



Oblate Community of Saint Martin's Abbey

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March 2018

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

Dear Oblate brothers and sisters,

February 14th is both Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday this year. Lent is a special time of year for us to take stock of our spiritual life. I see an irony beginning the season of Lent on Valentine's Day, a day for expressing love and affection to others. Ash Wednesday is a day marking the season of repentance, not one necessarily of sadness, but rather looking over our past and into the future. Asking, "What can I do better to express my love for those I don't normally love enough?"

I am reminded of Sr. Joan Chittister's address at the Oblate Congress in Rome in November of 2017. She spoke about the unfolding role of Oblates in today's world. Telling us, "Oblates are not to be consumers of Benedictine Tradition but instead carriers of the Benedictine Tradition." The gifts we receive must not be possessed, kept to ourselves, but shared or passed on to others.

First, we need to know the values of Benedictine tradition. Our Oblate Mission Statement spells them out for us: In part it says, "... we witness through a life of joyful prayer, work, and service, guided by Sacred Scripture, Liturgy, and the spirit of the Rule of St. Benedict." Then basic principles and beliefs are outlined to guide us in these elements of our tradition. Prayer through meditation and spiritual readings and Liturgy. Hospitality, seeking to welcome in peace and console the sorrowing. Open Listening is respectfully listening to the voice of God as it comes to us from a friend or stranger. Selfless Service is not counting our personal cost but giving ourselves in whatever cause we are capable.

Now that we know the what, we begin to work forward on the how. We all vary in where and how we live, in our labors, education, social class, age, health. We are a varied community. The beauty of the Holy Rule is that it allows for a "variety of characters." It is up to us to not just consume but to wear and spread the traditions of Benedictines.

"Seeking nothing to burdensome or to light," St. Benedict lays out his little rule. To push forward here, I would like to mention some of the ministries other Communities are involved in doing. Perhaps mentioning some will enlighten you to the possibilities. Oblates of Netherlands and Germany support African reforestation. Oblates volunteer in soup kitchens, tutoring special needs persons, cleaning along roadsides, making bedding for the needy, for babies and shut-ins. They provide gardening for those shut-in. They do cooking and laundry for the disabled, or make periodic visits to the lonely or someone in need of a friendly face. They gather clothing and furniture to those in need, voluntarily paying for someone's meal in a restaurant or just providing food for the street people, and hand out gloves and scarves in the winter. There is an endless list of acts of kindness, that if we all took a little time and effort we could make someone happy for a little while and yes, we would be happier too for doing it. This is being Christ to our fellow beings. Our Lent could be a graceful period and a remission of sin. On Easter and at the end our stay here on earth we can say, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

I send, from the Oblates, financial support to the Alliance of International Monastic and the St. Benedict Education Foundation, which support poor religious communities to send their religious to Rome for studies.

To conclude, I know many of you do ministries voluntarily. I am aware of some of those ministries but could you make a list of these and send to me so I am more aware of what you are involved in doing as an Oblate, on behalf of the Oblate Community of St. Martin's.

Your Director in St. Benedict, Bro. Edmund E., OSB

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

There are a lot of jokes about growing old or about the humorous things old people sometimes do. In a few months, I will turn eighty years old. As a youth, I thought anyone in their eighties to be very ancient! Today I think differently! It is said that when one grows older, one grows wiser. Let us hope so, but I suspect there are still areas that need conversion.

The Church is an ancient and wise mother for us. The cycle of liturgical events has a way of penetrating our lives. As followers of Benedict, prayer and work dominate our lives as we travel through the liturgical seasons. By the time this article is read, we will have begun Lent. I feel that I need Lent each year and I seldom feel I have taken full advantage of Lent by the time I reach Holy Thursday. The simplification of our life during Lent does not always transition to our spiritual life. Most of us probably do something during Lent that will intensify our prayer life. Maybe we try to do something that will enter our "inner" heart where we can be still with the Lord. We do this, must do this, so that Christ can touch us.

In a way, Lent is a period of breaking the soil of the soul, a weeding, and then a planting process. I think the image of plowing and preparing the soil for planting can be a good symbol for the Lenten season and what it is about. Our spiritual life over a year may be hard and compacted with whatever it is that we struggle with in our life. Less food during Lent, more prayer, attitudes that are more positive, more effort at improving in small ways: in other words, working on conversion shows our willingness not only to plow but also to get behind the plow and work. The shell of our defenses and routine may well need "plowing" so that we can get in better and more intimate touch with God. Conversion can then begin to take place.

Why do we need all of this? We need it so that we may enter more deeply into the death and resurrection of Christ in order that we might rise to new life in him. Jesus has purchased all for us. He was broken on the cross and triumphed with his resurrection-all for us. May this Lent be a time for us to enter more deeply into personal conversion so that God will bring each one of us to "new life" during this holy season.

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

On April 18, 1956, engineering students began to run a profile on a proposed roadway, which is the extension of Robbins Road (now 6th Avenue) onto the campus. ... On April 21, the abbey was saddened to learn of the death of Bishop Edward Kelly of Boise. ...On April 23, **Father Leonard Feeney (1908-1980)** and his crew of high school student volunteers were continuing the landscaping west of the main building, and the area looked quite neat. ...On April 24, **Father Christopher Abair (1924-1988)** and some of the Anselm Hall college students starring in Gilbert and Sullivan's MIKADO put on a bit of advertising for the production over King-TV in Seattle. ...On April 25, **Father Urban Feucht (1927-2013)**, assistant procurator, attended a meeting of the Lacey community planners. ...On April 28, the eighth annual Saint Martin's Forensics Tournament concluded a successful meeting, with some nine northwest colleges participating.

On May 1, the Saint Martin's community celebrated the new feast of Saint Joseph the Worker-the answer of the Church to Communist May Day. ...On May 2, the college's application for a federal loan for the building of a dormitory was approved in Washington DC. ...On May 3, four candidates for the monastic novitiate were informed of their acceptance. ...On May 4, Don Pape-the future **Brother Justin Pape (1905- 1958)**-visited the abbey to discuss the possibility of entering the Brotherhood. ...On May 6, the combined college and high school music departments put on an excellent program in the Abbey Theatre. On May 8, **Abbot Raphael Heider (1903-1971)** and **Father Paul Kucera (1887-1974)** were in Vancouver, WA for the centenary celebration of the Sisters of Charity of Providence. ...On May 10, **Abbot Raphael and Father Walter Hellan (1920-1968)** were in Seattle to discuss financing an interim loan for the construction of the new dormitory. ...On May 11, **Abbot Raphael Heider, Father Alcuin Lawrence (1906-1984)**, and **Father Arnold Fox (1903-1999)** attended the funeral of Mrs. Toner, mother of **Father Jerome Toner (1899-1977)**. ...On May 12, architect Roger Gotteland was at Saint Martin's to look over the site for the proposed dormitory. ...On May 25, **Father Gregory Wall (1894-1979)** took one of his high school classes on a field trip to the locks at Olympia.

Many of the monks would be attending summer school in 1956: **Father Placidus Reischman (1926-2000)** and Father William Dickerson at Catholic University of America in Washington DC, **Father Richard Cebula (1916-2004)** at Purdue, **Frater Peter Sand (1924-1981)** at Notre Dame. Bordeaux Hall in Seattle would house students going to University of Washington and Seattle University: **Father David Prebula (1918- 2009)**, Father Andrew McHugh, **Father Timothy Lamm**, Father Ambrose Turner, **Father Urban Feucht** and **Father Nicholas Rausch (1928-2003)** and Fraters **Adrian Parcher, Alfred Hulscher (1933-2016)**, **Valerian Grubb (1932-1979)**, Kenneth Keller, and Cletus Bradley. **Father Bertrand Trautman (1918-1972)** would be assisting at Sacred Heart Parish in Malden, Massachusetts-in close proximity to Harvard where he would be working on his doctoral thesis.

Of the priests at home, **Fathers Leonard Feeney, Clement Pangratz (1919-2017)** and **Christopher Abair** had landscaping projects. As to parish assignments, **Father Marcel Berthon (1899-1975)** would spend July at St. Frances Cabrini, Lakewood and August at Saint Paul's Cathedral, Yakima, **Father Michael Feeney** at Saint Paul's Cathedral in July, Father Maurus Keller at Saint Joseph's parish in Wenatchee (and working on his master's thesis). All the priests at Bordeaux Hall would have weekend assignments. **Father Meinrad Gaul (1907-1984)** would be assisting at Visitation, Tacoma, **Father Felix Wirth (1913-1984)** at St Thomas, Riverton, and **Father Conrad Rausch (1921-2011)** at Holy Rosary, Tacoma.

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

Lord, cause the sun of your grace to illuminate our paths.
Grant the fullness of Your divine blessing
To all our works, success to all our endeavors,
Satisfaction to all our labors,
Realization to all our hopes,
And fulfillment to all our wishes. Amen.

As our year is still relatively new, we still might offer up the above prayer, which I found in a favorite book of devotions. While the year still has an aura of newness about it and while it seems that, we have just returned to storage for another year the carved figures from the abbey's Christmas crèche, some of the early spring plants are beginning to push their heads through the soil and we know that the Lenten season will soon be upon us. The past year saw the death of one of our former confreres, **FATHER DOMINIC HAHN**, a member of the Abbey community for many years. He variously served his community as postmaster, library assistant, and liturgical Master of Ceremonies before beginning theological studies, which led to his priestly ordination. Following his ordination, he served in many parishes, a service he continued after being dispensed from his monastic vows. R.I.P.

On the first day of the New Year, the monastic community welcomed a new prior and a new treasurer. **ABBOT NEAL ROTH** appointed **BROTHER NICOLAUS WILSON** to the former position and **BROTHER MARK BONNEVILLE** to the later. **FATHER JUSTIN MC CREEDY** had filled these important positions for the past three years. God's blessings on **BROTHERS NICOLAUS** and **MARK**, and heartfelt thanks to **FATHER JUSTIN** for taking on these positions for three years. Our Benedictine Rule states that if one aspires to the Benedictine life, the Rule ought to be read to him in its entirety. This fall, members of the monastic community read the entire Rule to **NOVICE DAMIEN-JOSEPH RAPPUHN** in one afternoon. A novelty, organized by our Novice Master, **BROTHER NICOLAUS**. Readers included **FATHER BENEDICT AUER**, **FATHER PETER TYNAN**, **BROTHER NICOLAUS**, and this writer.

Other members of the monastic community participated by their supportive presence, and were invited to be present for whatever part of the two and one half hour reading they were able to attend. It was a very meaningful experience, which I hope will be repeated with future novices.

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

The monastic holiday season began early, with a lovely recital in the Abbey Church by **BROTHER AELRED WOODARD** and several of his musically gifted friends. One of the pieces sung by **BROTHER AELRED**, tenor, was Donizetti's "La derniere nuit d'un novice" ("A Novice's Final Night"). On the third day of the New Year, the monastic community gathered at Lambert Lodge to enjoy an evening of good food, fellowship, and the singing of Christmas tunes. **BROTHER NICOLAUS** was the chief chef for the evening's meal, assisted by sous chef **BROTHER DAMIEN-JOSEPH** and this writer. The menu included freshly baked turkey and the community's favorite oyster dressing.

In early fall, our former confrere, now working in Alaska, **FATHER STEVE GALLAGHER** was our welcome guest... Many monks were traveling. **FATHER PETER** traveled to the east coast for a meeting related to the Knights of Columbus... **BROTHER LUKE DEVINE** attended a board meeting in the mid-west... **FATHER BEDE CLASSICK** traveled east to join his ordination classmates in celebrating the golden anniversary of their priestly ordination. *AD MULTOS ANNOS!* ...**ABBOT NEAL** and others from the University made a weekend trip to Yakima to support Catholic Education in that diocese... **BROTHER MARK** and **FATHER PAUL WECKERT** traveled to Vancouver, Washington to attend a Serra Club function in support of religious vocations... **FATHER TIMOTHY LAMM** both returned to the Abbey following an extended illness and celebrated a major birthday.

FATHER GEORGE SEIDEL, musician and philosopher, regularly spends time at Lambert Lodge, the monastic retreat on the Sound. Some months ago, he had some unwelcome visitors, whom he bade leave. The yellow jackets expressed reluctance, and **FATHER GEORGE**'s hand exhibited the proof of it for some time afterwards.

Wishes for a blessed Lent,
and may the sun of God's grace
always illuminate your path!

Unsunned Sorrow by Father Benedict Auer, O.S.B.

A misted morning
meets my mood
pulling my spirits into depression
with a drizzle fine as flakes transparent,
not translucent.

My day is wetted
by this ablution
sprinkled upon my environs,
yet beyond comprehension by my mind,
only felt liquating my soul.

Grayed sad,
yet unsunned relieved,
I find no interior ease,
no peace, just reigned silence,
rained deep in my dampened soul.

Nothing touches
my pained heart, no touch or healing reaches into me,
only emptiness and hurt echoing soundlessness.

Baptized sad
by a hidden God,
shadowboxing self-images,
trying to be, yet yearning to not,
I move misted both within and without.



Image found at gymlion.com

March 4th—Oblate Community Sunday

Come join us March 4th at 11 A.M. for Mass in the Abbey church, followed by social time at 12:30. Food is available for purchase in the student cafeteria or you are welcome to bring your own.

At 1:30 attend a presentation in the Abbey Church where Brother Edmund and Oblate Bene Reece will present an overview of the Oblate World Congress.

Oblate Community dates for 2018

May 6th (Investitures and Oblations)

June 29– July 1st Regional Oblate and Directors Meeting at St. Martin's in Lacey, WA.

July 8th potluck picnic. Presentation by Anatha Attar on "Pilgrimage Making Travel Sacred."

September 9th (day of Investitures and Oblations)

August 11th Oblate Retreat at Lambert Lodge.

December 2nd to be announced.

Northwest regional conference : You are the hosts.

St. Martin's Oblates are hosting the Regional Oblate and Directors meeting in 2018 here at St. Martin's University June 29 - July 1st.

Oblates, if you wish to get actively involved with the Regional Conference NW NAABOD June 29-July 1st volunteer for duties such as greeters, golf cart drivers, registration tables, please come to the next meeting on February the 24th at 10 a.m. in the Student Cafeteria. A sign-up sheet will be on the name tag table in the atrium on the Oblate Community Sunday, March 4th.

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. Conference registration sheet included in this newsletter on page 11.

What is the North West North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors (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? Oblates and directors from: House of Bread, St. Martin's Abbey, St. Placid Priory, Queen of Angels, Mt. Angel Abbey, Monastery of St. Gertrude, Ascension Priory.

Prayer Requests

Prayers for Oblates:

Catherine Dorotich

Michael Wilson

Robert St. Clair

All those sick and in need of healing and strength to carry their crosses.

For the NW NAABOD planning and the success of the Conference in June.

On the Book Shelf

O Cross of Christ by Pope Francis

The Joy of Love by Pope Francis

To Dare the Our Father, A transformative Spiritual Practice by John Shea.

ABBAY CHURCH EVENTS

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

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

Oblate Mission Statement

We, the Benedictine Oblates of the 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.

The basic principles and beliefs that guide this Oblate communal life are:

Prayer: We seek communion with God through prayer, meditation and spiritual reading.

Hospitality: We seek to be welcoming to all those who come to us for solace, prayer and peace.

Open Listening: We seek to learn by respectfully listening to the voice of God as it is conveyed by our fellow Oblates, monks, friends and families.

Selfless Service: We seek and encourage a constant giving of our selves through our work and prayers.

Oblation Renewals: Attached is a form. Please fill out and return to the Oblate Director during Lent 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
Lacey, WA 98503

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: _____

GOOD WORKS

Contact Brother Edmund at 360-438-4457

Email: br_edmund@stmartin.edu

Oblate Advisory Meeting

Time: 10:00AM

Place: Guest dining room lower floor across from the refectory (monastic dining room)

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

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

LAMBERT LODGE WORK

Time: 10:00 - 3:00

2018 Dates: Not yet determined but usually in October.

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

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

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.

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

NW NAABOD Conference
 “A Way Forward Continued the Benedictine Community in Movement
 St. Martin’s Abbey and St. Placid’s Priory

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Emergency contact: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Monastery/Priory: _____

Cost

<input type="checkbox"/> Single room shared bath	\$185.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Double room w/ shared bath	\$165.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Meals and conference	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Early arrival lodging	\$65.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Late departure lodging	\$65.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Just conference no meals	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Just Saturday conference with meals	\$65.00

Total _____

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

For early arrivals and late departures . Meals are on your own for those choosing to arrive early or stay late. For those attending on Saturday only please arrive between

Balance due April 30, 2018.

Please add extra \$25.00 for late payments.

Please make Checks payable to:
St. Martin’s Abbey Oblates

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