



## Oblate Community of Saint Martin's Abbey

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

Dear Oblate brothers and sister:

This time I would like to offer some commentary on a few subjects:

I Lent is coming around the corner. Please send in your Oblation Renewal forms as soon as possible, if you're serious about your Oblation commitment to God and St. Martin's Abbey. Consider making a financial commitment to St. Martin's Oblates, if you haven't already done so this year. Also, consider letting me know what you have been up to this past year and what changes you intend to make to improve your spiritual growth. Ask yourself, if you have lapsed in your Oblation.

II Have you noticed how much chatter that takes place in Church prior to Mass? Does it bother you? Have you been in a hen house when the hens are upset about something? I suspect much of the chatter is gossip. We may make an impact of this ourselves by not participating in it and letting others know you are trying to prepare for the Sacred Liturgy with prayer and meditation but the talking makes it impossible. Be considerate of others and encourage others to do the same.

Saying something to the Pastor may not do any good because of possible backlash. He may have bigger fish to fry.

The traditional purpose for silence in Church is not that, "you may not wish that God hears your dialogue about the past week", but the opposite; you want God to hear you in thought and word. One cannot formulate good thoughts in prayer when you are in a space of chatter. St. Benedict says, "The oratory ought to be what it is called, those wishing to pray there should do so quietly that they not disturb others.

III Much prayer is needed for our country's government. There are problems from corrupt officials to mismanagement of departments, the looming issue of "Trumps Wall" to immigration and on-going racial issues. I don't plan to get political but, just ask for lots of prayers for the healing of our nation and our people.

I pray you all are recovering from the Christmas season. Here at the Abbey it doesn't seem like we have had a winter. The cold hasn't hit us and we wonder if it will. I believe I have seen signs of spring; the chirping of robins, killdeers and the bulbs are pushing up growth. Perhaps you are feeling new life springing up in your life, drop me a note and let me know.

In St. Benedict, Br. Edmund E. OSB

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

On September 16, 1956, 7 clerics-**Fraters Leo Patten, Adrian Parcher, Alfred Hulscher (1933-2016), Valerian Grubb (1932-1979), Kenneth Keller, Cletus Bradley, and Peter Sand (1924-1981)**-left for seminary studies at Mount Angel, Oregon... On September 18, **Father Thaddaeus Arledge (1927-2015)** acquired ecclesiastical furnishings from Mrs. McDermott (mother of the late Frater Hugh Dermott) for use at the abbey... On September 21, **Father Felix Wirth (1913-1984)** was assigned to assist **Father Edward Weckert (1888-1965)**, pastor of Cle Elum, Washington, who was ill... On September 23, **Abbot Raphael Heider (1903-1971)** and **Father Urban Feucht (1927-2013)** visited at Saint Peter's Hospital, Olympia, **Brother Jerome Keppers (1880-1960)**, the abbot's uncle, who had recently suffered a stroke... On September 25, Brother Novice Patrick Lassila was burned on hands and face when he attempted to light a fire at the refuse dump. On September 28, **Father Damian Glenn (1907-1986)**, college president, presided at a faculty meeting. September 30 saw the first grades for the fall semester coming out for Saint Martin's High School.

On Oct 2, **Abbot Raphael** and **Brother Charles Crowley (1876-1958)** went to Seattle, the former to discuss plans for the new dormitory with the architect... On October 4, a civil and structural engineer for the prospective dormitory was at Saint Martin's with a crew to do some surveying of the site... On October 7, the alumni jubilee dinner honored **Abbot Raphael (25 years a priest)** and **Father Sebastian Ruth (1875-1958; 50 years a priest)**. On October 9, **Father Walter Hellan (1920-1968)**, procurator, discussed interim financing for the new college dormitory with banking officers in Seattle... On October 12, **Fathers Augustine Osgniach (1891-1975)** and **Gregory Wall (1894-1979)** went to Raymond to assist in providing hunters' Masses. On October 15, a meeting of the building committee was held to discuss details in connection with the new dormitory.

In other news, Sister Matilda Walser OSB, who had been a member of the kitchen staff for most of the time since 1921, left Saint Martin's on October 30, 1956 to take charge of the laundry at the hospital conducted by her Benedictine Sisters at Jerome, Idaho. Her place was taken by Sister Cyrilla OSB, whose blood sister S. Wilhelmina OSB was the current chief cook. The veteran of the kitchen staff was Sister Lawrence OSB, who had been at Saint Martin's since 1914... **Father Jerome Toner (1899-1977)**, professor of industrial relations, was giving many addresses against the so-called right to work amendment. One speech he gave was printed and widely distributed as Right to Work Laws: Public Federal Frauds... Abbot Raphael was asked by Archabbot Denis Strittmatter, president of our American Cassinese Congregation of Benedictines, to serve as chair of the policy and nominating committees of the American Benedictine Academy.

"Truly Benedictine" was the description given of the reliquaries used for the first time on the feast of All Saints (November 1, 1956) the work of many monks. Abbot Raphael designed them and Prior **James Piotrkowski (1897-1974)**, expert machinist, and **Br Francis Hehn (1881-1966)** shaped the 14-gauge sheets, made the hinges, and assembled the units. Brother Novice Bruno Laverdiere, with a talent for carving, embellished the walnut caps and bases of the reliquaries. **Brother Brendan Kelly (1897-1971)** did the engraving, under a magnifying lens, cutting images of the various saints and lettering in the text inscriptions, and finally goldplating and burnishing all the metal work. Brother Adam Richardson (1877-1959) cut the glass panels and **Brother Bernard Anderson (1898-1971)** made the final assembly. Sisters of our local convent made handsome dust covers of gold-colored cloth.

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

There is an ancient end of the year prayer that asks God that "...with the first rosy glow of dawn ... we enter the new year; In a renewed, happier state of mind..." Our Saint Martin' community indeed had reason to enter the New Year in a happy state of mind, for on New Year' Eve, ABBOT NEAL ROTH welcomed into our community a new member, NOVICE MICHAEL FERMAN. NOVICE MICHAEL is beginning his novitiate under the direction of FATHER GERARD KIRSCH, Novice Master. NOVICE MICHAEL was born in Sweden to a Swedish mother and an American father, the second of seven siblings. He is bilingual, but only began to learn English seriously when he came to the United States at age eight. NOVICE MICHAEL spent six years in a Franciscan community which operates under the auspices of a bishop, and received a BA, with emphasis in philosophy, from Holy Cross College, South Bend, Indiana. When on leave from the Franciscans discerning his future, he sought out a spiritual director. It was recommended that he contact FATHER PAUL WECKERT, Abbey vocation Director. The rest is history, as they say. NOVICE MICHAEL entered the novitiate after a postulancy of several months.



NOVICE MICHAEL was attracted to the balanced life of prayer and work of the Benedictine, the rich liturgical life, the stability and life in community. Almost immediately, he was struck by the hospitality of our community; the focus on "being" more so than "doing"; the responsibility of the individual, even while living a structured life. There is a freedom to focus, to love God and neighbor. NOVICE MICHAEL is an expert bridge player; enjoys sports, as a player as well as a spectator; admits to being very at home when it comes to cooking; and is fond of mushroom hunting. This later affection dating from his childhood in his native Sweden. Welcome, MICHAEL, and "ad multos annos".

## From The Hill continued

Following the reception of our new novice, the community enjoyed a low-key New Year's Eve gathering. This year, a new tradition was begun. BROTHER DAMIEN-JOSEPH RAPPUHN and PRIOR NICOLAUS WILSON organized a gingerbread house building, which was much enjoyed by all. FATHER GEORGE SEIDEL played seasonal music on the Community Room upright, while monks singly or in pairs constructed houses. The evening concluded with PRIOR NICOLAUS blowing FATHER GEORGE's antique horn into the cold winter night and the community listening to its echo.



FATHER EDWARD RECECONI continues to recover from surgery to his leg in the Fall. There was a partial amputation of the leg, and FATHER EDWARD is now learning to walk with his new prosthesis and doing well. FATHER EDWARD joined with other members of the monastic community at a festive New Year celebration at Lambert Lodge on 3rd January. PRIOR NICOLAUS and this writer prepared a bone-in-ham dinner; BROTHER AELRED WOODARD and BROTHER DAMIEN-JOSEPH brought music for caroling; and FATHER GEORGE accompanied the singers on the Lodge spinet. We were joined at the Lodge by Benedictines FATHER LAURENTI MKINGA and FATHER NOVATUS NGONYANI from Tanzania. FATHERS LAURENTI and NOVATUS are studying at Saint Martin's University and are a part of the Abbey community for their several years here as students -- a nice addition to our community life.

An annual holiday treat for the monastic community has been the generous gift of Mrs. Rosalie Tynan, mother of FATHER PETER TYNAN. Mrs. Tynan sends filets mignons from the big "O" in FATHER PETER's native Nebraska. Very "high tech", this year Mrs. Tynan received filmed thanks from the recipients of her gift.

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May all of our states of mind be renewed and happier in this new year not too long since begun!

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## A COURAGEOUS DEED BY OBLATE MARY RANDALL

Some time ago, I met with a group of 15 people who were taking a trip to Costa Rica. Over dinner, we learned about each other through some thoughtful questions and responses.

A question posed to me was this: “What has been the most courageous deed you have ever done?”

Immediately I thought of a deed. However, not knowing most of these men and women until this dinner, I mentally tried to ignore this deed. However, the Holy Spirit prevailed, as I could not think of another instance.

Taking a deep breath, I began. “As many of you don’t know I once worked for a Church. When a second list of clergy abusers was released in our Archdiocese, I could no longer delete or ignore this information. So I gathered together the three priests, deacon, and Pastoral coordinator (all men) who were working in our parish at the time and pleaded my case. I explained to them how we needed a healing Mass for all the sexually molested victims of our parish and beyond.”

While the first half hour of this discussion was oh hum, the next half hour changed hearts. They began to listen and hear what I had to say. With the season of Lent already in full swing with all of its added liturgies, what I was asking for was the impossible. I knew, first hand, this added Mass would require more penetrating thought to the songs and readings. It had to be a Mass that reflected reparation and healing. I also knew we only had a two-week window to create and implement this liturgy.

It took a tremendous amount of energy to confront this issue with a room full of male hormones. Nevertheless, my zeal continued. What seemed impossible became the most empowered liturgy I have ever witnessed.

Upon hearing this account, the group was silent for a moment. Then a woman sitting next to me said, “Good for you, Mary, that you did this.”

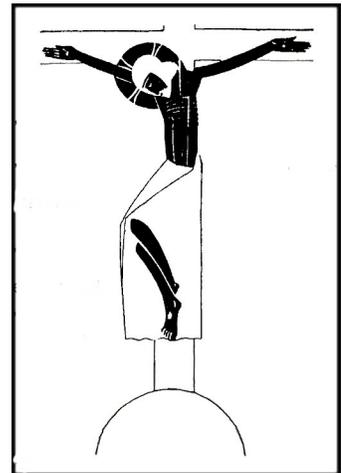
Now, as I reflect back on this question “about my most courageous deed” and how I shared this experience to a room full of non-Catholics, was the initial act more courageous? ...or was it more courageous retelling this deed to people of other faiths?

Question for you:

What has been the most courageous deed you have ever done?

FR. KARL'S ALTAR  
by Oblate John Daniel

Man nailed Love to a tree and said,  
“No, you cannot have our heart.”  
  
but Love walked out of  
the tomb they laid him in  
  
smiling the light that lay  
just underneath the surface of things  
  
and having emptied the tomb of  
death  
He walks our malleable Earth  
  
kindling the flame of love  
in the hearth of our hearts death  
  
for our “no” does not break  
the promise of his “yes”  
  
only lengthens the stay we stay in  
this hollow echo we call death.



## Prayer Requests

Brother Edmund's brother Tom can use more prayers for continued healing.

Let us pray for the Federal Employees recently out of work and those affected by the shut down including those that need medical aid, and that a future shut down be avoided.

For all migrants whether they be in North America or elsewhere.

For the those faced with challenges due to health issues

## Abbey Church Events

Events are not ticketed and seating is generally unreserved. Doors open one hour prior to starting time. A freewill donation in support of Abbey Church Events is suggested. Events are at 8 PM.

March 2nd - Soo Been Lee Violinist and Dina Vainshtein Pianist

March 23rd - Ilya Yakushev Pianist

## On the Book Shelf

*Perspectives on the Rule of St. Benedict* by Aquinata Bockmann, OSB

*Commentary for Benedictine Oblates* by G. A. Simon (Author), Loenard Doyle (Translator)

*Reading Saint Benedict, Reflections on the Rule* by Adalbert de Vogue, OSCO

## November Bazaar

Many thanks to those who worked hard to make this past bazaar such a success. Plans continue for another bazaar in November of 2019. This time it will be located on campus, in the Cheney room of the Marcus Pavilion.

## March 3rd—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.

## Come study the Rule of Saint Benedict.

We'll meet the first Sunday of each month at 2 P.M., in the guest dining room. Exception is whenever our regular oblate Sunday occurs we will be attending that event.

The next meeting we will take up the chapter on Humility to prepare us for the coming season of Lent. Please read the chapter in advance to be better able to discuss and offer thoughts.

Dates 2019

Feb. 3rd

April 7th,

June 2nd,

Aug. 4th,

Oct. 6th,

Nov 3rd,

Dec. 1st.

## Oblate Community dates for 2019

**May 5th** (Investitures and Oblations)

**July 7th** (Potluck picnic)

**August 10th** Oblate Lodge Retreat

**September 8th** (Investitures and Oblations)

**November 15-17**, the 3rd Annual Fundraising Bazaar times to be announced closer to the date. Will be held in the Cheney Room in the Marcus Pavilion.

**December 8th Oblate Sunday**

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

Help keep up the Abbey grounds and make fire-wood out of the tons of logs we have. All help is greatly appreciate. I will not ask you to operate any machinery, maybe a maul, if you can swing it. But there is stacking that is useful. Presently I am getting enough split to take to our Lambert lodge for the winter months. Additional wood goes into structured stacks to give to the needy for small donations to cover some of our cost of machinery maintenance. This is charity in action.

Call Br. Edmund for the next opportunity to work in either activity.

### **Oblate Advisory Meeting**

Time: 10:00AM

Place: Student cafeteria

**2019:** May 4th, July 6th, Sept. 7th, Dec. 7th.

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

### **Rosary Makers will meet:**

Time: 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm. First Saturday of the month.

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

Rosary Makers/Helpers are always appreciated to help in this ministry for the missions and military. Your help will make the difference in the spiritual life of someone.

Please do come. Supplies are available.

### **LAMBERT LODGE WORK**

Time: 10:00 - 3:00

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

## MONASTIC PRAYER SCHEDULE

Please join us in prayer in the Abbey Church

Changes to schedule can be found on line at <http://www.saintmartinsabbey.org/OurMonastery/10.Prayer.htm>

### During Summer, Christmas and Spring Breaks

#### Weekdays

Morning Prayer 6:25 am  
Mass 8:00 am  
Midday Prayer 12:00 noon  
Evening Prayer 5:00 pm

#### Saturdays

Morning Prayer 6:25 am  
Mass 8:00 am  
Midday Prayer 12:00 noon  
Evening Prayer 5:00 pm

#### Sunday

Morning Prayer 8:00 am  
Mass 11:00 am  
Evening Prayer 5:00 pm

### During the School Year

#### Weekdays

Morning Prayer 6:25 am  
Midday Prayer 12:00 noon  
Mass 5:00 pm  
Evening Prayer 7:30 pm

#### Saturdays

Morning Prayer 6:25 am  
Mass 8:00 am  
Midday Prayer 12:00 noon  
Evening Prayer 5:00 pm

#### Sunday

Morning Prayer 8:00 am  
Mass 11:00 am  
Evening Prayer 5:00 pm



Image found at  
[www.stmarysmonastery.org](http://www.stmarysmonastery.org)



**Oblation Renewals:** Attached is the renewal form. Please fill out and return to the Oblate Director with your offering.

If you don't normally make a contribution during the year, this would be a fine time to make an offering.

Mail your form to the Oblate Director Brother Edmund Ebbers, O.S.B.

St. Martin's Abbey  
5000 Abbey Way SE

### Renewal of Oblation

I renew my oblation as an Oblate of St. Benedict of the community of St. Martin's Abbey. I promise again to serve God and all people according to the Rule of St. Benedict.

Let us Pray:

God, most compassionate and loving, strengthen me in my commitment to follow you in the way of St. Benedict. Through my daily prayer and work may I be inspired to live in Christ and to bring His love to the world and His peace to all hearts. I make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

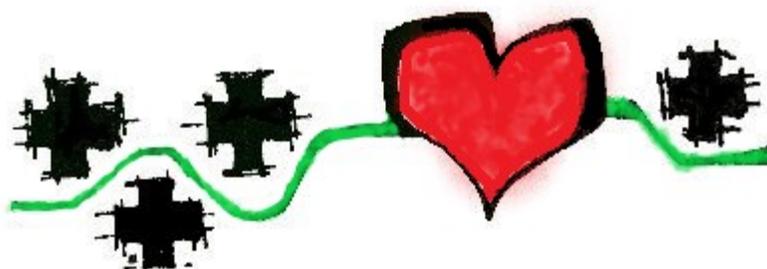
Oblate Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Saint Martin's Abbey**  
**5000 Abbey Way S.E.**  
**Lacey, WA 98503**

**Return Service Requested**



**Oblates Mission Statement**

**We, the Benedictine Oblates of Saint Martin's Abbey, according to our particular vocation in life and our personal commitment to the Benedictine community of Saint Martin's, endeavor through prayer, hospitality, listening to others, and service, to live the values found in the Holy Rule of St. Benedict.**

We can be found on the web at [www.saintmartinsabbey.org](http://www.saintmartinsabbey.org)