

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

Dear Oblate brothers and sisters:

Looking ahead, we'll soon be in the season of Advent. This is a time to make special preparations in our lives to live more closely with Our Lord Jesus as His birthday comes again. He can be born again in our hearts. We can never be totally worthy of Him and therefore never cease in uniting our joys, pains, and anguishes with Him. Many a person has tried to explain the reason for suffering. I try to comprehend and appreciate suffering which takes patience and time with our Lord.

I do this by first looking and meditating on our Savior's teachings and actions as portrayed through the Sacred Scriptures. This pondering teaches me a lot. Without the scriptures and the example of our Lord, I wouldn't have the hope and faith I need to persevere in trials.

Jesus continually demonstrates patience and understanding. If we don't understand the reasons then it is for us to wait patiently. We may have to wait a very long time and when we least expect it, the answer comes like a silent breeze. It is human to grieve, but our grief must be followed with hope. Far too often, our emotions overcome us and make us incapable of hearing or discovering the answer. What cannot be found in the moment of suffering is often later revealed. He does not wish us ill or that we even suffer. Look at the New Testament for the numerous times He healed the sick.

When pain, emotional or physical, lasts seemingly "forever", it helps me to meditate on the sufferings of our Lord and the many others who endured long suffering.

Because we are many members of the one body of Christ, sin in our neighbor affects us all. For healing, Christ asks that the members of the Church come forth to pray for the sick. Here we bring our sorrow for having sinned and make amends to avoid sin so that healing may abound more in the afflicted. Taking in the Sacrament of Reconciliation helps the healing process among my brothers and sisters.

As a Christian, I believe, uniting my pain with those of Jesus and other suffering servants, there is redemption for all people. Offering small and large sufferings in behalf of those who do not believe in redemption or forgiveness is a healing ointment for me. Think of the times we apologize to another for some act of injustice, both parties feel lifted out of sorrow to joy. There is joy after pain. We know that our Redeemer is just and merciful. He is, after all, "love".

I believe the greater the pain the greater the joy afterwards. There are no promises that the joy will be in this lifetime, but most definitely in the next life when we transform to our Spiritual body. As I have said, "sin affects us all". When we are in pain, others are afflicted as well. Often it is helpful to allow others into our world of pain, so that they and we can find healing.

I pray we all find our consolation in Jesus for He has given us the greatest gift that anyone can give another, His Love, Himself.

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas season.

In St. Benedict I am, Br. Edmund, OSB



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

I love our abbey's coat of arms with the motto "Not to neglect charity" which comes from chapter 4: 26 of the Rule of Benedict. The Rule of Saint Benedict 1980 translation is, in my opinion, more to the point: "Never turn away when someone needs your love." It is a wonderful motto. Probably one of the most difficult of arts is the art of living peacefully in the community of a monastery or the community of a family. It is not possible without the constant practice of charity for one another. The fact that Benedict included this in the Rule indicates that he realized that people have various defects of body and soul, dispositions, peculiarities, and hang-ups that can, potentially at least, cause others problems and discomfort. Inevitably, there will be the occasional tension or friction. Benedict knew charity would have to be alive and well in the common life. He states it beautifully: "Bear one another's burdens: so you shall fulfill the law of Christ." There are times when common sense instructs us to leave someone alone. We note the community/family members need for space and we allow that until the crankiness or upset has dissipated. I think these situations fall under the word "infirmities."

It is very important that we remember we are each on the way to the Lord together. We are all working on our human failings and weaknesses. We are in process with the goal of purity of heart. We all need to do this, be aware of this, because we will never be able to see God clearly, as reflected in our lives together, unless we constantly strive for charity and purity of heart. Thomas Merton defined community as being "Wherever you bump up against somebody in pursuit of doing something together."

To be with others, to support, to accept, and to love them, in the good times and in the bad times, is what we, as Christians and as Benedictines are called to do. In these moments is the meaning of community truly clear.





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

In the spring of 1955, an administrative reorganization, approved by the college corporation, advanced **Abbot Raphael Heider (1903-1971)** to the position of chancellor of Saint Martin's College, and named **Father Damian Glenn (1907-1986)** president. On May 16, the Chemistry Club held its annual dinner with **Father Damian** as the guest of honor. On June 5, **Fathers Damian, David Prebula (1918-2009)** and **Michael Feeney (1919-2000)** gave baccalaureate addresses at Midland, Olympia, and Everett respectively. On June 13, **Father Damian** began a three-day tour of soliciting funds with other presidents of Washington State private institutions of higher learning.

On July 10, two men were invested as brother novices - Brother Jerome (Martin) Weier and Brother Dominic (Darrel) Hahn - in a quasi-pontifical Mass offered by Abbot Raphael. On July 11, six monks made simple triennial vows - Fraters Kenneth (James) Keller, Gerard (Russell) Frederick, and Cletus (Edward) Bradley and Brothers **Bernard Anderson (1898-1971)**, Norbert (George) Nicklaus, and Louis (Robert) Bond - in a solemn Pontifical Mass offered by Abbot Raphael. July 11 was also the twenty-fifth anniversary of vows for **Brother Stephen Neary (1870-1958)**, **Father John Raymond (1911-1974)**, and **Father Leonard Feeney (1908-1980)**.

In other news, **Father Anselm Lenzlinger (1899-1960)**, assistant pastor at Queen of Angels, Port Angeles, conducted a mission (June 15-17) for the 758th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron at Neah Bay Air Force Station. **Father Ansgar Hallen (1902-1985)** underwent surgery at Providence Hospital, Seattle, on July 1, and in his absence was replaced as pastor of Sacred Heart, Lacey, by **Father Walter Hellan (1920- 1968)**. **Father Marian Esterman (1874-1957)** was hospitalized with a heart condition. **Father Alcuin Lawrence (1906-1984)**, pastor of Seattle, Assumption, announced the acquisition of additional property for parish expansion. **Father David Prebula** replaced **Father Marcel Berthon (1899-1975)** as weekend assistant at Assumption, Seattle, during the summer while the latter was on a two-month tour of Europe.

Frater George Seidel, salutatorian of the college graduation class of 1955, was busy learning Italian preparatory to beginning studies in the fall at the Benedictine college of Sant' Anselmo, in Rome. He had graduated in the spring with majors in both music and philosophy and was scheduled to obtain a graduate degree in philosophy. Despite the to-ing and fro-ing of so many monks, over 80 monks were on hand for the June 6-10 annual retreat, given by Father Ermin Smith OSB of Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, PA. (Father Ermin also conducted a retreat for 36 Benedictine Sisters June 12-17.) The community gathered on the last day of the retreat for a group photograph as the last one had been in 1948 - since when five monks had died. Eight monks were unable to be present for the picture.



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



One of the loveliest sights on our grounds surely is the crepe myrtle in the bell tower courtyard of the Abbey Church. In summer, it is a mass of brightly-colored blooms; by early November there are a few tiny berries, orange and yellow leaves, with a touch of deep red, and a maze of bare branches. God's work of art. The twentieth century artist Georgia O'Keeffe, known for her works of south-west landscapes and her flowers, once opined, "Nobody sees a flower, really - it is so small - we haven't time, and to see takes time, like to have a friend takes

time."

As we approach Thanksgiving, and the reflective season of Advent, perhaps we ought to take time. Take time to see, take time to nurture our friendships, and take time to give thanks for all of God's gifts to us - including our friendships and the flowers, among other beauties. It may be a moment for being very grateful for the positives in our lives, in spite of the "rain" which falls in all lives. Take time to see the positives and to nurture them.

One of the positives of our monastic lives this fall was a Mass on campus for the Catholic elementary schools of the South Sound area and John Paul II High School, a neighbor of the Abbey. **ABBOT NEAL ROTH** was the presider at the Mass of the Holy Spirit, at which **FATHERS PAUL WECKERT, PETER TYNAN** and **MARION NGUYEN** participated.

The monastic community established an endowed scholarship at Saint Martin's University with monies received from the estates of the families of our late confreres **FATHER THADDAEUS ARLEDGE** and **FATHER TERENCE WAGER**. The scholarships will especially benefit those studying in the area of religious studies and theology. The Abbot of Saint Martin's or his representative will always be a member of the scholarship selection committee.

The new Flag Pavilion near the Grand Staircase has been named in honor of our late confrere **FATHER MARCEL BERTHON**. **FATHER MARCEL** was in his day a musician, a vocalist. He worked in our high school, both as a teacher of French and Spanish and as principal, and worked in our parishes. During the Second World War, he served as a military chaplain. A naming ceremony was to take place at the Pavilion this fall.



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

FATHER MARION has been working in the Advancement/Alumni offices of the university since this summer ... ABBOT NEAL and FATHER KILIAN MALVEY traveled to Yakima for an alumni event and to attend a “gala” to benefit Catholic education in Yakima’s Catholic Diocese ... PRIOR JUSTIN MC CREEDY, FATHER BEDE CLASSICK and FATHER PETER assisted at a dinner to benefit Holy Family School ... This writer attended a reception/open house at Panorama, a local retirement community ... FATHER GEORGE SEIDEL continues his philosophical research in Berkeley, California, before moving on to Germany after the first of the year. ...Martin Dinh made a decision to leave the monastic community after much prayer and discernment. He will continue to use the name of “Martin” which he received when professed. He is missed.



FATHER PAUL'S Yelm parish tried something different for the youngest members of the parish this Halloween. They had “Trunk-or-treat”. Following a brief Paraliturgical service in the church, the costumed children went to the parking lot and went from open trunk to open trunk requesting treats ... BROTHER MARK BONNEVILLE, who has a great many responsibilities related to the upkeep of the monastery building, has taken on a lay assistant who will assist him one day a week. In an earlier time, the monastic community was blessed with the assistance of alum George Hoffman, who kept all clean and functioning ... SUBPRIOR BROTHER

RAMON NEWELL has been working as campus mail carrier for many years. In recent years, he has had an assistant or two assigned to assist him. This year two students, one of whom is from India, assist him.

Wishes for a Blessed Thanksgiving and a peace-filled Advent.
Take time to see and to be thankful.



Encounters with God

Father Benedict Auer, O.S.B.

"You see you are the poem you disregard." Stephen Sandy

A snowflake
suicides on my cheek,
a never to be repeated crystallized teardrop
touches my face and then disappears,
my eyes can't focus quick enough
and it vanishes from memory.

One instant
a year ago, I saw a double rainbow's genesis
misting itself into spanning an entire valley floor -
a prismatic bridge, twinning
its colors in a spaced spectrum.
Uncamera-ed I failed
to preserve this covenant in mind.

Words

came to me a month ago
and I wrote them down on a paper towel,
Blurred and ripped; I managed to scribble
a line about life and its meaning,
but when reread I threw them away
since on second thought - there is only unmeaning.



Image found at <https://andthegirlwrote.wordpress.com/tag/jesus/>



My fingers are numb from holding
too tight, circulation
has stopped, and sharp little
jabs pincushion my life,
yet I can't let go, even though I try,
of the me holding God arm's length,
afraid He could ravish me.



Changes - Oblate Bill Lagreid

Change is a fact of life that is a challenge for many and a blessing for others. As we move through time, days, weeks, hours, months, and years we can anticipate that we will experience many events in our lives. Some of the things are planned, others are events outside our control or influence but change is inevitable. For example, we can anticipate the warm days of summer and the cold wind and rain of winter. Living in the Northwest, we anticipate the rain but with each season, we make adjustments in our lives and our activities.

As we age, we naturally change, physically, mentally, and spiritually. We can anticipate and plan for those changes or we can resist, but change is part of life, in nature and in our human experience. For example, we live in a family with parents and siblings, we learn how to share. We grow and go to schools and meet new friends, encounter new situations. We adjust form new bonds and some of us eventually continue on to marry and have our own children. Our progress in life depends a lot on how well we adjust as we mature. The foundations begin in our first family experience, it sets up physical, spiritual, and morally.

As Oblates, we have been blessed by a calling to commit ourselves to a spiritual and physical way of living. We are called to share our time, talents, prayers, and to assist others on our journey. By committing these talents to support a community of Sisters or Monks in doing God's work as well as help the people we live with; husbands, wives, sisters, parents, and neighbors. This way of life helps us as we navigate our way through the daily trials and pressures of living.

We each create our own baggage as we travel through life but sometimes we need a helping hand to carry those bags and encouragement to learn to live beyond the moment of tribulation. As oblates, we are called to this mission to be supporters and helpers in a world that continues to move and change.

Let us pray that we each, as oblates of St. Benedict, may be instruments for growth, understanding, tolerance, and hope in an ever changing and challenging world.

Let us pray for...

Sister Monica Ellis, OSB, and her family upon the passing of her sister Claudine Elizaga.

Oblate Michael Wilson - health issues

Barbara and Oblate. Bill Lagreid - aging and health issues

Oblate Rob St. Clair - surgery recovery and health

Suzanne Rothwell - surgery and recovery

Oblate Mary Randall - special intentions & health

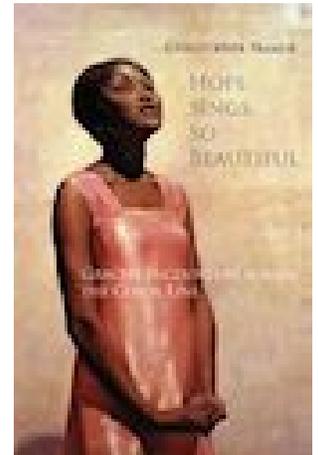
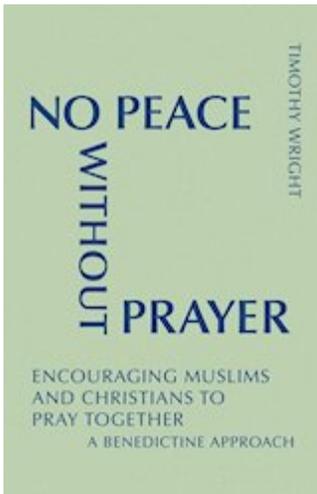
All home bound and sick persons needing healing



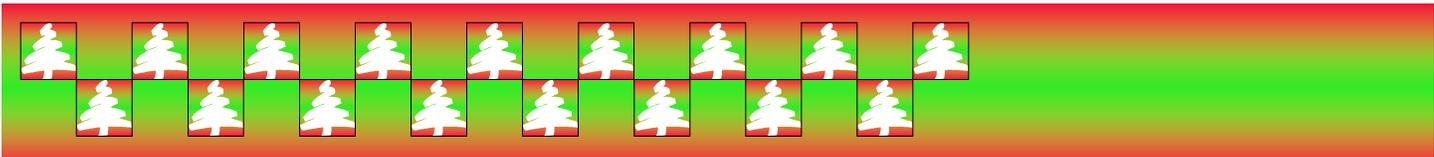
On the Book Shelf

No Peace without Prayer: Encouraging Muslims and Christians to Pray Together; A Benedictine Approach. By Abbot Timothy Wright

Hope Sings, So Beautiful: Graced Encounters Across the Color Line. By Christopher Pramuk



September 2015 Novices, Dean, Hopie, Maggie, Teresa.



ETC.

If you are receiving a newsletter but not our email updates it is because we don't have a working email for you. This is easy to correct. Just send your email address to the editor and you will be placed on our list. Editor's email address is Ravenwings@comcast.net.

Thank you all who responded to the survey email. Your answers have given us much to consider in how we are meeting the needs of our Oblates. The advisory committee will meet and discuss the needs you presented. There is still time to send in your responses for consideration.

Fall bazaar brought in \$470.00 to our oblate fund.
Thank you for your hard work and participation.



Brother Edmund and the Community send a holiday greeting. Here's wishing and praying for many blessings to be bestowed on all Oblates, friends and relatives of the Abbey. You will be held up high in our monastic prayers.

Abbey Church Events <http://www.saintmartinsabbey.org/ArtsEvents/201516abbeyevents.pdf>

Nov. 21st at 8:00 pm **Stephen Waarts**, violin and **Chelsea Wang**, piano

March 12th at 8:00 pm **Tao Lin**, piano

April 16th at 8:00 pm **Borealis**, string quartet

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.



December 6th Oblate Conference Sunday

Join us for Mass in the Abbey church at 11 A.M.

Followed by brunch, for purchase, in the student cafeteria (St. Gertrude's Hall).

1:30 presentation in the Abbey Church.

2016

Holiday/Christmas Bazaar is being planned for November or early December of 2016. Please start thinking about what you can bring and contribute. All you crafty Oblates, here is the time to create something beautiful to share with others. Feel free to use your imaginations. We are looking for items for children as well as for adults. Needle work, jewelry, wood, ceramic handcrafted items would be appreciated. Those wishing to contribute baked items please hold off until the date of our fundraiser is set some time in Nov. 2016.

Non-perishable items can be brought to the Oblate office at any time. We plan to have the bazaar in the guest dining room over a couple days so we can reach more folks and include staff and students. We also will be asking volunteers to set up and take down and to be available to operate the display.

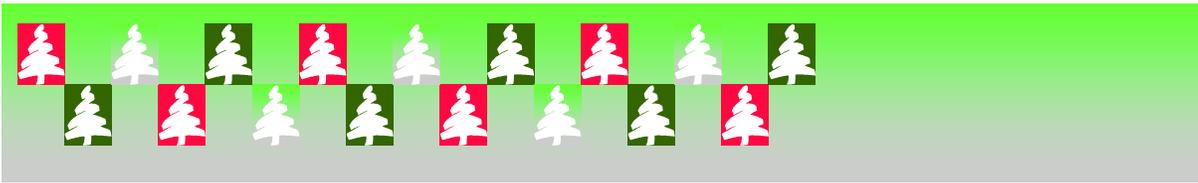
Burial Smocks: Burial smocks or habits for Oblates has a long tradition which not many Oblates seem to know about. I did not know much about them until I started to get requests and then spoke with Abbot Neal about them. They used to be made here at St. Martin's years ago by the mother of one of our monks. The smocks are a simple tunic that goes to the waist plus a scapular over it. The women's smock has a white lace around the neck of the scapular. On the scapular, off center to the left over the heart is a Benedictine Medallion about 4" across. They are made of 100% wool - do not attempt to wash or they may shrink. They are made only for burial. We will have samples on display on Oblate Sundays. Photos of those samples will be in the next newsletter with an order form. The price will be \$75.00. An oblate and her cousin are preparing them for us. To order one for yourself please let Oblate Director Br. Edmund know.

Mark Your Calendars

Oblate Sunday Conferences 2016

March 6th, May 1st, July 10th (annual picnic), September 4th, December 4th.

Oblate annual retreat. Aug 6th. Meet for Mass at the Abbey church. We will carpool to Lambert lodge and return back to the abbey around 3pm. This is a potluck event.



Good Works

Lambert Lodge: 9:30 to 3:30.

Please plan to assist in the cleaning and sprucing up of Lambert Lodge on the following days:

April 9th and Oct. 8th

These are both Potluck days so bring something to share.

For more details contact
Brother Edmund 360-438-4457
br_edmund@stmartin.edu

Rosary Work.

First Saturdays of every month expect
August 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm.

Meet in the Guest dining room of Old Main
across from the Monastery refectory.

Rosary makers and twine cutters are
needed. Come tie a knot with us.

Gardening and Wood:

Saturdays 1:00pm to 3:30pm

Gardeners and wood workers are
appreciated during the summer and
winter. Please call Br. Edmund to
make arrangements.

Brother Edmund 360-438-4457;
br_edmund@stmartin.edu

Prison Ministry: If you are interested in
being a Pen Pal to a prison inmate, please
contact Brother Edmund. This ministry can be
as simple as mailing a card of encouragement
and prayers.

2016 Oblate Advisory Meeting: Saturday at 10 a.m. in St Gertrude's Hall.

March 5th, April 30th, July 9th, September 3rd, & December 3rd.