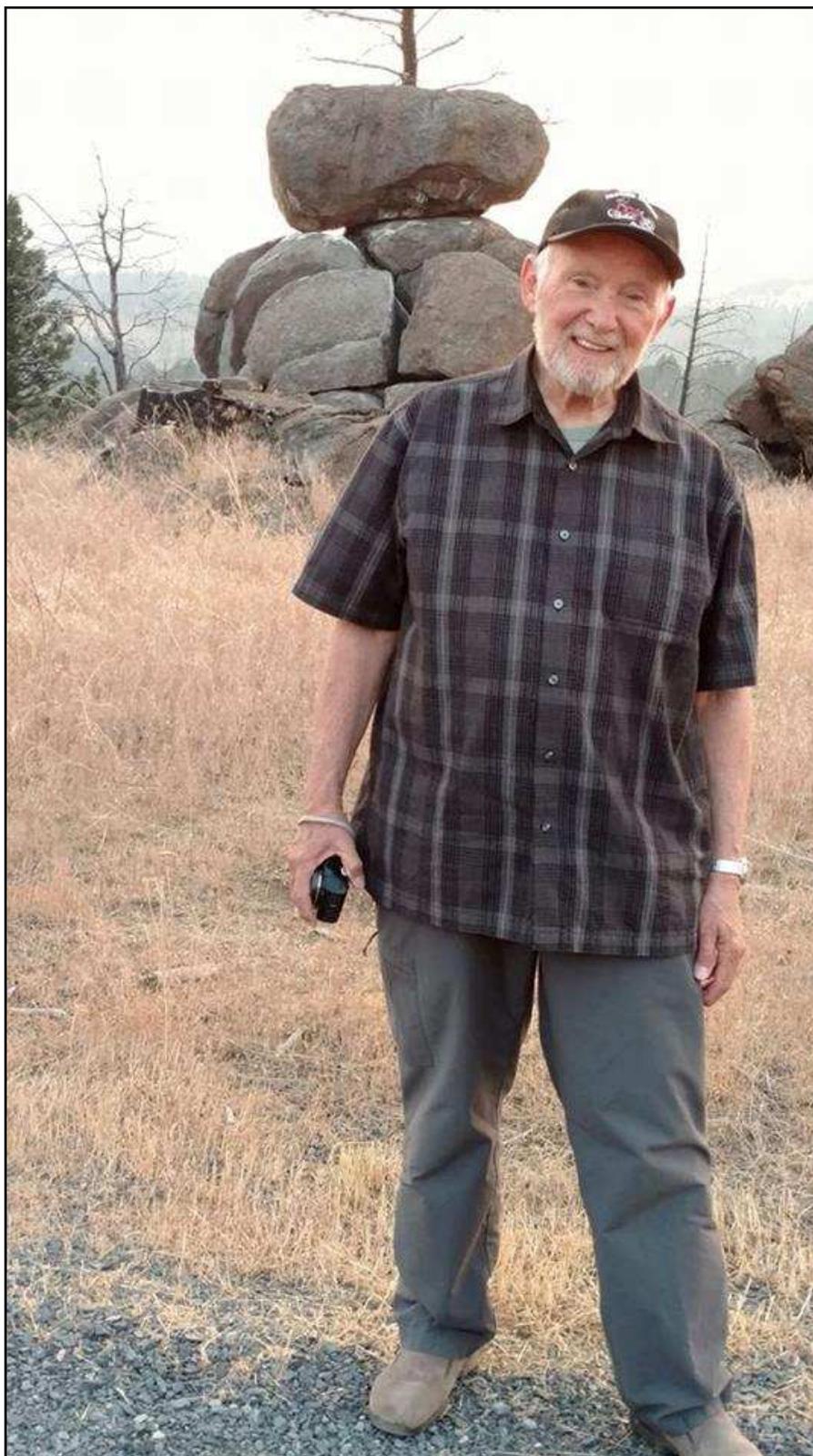
These then are tall orders when we first discover the situation and experience our natural responses of anger, hatred, fear, or shame. We report the violation to authorities, not for our own sake, but that the perpetrator may be stopped before others are harmed. Such times we can check ourselves by asking ourselves, Am I possessive? Am I clinging too tightly to my material wealth? Why am I offended by this violation? Do I feel my person was violated?

"Guard your lips (heart and mind) from harmful and deceptive speech" (RB4:51) and thoughts.

Our emotions can take us off guard, cripple us, and prevent us from going on with our day. If we aren't careful, we can become almost as bad as the perpetrator by our speech and actions. Yes, another has victimized us. But let us not victimize ourselves by raging toward another or ourselves. Remember, long before we felt pain of any sort, our Lord knew it well. He will be your consolation. Take it to Him for resolution. Do not be dismayed or let your emotions take you for a run, but slow down and take some very deep breaths. Find the grace to thank God for all He has given you. Be grateful that He only asks that we turn to Him and live our lives in the spirit of forgiveness. Let God pursue those in need of His graces.

In Christ and St. Benedict, I am, Br. Edmund Ebbers, OSB Obl. Dir.

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



**Abbot Neal is
vacationing in MT.**

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

On February 19, 1956, **Father Alphonse Fuchs (1904-1971)** returned from Idaho, reporting that his mother is slightly improved after a serious heart attack... On February 22, **Father Meinrad Gaul (1907-1984)** brought home a collie pup, the gift of **Father Gabriel Donohue (1902-1973)**, to take his place in a long line of Ranger mascots. On February 26, the college choral group, under the direction of **Father Eugene Kellenbenz (1917-1982)** sang for Masses at Oiling and Wilkeson... On February 28, **Father Walter Hellan (1920-1968)**, procurator, returned from Seattle with a government surplus truck.

On March 1, **Father Alphonse** left for Nez Perce, Idaho to offer the funeral Mass for his mother, who had died on February 26... On March 3, **Abbot Raphael Heider (1903-1971)** was prevented by a coastal storm and drifting snow from reaching Nez Perce in time for the funeral of **Father Alphonse's** mother... On March 5, **Father Clement Pangratz (1919-2017)** and some zealous volunteers were landscaping around Placid Hall (now the Lynch Center, which includes the abbey guest house). On March 7, under **Fathers Bertrand Trautman (1918-1972)** and **Christopher Abair (1924-1988)** a group of student volunteers began a major campus improvement project of filling in under Anselm Hall.

On March 9, two chests of large drawers for vestments, made by **Brother Jerome Keppers (1880-1960)**, were moved into the sacristy of the students' chapel to replace worn-out equipment made thirty years ago. On March 12, Father **Damian Glenn (1907-1986)**, college president, and **Father Richard Cebula (1916-2004)**, dean of instruction, drove to Portland to represent Saint Martin's at the "College Night" sponsored by Central Catholic High School.

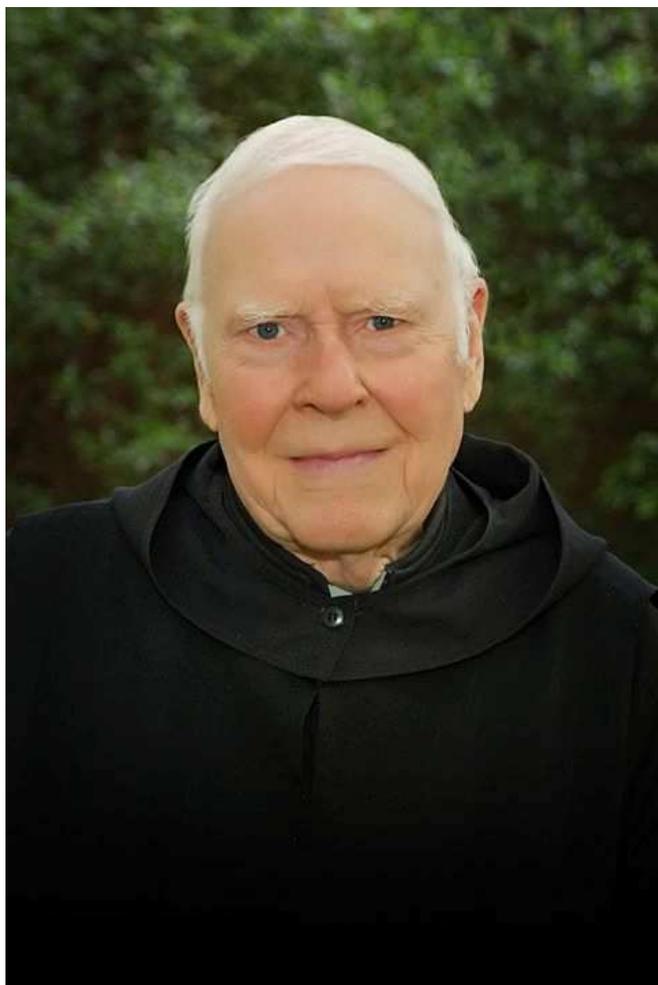
In other news, following the example of **Father Dunstan Curtis (1921-1981)** (who directed during the past year the Saint Michael's Parish Men's study club in Olympia), **Father Meinrad** became moderator of a Saint Michael's Parish Women's study club. Twenty-four women of the parish met in Eberhard Hard on the college lower campus on March 27 to plan a program for the future, to discuss Catholic Action, and to profit by a question-box period. The club will meet monthly from September to May.

Frazer George (Joseph) Seidel received clerical tonsure on February 18, 1956. On February 19, he received the first two minor orders of porter and lector and on March 2 the second two minor orders of exorcist and acolyte. These orders were conferred at Collegio di Sant' Anselmo, Rome, where **Frazer George** is studying for ordination to the priesthood. Right Reverend Bernard Kaelin, Abbot Primate of all Benedictines, conferred the orders.

College social life was de-emphasized during the Lenten season. Two roller skating parties took place in Tacoma. The one dance took place on Saint Patrick's Day, an affair sponsored by the freshman class and the drama club, which was voted a great success... A feature of high school activity in recent years is the growing co-operation between the three Olympia area schools: Saint Martin's, Olympia High School, and North Thurston High School—journalistic conferences, inter-school debate tournaments, student council relationships, and inter-school assemblies.... Rumor had it that the high school year 1956-1957 might begin on August 28, allowing for a 16-day Christmas vacation and an end to the school year on May 29.

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

In his poem "Ajisai" the Japanese poet Toichiro Kitayama, mourning a great personal loss, writes: "...even so the hydrangea is blossoming still O radiant July, how can you sparkle so?"



This past July, the monastic community experienced a great loss with the death of its sainted nonagenarian confrere **FATHER CLEMENT PANGRATZ**, but had reason to "sparkle" like radiant July, as God called **POSTULANT BRANDON RAPPUHN** to seek Him through the living of the monastic life within our community.

FATHER CLEMENT was a prayerful gentle soul. He was a community man who sought God in community for seventy-five years, during seventy of which he also exercised his priestly vocation. **FATHER CLEMENT** took great joy in nature, be it hiking in the Olympics in his youth, rhapsodizing over the beauty of a flower, or sharing a quarter of an apple he was enjoying with a confrere. Music was a part of **FATHER CLEMENT's** life. When the Monastic Chapel was in Old Main, he served the community as one of its organists; later, when there was Sunday night Compline in the monastery Chapter Room, he accompanied the community on a spinet. He had been a Schola member, and instructed many novices about Gregorian Chant. Late in life, he

delighted in listening to classical CD's. He was a kind man who had learned American Sign Language to communicate with a sister; while serving the parish at Port Angeles, he regularly assisted his elderly widowed mother and his sister. After the recent re-paving of the path outside the Abbey Church, he took great delight in referring to it often as the "Appian Way," though I think he'd not been to Rome. He savored his life in community and the company of his confreres, in prayer and in work, and was very solicitous of much younger confreres when they were experiencing difficulties or serious illnesses. The fabric of our community is changed with his passing to God. R.I.P.



A few days before **FATHER CLEMENT** departed this life; our monastic community welcomed a new member. On the eve of July 11th, **ABBOT NEAL ROTH** received into the novitiate **POSTULANT BRANDON RAPPUHN**, giving him the religious name of **DAMIEN**. On entering the novitiate, one "tosses off" the old and begins a new life, hence the new name. Our tradition is that the candidate submits three names to the Abbot, who selects one, or sometimes another, and confers it on him at the time of his entrance into the novitiate and investiture with the monastic habit. **BROTHER DAMIEN** is a well-educated talented

man who has lived in American and abroad and brings many gifts to the community in which he seeks God with his brother monks. **BROTHER NICOLAUS WILSON** has been appointed by **ABBOT NEAL** as **BROTHER DAMIEN**'s novice master. A neophyte in the area of formation, **BROTHER NICOLAUS** attended a workshop for novice masters at St. Vincent's, in Latrobe, this summer. As a novice, **BROTHER DAMIEN** will attend all community exercises, have scheduled classes within the monastery on the Rule of Benedict, spirituality, and the monastic life, and engage in what a late confrere called "in house services" -- those many tasks necessary to make any household function well. Warm welcome -- "ad multos annos"! When **FATHER CLEMENT**'s confreres, family, friends and Bishop Daniel Mueggerborg and priests of the Archdiocese gathered for his Mass of Christian burial, it was late July, and there were some hydrangeas in an arrangement in the sanctuary as well as in bloom in the Abbey Church gardens. One of the later was plucked from the gardens and joined the rosary in **FATHER CLEMENT**'s hands as the casket was closed.

In the midst of an investiture and of a funeral, in the time of the hydrangeas, the monks took time to attend workshops and to renew themselves prior to the beginning of a new academic year. **PRIOR JUSTIN MC CREEDY** attended a workshop for neophyte visitators at St. Vincent's Archabbey... **SUBPRIOR RAMON NEWELL** traveled to the Southwest, to make a retreat at a respected retreat center near Albuquerque, New Mexico... **ABBOT NEAL** took time to relax with his sister and brother-in-law in their new home in rural Montana... this writer had the joy of visiting Saint Anselm Abbey, New Hampshire, for the first time to visit with a long-time friend and see the first-class art collection at Saint Anselm's... **FATHER PAUL WECKERT** continued his vocation and guest master work on his return from a month's workshop on monasticism in Rome, for which he showed much enthusiasm... Our newest doctor, **BROTHER LUKE DEVINE** enjoyed a cross country car trip with his parents, who will be moving west following a year's sabbatical in Korea... The day-to-day work continues as well. **FATHER EDWARD RECECONI** devoted many hours working on locks for the University, and **BROTHER MARK BONNEVILLE** many hours working on Abbey-related projects as well as acting as liturgical Master of Ceremonies.

Enjoy the summer hydrangeas and may God bless in abundance
your autumn .

An Epiphany in a Thorn Tree - Father Benedict Auer, O.S.B.

So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

Exodus 3:3

This dawn as I meditatively took a stroll I promptly was enthralled by a buzzing tree.
The sound took me totally by surprise and left me with a constant yet disturbing note.
As Moses was met once by his God in a burning bush
so I was confronted by my God in a cockspur hawthorn tree.

The tree was full in bloom-snowflaked white
with blossoms opened beyond their capacity,
waiting to be brushed away by God's gentle breath
or his soft tear-like rain.

Yet through these blossoms poked pain filled thorns
as fearsome as those around the sacred head.
And between the placid blossom and
the awesome spear-like thorn
were bees, hundreds of bees, hovering over each petal.
The tree was alive with bees contentedly working out
their existence between blossom and thorn,
seemingly unaware of any plan except to gather
in the sweetness of the Lord.

I could not help but pour myself into this tree,
and see how often we gather in the honeyed gifts of God
so often unaware of the danger surrounding
The cockspur hawthorn was a burning bush yet it had no fire,
only sound to attract this viewer to his God.
A tree alive with buzzing bees brought me closer to a truth:
Man is not in charge of God's appearances,
God alone manifests himself where he wills.
Soft petals soon to disappear, sharp thorns to remain in perilous tact,
and bees filled with nectar leaving for hives unknown.
Yet God came and showed himself in that hawthorn tree -
no burning bush was needed-
He appeared within his own nature- freely and luckily unhampered by me.



Image found at grownative.org



Image found at www.buzzaboutbees.net

Whose Gift Is It? - Oblate Kathleen Hystad

I tell you my desire, what I want.

You do not listen.

You do what you want,

You dishonor me,

In this you silently tell me:

my desire/want doesn't matter -

Yours does.

Example my child:

I tell you, I want soup for dinner -

You say, "No, I want to give you more,

salad, potatoes, whatever,

and so you do - your more to me is less -

You did not listen to me.

This then becomes a gift to you -

your desire/want is met - not mine.

And you did not honor me - you did not listen -

did not care about my wishes.

How could both our desires be honored?

How could great respect for each other be shown and each honored?

Give me soup, as I asked, as I expressed my desire and wishes.

Honor me - listen to me - respect me.

Later, give me the gift you wish - your more.

Whatever it is - a surprise at an unknown time.

In this you give yourself the gift of giving me what you desire -

Your more.

You honor yourself - your desire is met.

We honor and respect each other. We listen to each other -

Both are met, embraced, in balance, honor, listening and love.

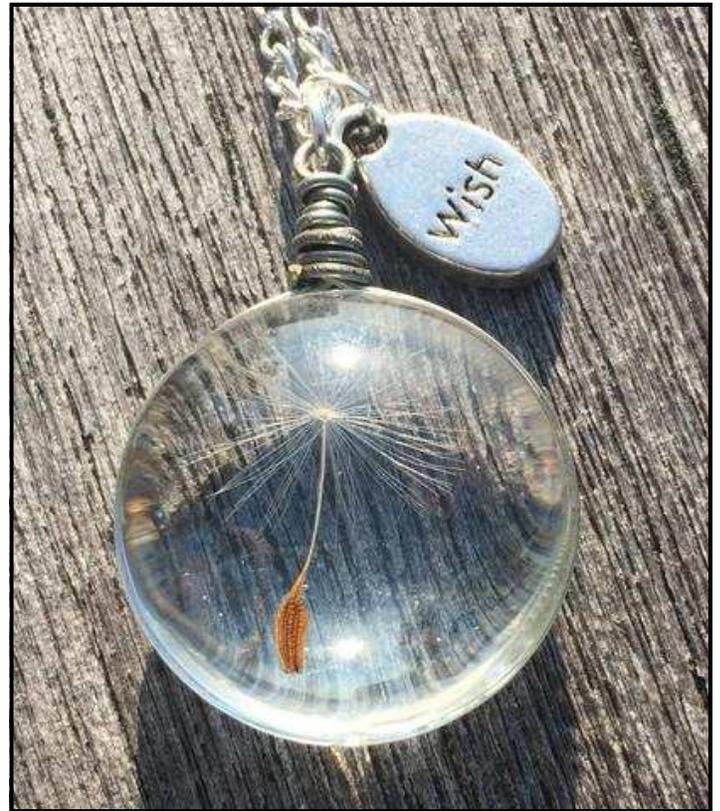


Image found at www.dandelionpaperweights.com

August 12, 2017

The Annual Lambert Lodge Retreat will be held here at the Abbey **NOT** at Lambert Lodge as planned. We begin with Mass at 8 a.m. in the abbey church. This will be a Potluck event. We will provide space for cold and hot food in cooler and warmer, Mary Randall will be speaking. I believe we shall finish by 4 p.m. Please call in advance, 360- 438-4457 if you can so we can plan accordingly.

September 3rd, 2017 Oblate Community Sunday

Come join us for Mass in the Abbey church at 11 a.m. Join us for social time. Food is available for purchase in the student cafeteria

At 1:30 attend a presentation in the Abbey Church where Brother Luke will speak on the interactions between Benedictines and Catholic workers.

Oblate Community dates for 2017

December 3rd

Oblate Community dates for 2018

March 4th

May 6th (Investitures & Oblations),

July 8th picnic

September 9th (day of Investitures and Oblations)

August 11th Oblate Retreat at Lambert Lodge

December 2nd

St. Martin's Oblates are hosting the Regional Oblate and Directors meeting June 22 - 24, 2018 here at St. Martin's University.

Fees are being assessed for participants. Subject matter will be taken from the World Congress of Oblates (Oblate Bene Reece and Brother Edmund will attend this November) and each participating community will distill the wisdom they learned to the rest of the Oblates. All Oblates are welcome to attend. Continual planning is in progress. If you would like to be a part of this committee, please contact Br. Edmund at br_edmund@stmartin.edu

Prayer Requests

Please pray for:

Father Clement Prangratz, OSB, RIP.

Oblate Patsy Carlson, RIP.

Oblates Gavin and Carol Machutchin.

Oblate Norman Falcone, healing of shoulder.

All ailing and dying Oblates, friends, and family members of the Abbey & Oblate community.

On the Book Shelf

“Vigilance” by Michael Edwards (poetry and scripture).

“All God’s Angels, Loving and Learning from Angelic Messenger’s” by Martin Shannon CJ.



Books on shelf at Mount Angel Library

LOCAL SPIRITUAL EVENTS FOR 2018

Ignite Your Torch Northwest



This event is scheduled for July 5 - 8th of 2018. Ignite Your Torch is a high School Catholic youth conference that impacts and equips youth to advance a culture of life. This is accomplished through providing beauty, truth, and authenticity. It is a spirit filled event for teens and their chaperones. Teaching, praying, playing and worshipping together, sponsored by the Archdiocese. It is held here on Saint Martin's University Campus each year. There are many ways to participate: as a volunteer, a group leader, a chaperone, as a greenshirt young adult or volunteer staff.

Check out their website at www.ignitenw.org
or contact the conference coordinator at info@ignitenw.org



FAITH ON FIRE

CATHOLIC FAMILY WEEKEND

Faith on Fire

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

This is a family event to be held at St. Mary Catholic Parish in Anacortes, WA. July 13 - 15, 2018. This parish sponsored event is held yearly. There is a fee involved. Families of all sizes and ages come to rejuvenate their faith. Expect to hear insightful and Christ-filled talks, and be surrounded by warm fellowship, a beautiful and relaxing environment, and others honestly seeking to do the will of God. Come to be encouraged and inspired by the conferences, great music, good food, worshipping, and sharing.

You can check out the details at Stmaryanacortes.org

Contact information for these events:

Brother Edmund Ebbers OSB

Saint Martin's Abbey

5000 Abbey Way S.E.

Lacey, WA 98503

Phone: 360—438 —4457

Email: br_edmund@stmartin.edu

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.

Oblate Advisory Meeting

Time: 10:00AM Saturdays before Oblate community Sunday.

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

2017: Sept. 2nd, Dec. 2nd.

2018: March 3rd, May 5th, July 7th, Sept. 8th, Dec. 1st.

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

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.

2017: Sept. 2nd, Oct. 7th, Nov. 4th, Dec. 2nd.

2018: the First Saturday of each month except in Sept. will be 8th and no meeting in July.

LAMBERT LODGE WORK

Time: 10:00 - 3:00

2017 Dates: Oct. 14th

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