



# Oblate Community of Saint Martin's Abbey

Oblates of Saint Benedict

July 2026

Volume 2 Issue 80

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

Most of us know what hospitality is when we see it, but do we go out of our way to practice it? Do we make it a habit to practice hospitality? Hospitality is key for Benedictines and to Christianity; why is this so? Let me explore the whys and hows. The truest test of being a Christian is hospitality. Throughout our sacred scriptures, we find numerous examples of hospitality. These examples are in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. Christian predecessors, the Jewish people, were of firm believers that: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares," Hebrews 13:2. The Jews knew God worked via angels and dreams. The Jewish people looked forward to conversing with angels and following the messages in their dreams. They seemed to have revered these times with little or no fear. Reception of God's direction and presence was honored.

Benedictine's practice hospitality for the same reason as our predecessors and because we believe it is not only the recognition of God but also a way of adoring Him and learning to be more like Him. Acknowledging our creator in hospitality is great praise of him. When we practice hospitality, we express our love for the other person who embodies the likeness of Christ. God is adored through Jesus and the Holy Spirit,

Let us turn to some of the New Testament passages which explain more why we practice hospitality. We read in the New Testament that the Apostles and disciples received and gave hospitality throughout their mission of spreading the Word of God. As they journeyed from town to town, many men and women generously received, fed, and took the disciples into their homes so they could do their work of God. Deacons again were chosen to help take care of feeding and clothing the needy. Romans 12:13 says, "Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."

This is seen as a Christian duty, it is still our duty to look after those in greater need. Today, they are all around us. Do we look past or around them to avoid seeing and doing our duty? First Peter 4:9 goes on to say, "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling." In other words offer our help cheerfully. Grumbling takes away any goodwill we may have had when giving. I have heard folks say, "If only they would get a job, they wouldn't be in the situation they are now in."

## Hospitality continued

One of our monks is willing to pull out some bills and hand them to a street person. He rightfully says, "It is not my business what he does with it. My business is to express love and charity." If you don't have money, why not give food or clothing? Matthew says in 25:35, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you invited me in." Later on, Jesus says, "When you did this to the least, you have done it to me."

Go beyond friends and invite strangers, unbelievers, and outcasts when you hold a special event; when fitting, take risks. You may be surprised at the rewards. Never expect to be repaid for your kindness. I believe expecting to be repaid is setting yourself up for disappointment. Have you ever lent money to a family member or friend and hoped to see it returned someday? Don't!! It is out of your hands; let the goodwill be a blessing.

Leviticus 19:34, could be a valued teacher for our country and world. Treat foreigners living among us exactly as native-born citizens. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners...I am the Lord your God." Many of us have forgotten and taken for granted our status in society. We would not be where we are had we not been born into it and had the right color of skin and had the right belief system. Discrimination only hinders the Christian message of love and hospitality. Jesus has demonstrated that the only enemy he had was the sinful practices of the Pharisees.

Recently, as I read a passage in John's Gospel on the Son, Father, and Spirit, I felt a unique expression of hospitality. The Father (Mother) God begot the Son (Word) and the Holy Spirit (giver of life); all are one. While this relationship is hard for us to conceive, it is a matter that is very unique to our God. It feels familiar and best illustrates hospitality.

Having explored hospitality and its roots and reasons, we may now be able to bring it to our work, home, on the streets and into our lives. It is hardest when we challenge our being, our traditional selves. Let's bring blessings to our family, community, country, and universe.

In Peace & St. Benedict, Br. Edmund, OSB



Image found at needpix.com

## *Oblate Council's Corner*

Current council members are open and ready to listen to your concerns and suggestions. They can be reached via email or on Sunday Oblate meetings. The current members are:

Bede Colvin, [bede.orthodox@gmail.com](mailto:bede.orthodox@gmail.com)

Bene Reece, [benemareece@gmail.com](mailto:benemareece@gmail.com)

Ellen Borland, [ejboblbs@yahoo.com](mailto:ejboblbs@yahoo.com)

Joshua Roberts, [oblate.joshuaroberts@gmail.com](mailto:oblate.joshuaroberts@gmail.com)

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Patricia McClure, [Ravenwings@comcast.net](mailto:Ravenwings@comcast.net)

Ron Fialkowski, [ronaldbenny24@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldbenny24@gmail.com)

### **May council meeting**

Discussion on the upcoming Vision retreat.

Discussion on upcoming Ordination and car pooling.

Canceling date for Holy rule study on the 7th since we will be celebrating Father Damien -Joseph's first Mass.

Rummage Sale planning and date change now Sept 12th and Oblate Sunday changed to 13th due to Labor Day weekend.

### **June council meeting**

Discussed Vision retreat and invitations to Oblates.

Prepared and delegated the invitations for the annual retreat on Humility.

Changed the rosary making dates because of the holiday.

Plans to contact vendors who are interested in selling at the bazaar.

Prepared to contact those making investiture and oblation in July.

## *From The Hill: Monastic Happenings - Boniface V. Lazzari, O.S.B.*

On my bookshelves, there is a small volume titled *A Book of Days for the Literary Year*. It is a compendium of literary lore detailing happenings on dates throughout the years, over the centuries. Were the Abbey to have a similar compendium, surely the 6th of June of 2026 would reflect both sunshine and shadow. Our confrere **BROTHER DAMIEN-JOSEPH RAPPUHN** has spent the past several years engaged in theological studies at Mount Angel in Oregon. In May, he completed his studies. Last Spring, he had been ordained to the diaconate, and on this June 6th he was ordained to the priesthood by the Archbishop of Seattle at Saint James Cathedral, Seattle.

A joy-filled day!



**ABBOT MARION NGUYEN** and many of **BROTHER DAMIEN-JOSEPH's** confreres, oblates, family members, and friends traveled to Seattle to share this blessed occasion with him. **FATHER PAUL WECKERT**, whose own twenty-seventh anniversary of priestly ordination had been the previous day, assisted in vesting the new priest. **BROTHERS MARK BONNEVILLE, PACHOMIUS J. HAMOR** and **EPHREM BENNETT** served the ordination Mass. Following the Mass, **FATHER DAMIEN-JOSEPH** gave a first blessing to many present. On the Feast of Corpus Christi, the following day, **FATHER DAMIEN-JOSEPH** celebrated his first Mass in the Saint Martin's Abbey Church. The Mass was followed by a celebratory luncheon. A very sunshine-centered two days in the life of **FATHER DAMIEN-JOSEPH** and of the Abbey community.

AD MULTOS ANNOS!

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

The glorious weekend was not without shadow. Around Noon on 6th June, our long-time confrere **FATHER GEORGE SEIDEL** passed quietly to God, having been fortified by the Anointing of the Sick by **ABBOT MARION** a day or two previous. **FATHER GEORGE** passed to God in the seventy-third year of his monastic life. Following his passing there was a tolling of a bell in the church bell tower, 94 tolls, one for each year of **FATHER GEORGE'S** Chronological life. Shortly before his death, he had visits in the monastic parlor with his brother John, other family members, and a long-time friend.

Deeply spiritual, our late confrere was by way of being a Renaissance man. He was athletic. In high school, he was a champion boxer. He worked in the Abbey woods, usually with the late **FATHER URBAN FEUCHT**. He was a skilled mountain climber and for a time practiced yoga. He exhibited musical talent from an early age and was Abbey organist for decades as well as a very accomplished jazz pianist. He was an intellectual with nine books and many scholarly articles to his credit. He profited greatly from his several sabbaticals and lived for a time as a Buddhist monk in Southeast Asia. He was an accomplished cook and enjoyed his regular excursions to the monks' cabin on the shores of the Sound.



He will be deeply missed.

Please remember him in prayer and the monastic community.

God be with you, and may you enjoy more sunshine than shadow in your life.

# Ave by Kathleen Bailey

## Stones



burst

into songs of delight.

## Clouds



turned

suddenly into angels fill the skies.

## Trees



fling

themselves joyously into dance.

Everywhere she walks, the life within her their God and mine.  
Blessed Mary, pulling back the veil of heaven,  
pouring down the cool waters of your love,  
the glowing fragrance of your grace

lifts me beyond the stars that are your saints  
into eternities of light,  
the radiance of your heart.

Images found at needpix.com

## HOMILY BY FATHER PETER TYNAN OSB

Today Saint Martin's Abbey welcomes its Oblates to their quarterly gathering. Some have traveled across the state, and others across town to be here. Some have been Benedictine Oblates for decades, and others for months. There are some who are to be invested and another making their final oblation. Welcome, we are blessed by your presence. In this current age, it seems as though our time is our most precious commodity. There never seems to be enough. We are rushing from one thing to the next and never have time to simply sit down and rest. Despite this, our Oblates have chosen to swim against the tide of our efficient and results-driven society. Instead, they commit themselves to slowing down, praying the psalms daily, reading scripture reverently, and taking the ancient Rule of Saint Benedict seriously in their lives. Why they chose to do this is a mystery to most people around them. Nonetheless, they are men and women who strive to enter into mystery. This season of Easter, which we are in, is a time to explore mystery. In the language of the Church, it is a time for mystagogy. By this, we are not speaking of Nancy Drew, Columbo, or Sherlock Holmes kind of mystery. Those puzzles that a rational protagonist can work out for the big reveal at the end of the story. Instead, the kind of mystery the Church revels in during the Easter season, the mystery of God and God's action in our lives. In fact, it is the mystery of how a flawed human race has been offered eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Each Sunday during the Easter season, we explore this mystery from a different angle. This Sunday we are given an insight into the "how" of our salvation and its implications for us right now. If we are to look at our first reading from Acts, it aims to explain why the first generation of the Church felt the need to establish the office of deacon. They were saved, were they not, by believing in the risen Christ and being baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They were, to use a contemporary colloquialism, "good to go." Yet, they witnessed inequity in their community and acted upon it. They felt the need to create a system, choose members for the system, and install these members through ritual into the system, in order for all to share fairly in the daily distribution. Why go through the trouble?

The reason why is answered by Saint Peter in the second reading. He tells us that Christians are, "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that [they] may announce the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." Yes, we are all priests, and no, not exactly as I am a priest. The priesthood all Christians share is somewhat like the priesthood of the ancient Jewish people. They served in the Temple and brought about peace between God and his people. The temple was the place where heaven and earth met. Everything done in the Temple was to reflect what was done in heaven. Which gives us some insight into why Jesus was so upset over the money changers and peddlers in the Temple. So upset, he drove them out with an improvised whip.

Speaking of Jesus, is he not fully human and fully divine? In the person of Jesus Christ, heaven and earth exist in harmony. He was the temple himself. Remember what he preached. "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." He was, as the Evangelist John reminds us, speaking of the temple of his body. If Christ was the Temple, then the Temple needed a priesthood to serve. That is where we Christians come in.

## HOMILY BY FATHER PETER TYNAN CONTINUED

Returning to Saint Peter from the second reading we “like living stones, let [ourselves] be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” Jesus, of course, is the cornerstone of this spiritual structure. We are part of this structure, too, as living stones. We are part of the Body of Christ, which is, mystically speaking, a new and better temple where humanity and God are reconciled with each other.

In our Gospel, Jesus speaks of preparing dwelling places for us in his Father’s house. We tend to hear that Jesus is preparing a place for us in heaven, but we need to remember what Jesus tells us, “The Father and I are one.” The setting of today’s Gospel is the farewell address Jesus gives to the disciples before he suffers his passion, death, and resurrection. Jesus is telling the disciples why he needed to die and be resurrected. His body from his life in ancient Galilee was not enough. He needed his glorified body for us to be able to become a part of him, of the Mystical Body of Christ, living stones in the new Temple, citizens of Heavenly Jerusalem. This mystical body has many parts that must support each other. This temple needs a priesthood to minister. This new Jerusalem must have active citizens who want to bring their community prosperity.

Now with the [admittedly] great mystery in mind. We go back to the first reading and now understand what the early church was up to when it established deacons for the first time. It was an act of priests who wanted their life on earth to reflect the same harmony and equity as there was in heaven. It was the designation of one part of the mystical body to care for and regulate another part of the body. Maybe like a pacemaker. It was citizens of a new Jerusalem, seeing that all the citizens had enough to live their lives fully. As you see, mystery matters.

This is why men and women still seek monasteries to become Oblates. So that they can create in their own lives a method for them to appreciate the many mysteries of their lives in Christ. To be dedicated to prayer, meditation, and reflection so that they may run the race to heaven even better. And better yet, be priests, living stones, and heavenly citizens the Lord calls them to right now in this world. May we all support them and join them in this holy endeavor.

## OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY

There is work to be done. We need folks to step up to various tasks.

1. Candle making.
2. Brush work– removal of ivy and trimming.
3. Removal of chicken yard and clean up.

If you are interested in lending a hand contact Brother Edmund.

**Rosary Makers:**

**July dates have been moved. They will be July 11 and 19th. Come join us.**

	<b>PRAYER REQUESTS</b>	
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RIP Oblate Bill Archer's wife.

RIP Oblate Leilani Roberts's father Herbert Chang.

RIP Father George Seidel, OSB.

For those burdened with cancer.

For the homeless and unemployed.

For the physically and mentally ill persons.

For vocations to the religious life and priesthood.

For goodwill in negotiations between warring countries.

For deeper roots in our spiritual life.

## A SOUL FRIEND BY OBLATE MARY RANDALL

I came across an article recently that was written in June, 1988 by Joseph R. Jones, C.P. In The Catholic Digest. The carefully written article is as true today as it was then. Here are some insights.

A desert father from Egypt went on a pilgrimage to Rome in the fourth century. While there, he visited a recluse who had spent her whole life in one small room. The desert father, who was quite a wanderer, was skeptical.

“Why do you just sit here?” he asked.

“I am not just sitting here,” the woman told him. “I am on a journey.”

“And indeed, every Christian is on a journey. Whether we move about or stay in one place, none of us is just sitting there.”

Every journey requires active planning, and sometimes we need a guide who can help us get closer to God. This guide can go by different names, such as a soul friend or spiritual director. He or she journeys with us and points out the signs we need to look for, patiently teaching us to read our own signs as we move forward.

In the Eastern tradition, four things are crucial to one’s guide. They are: love, discernment, patience, and honesty.

St. John of the Cross, a great director of the spiritual life, adds the following: “courtesy or tender respect for the person in one’s care, holiness with acceptance of the other, and theological competence.”

Saint Francis de Sales sums it up by saying, “A spiritual director should be both loving and learned.”

A guide should have some familiarity with Scripture, able to refer to passages when appropriate to the needs of the other person. God uses these passages to speak to that person in prayer, with some insight emerging.

Prayer is also part of the journey. A spiritual guide should be a person of prayer. The Director is not necessarily holier or smarter than the directed, and a story to illustrate this goes like this. “A famous spiritual director was sought out by an old monk twice his age and renowned for holiness. When asked by the saintly old man to give him spiritual direction, the young director said, “I am honored, but I can’t.” The wise old monk answered with a twinkle in his eye, “I know!” Both were aware of who the real director was-The Holy Spirit. Thus, they started out on the right foot.

Besides being affirmative, a good spiritual director gives healthy confrontation. When there is no growth, or it is too slow, the director will unmask illusions. He or she will help the person throw off false masks.

Camus puts it nicely. “Do not walk behind me, as I may not lead. Do not walk in front of me, as I may not follow. Just walk beside me.”

The journey may be of a desert nature or that of climbing a mountain, or both. The mountain is an ascent in union with God, while the desert is purification to make us worthy.

As Oblates, may we find peace and love with those who walk the journey with us.

Blessings to Holy Father Benedict,

Mary Randall, Oblate

## Walking on an early summer morning by Brother Ramon Newell OSB

Walking outdoors on an early summer morning

Breathing in the cool summer air

Seeing the blooming flowers

Hearing the songs of the birds

Seeing the partial overcast blue sky

Watching the rabbit hop about and the squirrels dart about

Hearing the music of the water in the fountain

As it cascades down

Being thankful to God to have the time to

See, hear and appreciate it all.



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

## OBLATE COMMUNITY SUNDAY JULY 12TH

Please join us at 3:00pm in the Abbey Church for a talk given by Brother Pachomius.

Followed by investitures and oblations and evening prayer. Then a social to celebrate our newest oblates.

### Candidates for Oblate Investiture:

Investiture and Oblation date is set for July 12. If you plan to do your investiture or Oblation please notify Br. Edmund prior to **June 29** of your intent to make your investiture. These will take place right after the conference on the 12th of July and Oblations will take place during the monastic evening prayer of the day.

Oblate Formation meetings are open to all Oblates who feel they want more out of their promises of being an Oblate of St. Martin's Abbey. So whether you are just beginning or been an Oblate for years, please join us on the appointed times and dates.

Mentoring is a great way to strengthen and rejuvenate your Benedictine journey. It builds a stronger community bond. If you feel the spirit calling you, contact the council and sign up to help another discover the joys of Benedictine living.

**July 16th Vision retreat at Lambert lodge. Come for Mass at 8:00 in Abbey church then carpool to lodge. It will be a Potluck lunch. We are spending the day reviewing our goals and expectations. All Oblates are invited to join us. Rsvp to Brother Edmund if you wish to attend.**

Annual retreat on August 1st with Father Damien-Joseph Rappuhn leading us into the last steps of humility. Look for an email with more information.

## ON THE BOOK SHELF

If you read an inspiring book please share with us.

*The Climate of Monastic Prayer* by Thomas Merton.

*Around The Monastic Table* by Aquinata Bockman.

*Seeking Life* by Esther De Waal

## BOOK REVIEWS BY OBLATE PATRICIA MCCLURE

*Saint Benedict for the Laity* by Eric Dean is a highly regarded book offering an ecumenical reflection on how Benedictine monasticism applies to modern secular life. He successfully translates monastic values like stability, obedience, and community into virtues usable in the modern world.

*Tears of Things* by Richard Rohr draws on writings of the Jewish prophets exploring their lamentations about our shared human condition and suffering, encapsulating their journey from anger to sadness and ultimately to compassion. Written in a warm, pastoral voice, it breathes new life into ancient wisdom and paves a path of enlightenment for anyone seeking a compassionate way of living in a hurting world.

Our oblate library is full of wonderful books just waiting to be read by you! It is available to browse online at <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/OblateLibrary>. You can even put a hold on books to pick up at the next oblate meeting. You will need to email the librarian for initial access by clicking on the "Ask the Librarian" link at the bottom of the Oblate Library page or by emailing directly to [OblateLibrary@gmail.com](mailto:OblateLibrary@gmail.com).

## In Stillness by Oblate Kathleen Hystad

I wake at 2 AM  
My thoughts are of you Lord  
Stillness so peaceful  
The veil between heaven and earth feels so thin  
Your presence so strong  
Your reaching out to me and me to you.  
Cradled in your loving arms  
Deep ecstasy fills my mind, body, and soul  
I whisper prayers into your tender ears.  
You feel so near  
Filled with your love  
Like no other  
I am overwhelmed with gratitude.



## OBLATE COMMUNITY CALENDAR 2026

**Rosary Making:** normally but not always at 1:30pm –3:30pm in the guest dining room on the first two Saturdays of the month Please call Br. Edmund at 360-438-4457 to confirm.  
Note changes for July on page 9.

### June

**27th** Formation meeting at 3:30pm - 6:30pm guest dining room Topic: Liturgy, Prayer, Music.  
**29th** Formation meeting at 10:30am - 1:30pm guest dining room.

### July

**3rd** Oblate Council meeting 9:00am Zoom.  
**12th Oblate community Sunday 3:00pm Talk by Br. Pachomius and *Investing and Oblations with Evening Prayer with the Monks.***  
**16th** Vision retreat Lambert lodge. Mass at 8:00 in Abbey church then carpool to lodge. Potluck lunch.  
**25th** Formation meeting at 3:30pm - 6:30pm guest dining room. Topic: St. Benedict and Holy Rule Introduction.  
**27th** Formation meeting at 10:30am - 1:30pm guest dining .

### August

**1st** Silent Retreat 8:00am - 5:00pm on Humility.  
**2nd** Holy Rule Study 1:30pm - 2:30pm. Zoom.  
**2nd** articles for newsletter due.  
**7th** Oblate Council meeting 9:00am Zoom.  
**24th** Formation meeting at 10:30am - 1:30pm guest dining room. Topic: Oblates and Monastic communities  
**29th** Formation meeting at 3:30pm - 6:30pm guest dining room.

### September

**4th** Oblate Council meeting 9:00 am Zoom.  
**12th Annual Rummage Sale 9:00am — 4:00pm**  
**13th Oblate Community Sunday 3:00pm in the Abbey Church. Talk by Oblate Joshua Roberts. *Investing and Oblations with Evening Prayer with the Monks***  
**26th** Formation meeting at 3:30pm - 6:30pm guest dining room. Topic: Lectio Divina  
**28th** Formation meeting at 10:30am - 1:30pm guest dining room.

### October

**2nd** Oblate Council meeting 9:00am Zoom.  
**4th** Holy Rule Study 1:30pm - 2:30pm Zoom.  
**26th** Formation meeting at 10:30am - 1:30pm guest dining room. Topic: Oblate Promises.  
**31st** Formation meeting at 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm guest dining room.

### November

**2nd** Articles for newsletter due.  
**6th** Oblate Council meeting 9:00 am Zoom.  
**8th** Holy Rule Study 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm Zoom.  
**19th Bazaar set up at the TUB.**  
**20th-21st Bazaar.**  
**28th** Formation meeting at 3:30pm - 6:30pm guest dining room. Topic: Prayer and Spirituality.  
**30th** Formation meeting at 10:30am - 1:30pm guest dining room.

### December

**4th** Oblate Council meeting 9:00am Zoom.  
**6th Oblate Community Sunday 3:00pm in the Abbey Church.**  
**14th** Formation meeting at 10:3am Guest dining room. Topic: Hospitality, Humility, Charity.  
**19th** Formation meeting at 3:30pm- 6:30pm guest dining room.

*Saint Martin's Abbey  
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Lacey, WA 98503*

*Return Service Requested*

**St. Martin's Abbey Oblates are people who earnestly seek a more deeply spiritual life rooted in God according to the Holy Rule of St. Benedict. The Oblate lives and works in the secular world guided by the wisdom of Benedictine life.**

We can be found on the web at <https://stmartinsabbey.org/news-and-events/oblate-newsletter/>