



Oblate Community of Saint Martin's Abbey

Oblates of St. Benedict

DECEMBER 2017

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 38

A LETTER FROM THE OBLATE DIRECTOR — BROTHER EDMUND EBBERS, O.S.B.

Dear Oblate brothers and sisters:

To be a disciple of Jesus. What does discipleship mean? For me, I believe it means to seek the pathway that has laid out for us in the New and Old Testament. This takes a lifetime of reading and re-reading the scriptures as well as the many commentaries on these sacred writings.

This is what St. Benedict offers us in his Rule of Life, based upon the scriptures and learned authors. He states in the Prologue, "Listen, my son, to your master's precepts, and incline the ear of your heart." In addition, "so we have begun the school in the Lord's service." The principal path is the way of love and obedience. This path is not easy for most of us but we must begin walking it so that later we may run the good race. One aspect of discipleship is the degrees of humility. Love and obedience underline that humility. St. Benedict says the ninth degree of humility is to restrain one's tongue and keep silence. Now, St. Benedict knows speech is good but he also knows when tongues and lips move they usually cause small and big troubles... "In much speaking, there is no escape from sin." We have all witnessed or been a party to miss-spoken speech, which is cause for misunderstanding or bad blood among friends and family. Today more than ever it is critical to be selective in our words and tone of speech. Once our words leave our mouths, they cannot be retrieved. Lives are ruined and lost because of thoughtlessly spoken words.

Recently, our community read a book about prayer and finding peace within. One of the things I got from this reading was to use the Jesus Prayer whenever chatter begins to enter my thoughts. The chatter is called fluff or nothingness, which takes valuable space and time, making me less productive.

For those unaware of the Jesus Prayer it is simply this or a variation of this, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God have mercy on me a sinner," chanted in your mind like a mantra, timing each phrase with your breathing.

We will soon be celebrating the holidays of Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. These can be hard times for some people and families. Keep in mind the value of speech. There are times to speak and times to withhold speech, even good speech. When we work toward discipline in speech, we are Christians in deed.

Wishing you all a blessed holiday season.

In St. Benedict and Jesus, **Br. Edmund E., OSB**

ABBOT'S REFLECTION - ABBOT NEAL ROTH, O.S.B.

Where is the love?

While I was on vacation this last July, I attended a backyard barbecue with some of my Montana friends. One person was the recipient of some good-natured ribbing and she responded, "*Where is the love?*" There is so much news these days that graphically depicts a massive lack of love: prejudice, racism, hate, and riots. So, yes, where is the love?

I suspect that if I took a survey with each reader about the values of Benedict's Rule and life, fraternal charity would certainly be listed at the top of the list or at least second place. Being sensitive, kind, generous, thoughtful, and listening to one another—all are the ingredients for love.

If one thinks about it, the Rule of Benedict is really a blueprint of love. Benedict says it is a rule for beginners. As Christians, charity is the glue that holds us together. It is the foundation for living with people. Without it, the whole foundation crumbles. The community and the family help us to seek God; charity (love) shapes us, grinds the rough edges smooth, and in the end, gives us peace. Charity (love) is God's way to us and our way to God.

This is not to say that all is a smooth journey. It is not easy to be charitable, always warm, always friendly, always understanding, always tolerant, always nonjudgmental. In 2014, Pope Francis addressed a crowd about gossip: "*I don't know why, but there is a dark joy in gossip...When we speak badly of others we have no love, no friendship...We hurt one another. It is as if we want to put each down—That will not do! This kind of talk will not do you any good because it will just bring to the Church a spirit of destruction...If one notices a defect in others; let us pray that God will help them.*"

As Benedictines, we need to strive for better communication. Benedict reminds us "*Not to do to another what one would not want to have done to oneself.*" And of course, Jesus tells us "*to love one another*" (John 13:34). None of this is impossible. We will, with more emphasis on charity in our life, move more quickly towards Christ who has loved us with a passionate love. Benedict adds one more salient bit of advice: "*Bear most patiently one another's infirmities whether of body or character.*" (RB72). So, where is the love? It is in us, in our minds and in our hearts, if we just open the door!

IN THE BEGINNING - FATHER GERARD KIRSCH, O.S.B.

On March 16, 1956, **Fathers Felix Wirth (1913-1984)** and **Conrad Rausch (1921-2011)**, dining room supervisors, discussed plans for redecorating the student's dining room - not the first and by no means the last of many such renovations... On March 17, preliminary grading was done by Fred Morley, high school senior and bulldozer operator, on the ramp which would connect the main entrance road with an arterial around the hill... On March 18, **Father Timothy Lamm** conducted the Holy Hour for the Catholic Youth Organization in Olympia... On March 19, Archbishop Connolly of Seattle dispensed from the Lenten fast for the feast of Saint Joseph... On March 20, **Father Richard Cebula (1916-2004)** served as a judge at a science fair at North Thurston High School in Lacey... On March 21, the feast of Saint Benedict, four students applied for entrance into the monastic community... On March 24, **Father Leonard Feeney (1908-1980)**, with a crew of volunteer helpers, began clearing the area from the 1949 laundry building to the black-topped entrance road with a view to putting in more lawn west of the hill... On March 27, **Father Timothy** addressed the members of the Saint Martin's Mothers Club at a regular monthly meeting held at Eberhard Hall on lower campus.

On April 2, **Abbot Raphael Heider (1903-1971)** and **Father Damian Glenn (1907-1986)**, president of Saint Martin's College, attended the dedication of a faculty residence at Seattle University... On April 7, the clerics located valves on the main water system which had been covered with earth and lost sight of following the construction of the line in 1949... On April 8, **Abbot Raphael, Father Bede Ernsdorff (1909-1982)** and brother postulant Edward Laverdiere attended an art exhibit in Vancouver, Washington, held by the Sisters of Charity of Providence... On April 11, **Father Urban Feucht (1927-2013)**, assistant in the Procurator's Office, was appointed representative for Saint Martin's for biweekly meetings for the development of the Lacey area... On April 12, **Father Richard Cebula** and a group of engineering students left for Corvallis, Oregon to attend a student conference... On April 13, **Abbot Raphael** was in Seattle to discuss with an architect and an attorney the implications of a proposal for the early construction of a future route of U.S. Highway 99 through Saint Martin's property (i.e. the future Interstate 5).

Two more monks of Saint Martin's Abbey were scheduled for ordination in Seattle on May 19, 1956: **Fathers Nicholas Rausch (1928-2003)** and **Thaddaeus Arledge (1927-2015)**. **Father Nicholas** celebrated his first Mass at Saint Nicholas Church in Rupert, Idaho, with his cousin **Father Conrad Rausch** as deacon and **Father Urban Feucht** as subdeacon. **Father Thaddaeus** would celebrate his first Mass at Holy Cross Church in Tacoma, Frater Kevin McStay serving as master of ceremonies... **Father Richard Cebula**, dean of instruction and head of the engineering department, was granted a \$700 scholarship by Purdue University for the summer to study asphalt paving construction and technology. **Father Richard** had his master's degree in civil engineering from Iowa State College (now University) in Ames... Meanwhile, a loan of \$450,000 was granted to Saint Martin's College to assist in the construction of a new dormitory (Baran Hall, which opened in September 1957) with space for 144 students and 3 dorm counselors... **Father Michael Feeney (1919-2000)**, principal of Saint Martin's High School, had a three-day trip to Fort Ord, California, where principals from schools in western Washington could become better acquainted with the Army Reserve Forces.

Brother Boniface's words will return next edition.



“...mountains brushed the horizon in a wet, watercolor purple.”

Bryce Courtenay, *The Power of One*

In Winter,
God colors the sky
above the Cascade Mountains
with watercolors: rose, violet, and sometimes even purple.
When the sky is shades of gray,
and it is the fifth or sixth day of rain,
and an ark has been suggested by someone,
and your soul is a sponge,
damp and full of holes,
that morning, you wake to a sky alive with color,
tones that speak of Advent hues,
liturgically set in the sky
to remind us that Jesus is coming,
the firmament tells us it is so,
the sun rises to light a new day
enrobed in royal purple and softer violet,
turning to rose in mid-sunrise to “Rejoice
in the Lord,” a Guadete explosion half way through Advent.

When I have put my eyes away
in the drawer of my mind,
walking through the day without looking,
blind to the beauty that surrounds me,
then God grabs my attention
with a wet, watercolor purple
brushed across the horizon to say “Look, you fool, I painted this for you,”
and I stand in awe, seeing as if for the first time



Image found @ Joshbryan90

FOOD FOR THOUGHT BY OBLATE BILL LAGREID

One evening while enjoying the sun setting over the majestic mountains an old timer told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said,

“My boy, the battle is like two wolves inside us all. One is evil. It’s anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other is God. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith.”

The grandson thought for a minute and then asked, “Grandpa which wolf wins the battle?”

The old timer turned to his grandson, smiled and said very simply, “The one you feed.”

This little tale reminds us how in the simple quiet ways of life great lessons can be learned. It also reminds us how nature is a master teacher to all who take the time to stop, reflect and listen with a sincere heart and mind to the messages being played out daily around us.

Almighty father, you created each of us and put us on this earth for a purpose.

Jesus, you died for us and call us each to do your work here on earth every day. Holy Spirit, you help us to do the work for which we are made and to which we are called. May all of our thought and prayers each day be so directed so as to bring you to greater glory in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

FAITH

is like Wi-Fi,

it’s invisible but it has the power to connect you to what you need.

**DON’T DOWNGRADE
YOUR DREAM TO MATCH
YOUR REALITY, UPGRADE
YOUR FAITH TO MATCH
YOUR DESTINY!**

STUART SCOTT

*If the words you spoke
appeared on your skin,
would you still be
beautiful?*

Auliq Ice

BIG THANKS

A big thanks to Oblates who attended our Oblate Retreat in August. The setting was great as the Abbey bells kept everyone on schedule.

Plus we were able to share Mass and Noon Prayer with the monks. The questions were great and the faith sharing was incredible. The entire retreat flowed like water with the grace of God, Saint Benedict, Saint John of the Cross, Saint Theresa of Avila and Saint Theresa of Calcutta with us.

For book references that I used included:

"The Complete Works of Saint John of the Cross" translated by Kieran Kavanaugh, O.C.D. and Otilio Rodriguez, O.C.D.

"I loved Jesus in the Night
Theresa of Calcutta"
By: Father Paul Murray

"John of the Cross Selected Writings" the Classics of Western Spirituality" by really a panel of experts with an edited introduction
By Kieran Kavanaugh, O.C.D.

As I said in the retreat Saint John of the Cross never wrote an autobiography of himself.

Blessings to you all,
Oblate Mary Randall

Big thanks to Oblate Mary for stepping up and teaching us about these Saints and their struggles. The day was filled with enlightenment.

ABBAY CHURCH EVENTS

November 18th at 8:00 p.m. Prima Trio - Clarinet Boris Allakhverdyan, Pianist Anastasia Dedik, and violin/viola Gulia Gurevich.

February 3rd at 8:00 p.m. Cellist Sang-Eun Lee and Pianist Carlos Avila.

April 7th 8:00 p.m. Baritone Samuel Hasselhorn and Pianist Renate Rohlfing.

More information can be found at www.saintmartinsabbey.org/churchevents

OBLATE COMMUNITY SUNDAY DECEMBER 3RD

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. You also have the option to pack your own lunch and come and eat in the cafeteria with the us. Please try to sit together as groups so we can get to know each other.

At 1:30 attend a presentation in the Abbey Church where Father Peter will talk on the Wisdom of the Old Testament.

Oblate Community dates for 2018

March 4th

May 6th (Investitures and Oblations),

June 29– July 1st Regional Oblate and Directors Meeting

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 in 2018 here at St. Martin's University June 29 - July 1st.

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 event or help plan this event, please contact Br. Edmund at br_edmund@stmartin.edu

What is NW NAABOD? Oblates and directors from the communities in Canada, Washington, Oregon, Idaho getting together to discuss the future of Benedictine life as Oblates associated with Benedictine communities. It is a chance to share vision, hopes, progress and concerns with other Oblates and religious communities.

Who has participated? House of Bread, St. Martin's Abbey, St. Placid Priory, Queen of Angels, Mt. Angel Abbey, Monastery of St. Gertrude, Ascension Priory.

We encourage our oblates to attend or help out with this event.

NW NAABOD Conference

“A Way Forward Continued– The Benedictine Community in Movement”

Hosted by St. Martin and St. Placid Oblate Communities

June 29—July 1, 2018

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

NAME:
ADDRESS:
E-MAIL:
PHONE:
EMERGENCY CONTACT:
MONASTERY/PRIORY

Cost

Single room w/shared bath, conference and meals	\$185.00	
Double room w/ shared bath, conference and meals	\$165.00	
Meals and conference	\$100.00	
Early arrival lodging	\$65.00	
Late departure lodging	\$65.00	
Just conference	\$50.00	
	Total	

Please indicate if you have special needs of mobility or dietary restrictions.

For early arrivals and late departures add \$65.00 a night to cost. Meals are on your own for those choosing to arrive early or stay late

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
St. Martin’s Abbey Oblates
 Balance due April 30, 2018

Please complete this form and return it with your payment to:
 Br. Edmund Ebbers, O.S.B. Oblate Director
 St. Martin’s Abbey 5000 Abbey Way SE Lacey, WA 98503

Questions or concerns contact Br. Edmund Ebbers: 360 – 438 - 4457 Email: br_edmund@stmartin.edu

PRAYER REQUESTS

Oblate Catherine Mary Sullivan RIP

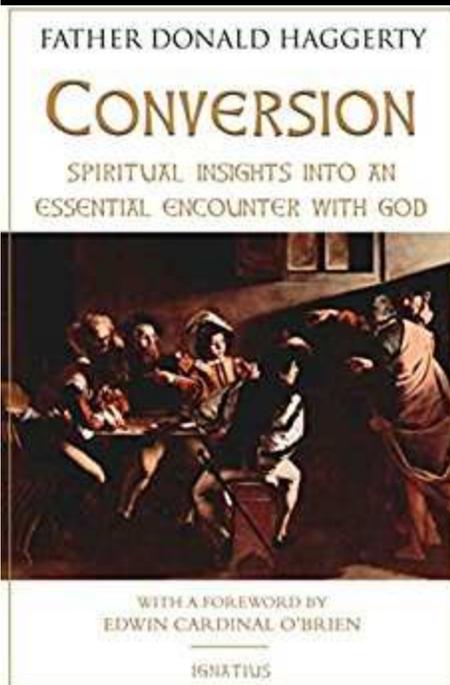
Oblate Francine Mastini's mother who recently passed away.

Fr. Timothy who is undergoing radiation therapy.

Oblates Gavin and Carol Machutchin health and healing.

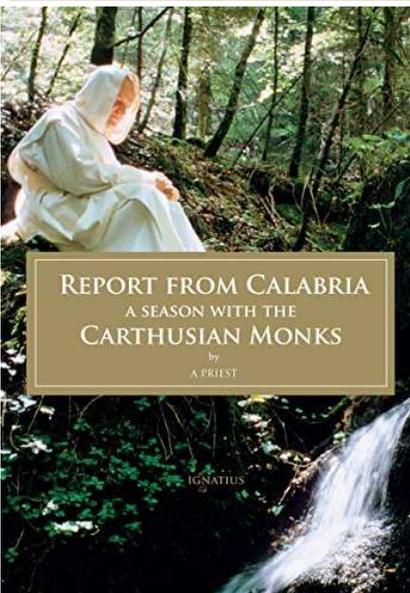
Healing for all who ail and are dying, Oblates , friends and benefactors.

ON THE BOOK SHELF



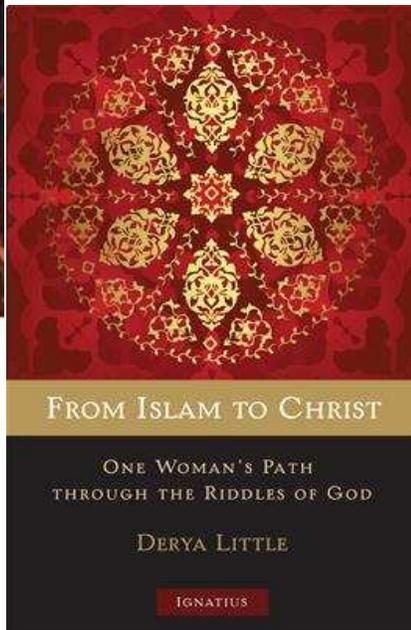
Conversion, Spiritual Insights into an Encounter with God .

Fr. Donald Haggerty.



Report From Calabria, A season with the Carthusian Monks.

A Priest.



*From Islam to Christ, One woman's
Path through the Riddles of God.*

Derya Little.

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

Gardening and Wood:

Saturdays 1:00pm to 3:30pm

Winter is coming and so are many chores here at the Abbey. Many hands make the work lighter.

Please call Br. Edmund to schedule a time

Oblate Advisory Meeting

Time: 10:00AM

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

2017: 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 needed to make meet the great demand for these instruments of prayer.

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

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

2018 Not yet determined but usually in October.

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