



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

Dear Oblate brothers and sisters;

Autumn, or maybe it is fall, has come upon us. Plants and trees go dormant, beginning the sleep of the cold winter months. This is the time of year that prompts me to remember that Feast Days are coming. Veterans Day/St. Martin of Tours, Thanksgiving, which is a big one for me, then Christmas.

Thanksgiving here at the Abbey is a day which we celebrate by asking friends and relatives to join the Abbey Community for a Festive Dinner. Besides all of the great food we share, it is equally important that we socialize with our friends. It is a time that we give thanks for the abundance of food and precious friends. We are, after all, social beings and our interaction with others sustains us.

Veterans Day and St. Martin of Tours, I do not think that it is a coincidence that these days are the same date. Did you know that Martin was a soldier in the Roman army? Did you also know that Martin was a conscientious objector? He left the military because he found out that Jesus had another direction for him. The story goes, that while in the service to Rome he happened upon a beggar who was nearly naked. At the sight of the beggar, he took his cape in one hand and his sword in another cutting his own cape in half, giving half to the beggar. The following night he had a dream of the beggar. The beggar said, "I am Jesus Christ to whom you gave the cloak." You never know whom you serve when giving to the poor!

It is sad that Christmas is so commercialized these days. We are challenged to dwell on the very meaning of "the word" becoming Jesus in the flesh. He is our Salvation! I have heard it said, "Jesus is the reason for the season," and there should be absolutely no doubt in anyone's mind about that.

Let us not forget Mary. As the mother of Jesus, she was the purest vessel to hold the infant child. God had a divine plan for her from the beginning and we believe that she was kept from sin so Jesus could be conceived by the Holy Spirit. Mary was humble, meek, innocent, and therefore so deserving of this honor because she cooperated with that divine plan. Mary paid the price and so earned her place as the Mother of God and the Queen of Heaven. Even with all Mary did, she is not divine but a most devoted servant of servants to God. She ranks above all saints and angels and is, therefore, a most worthy champion to intercede with her Son, for any need we have.

May you have a Blessed Advent, Christmas.

Brother Edmund Ebbers, OSB

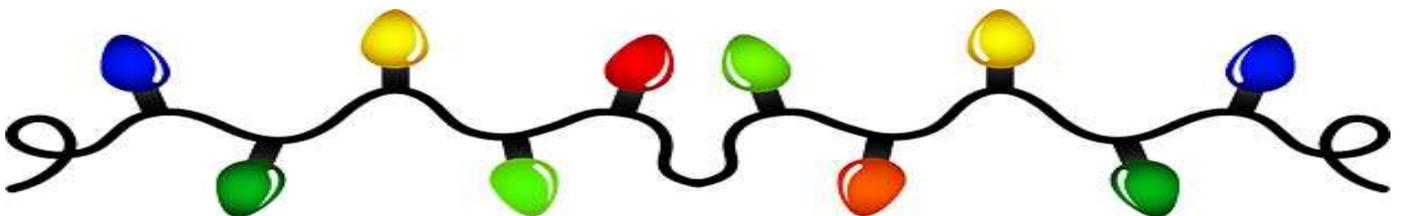
Oblate Director

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

Benedictine oblate and Servant of God Dorothy Day, well-known convert and co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, once said: "We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community." Certainly, the most needed virtue and value in community and family life is charity. Being sensitive, kind, generous, thoughtful, and a good listener are all wrapped up in charity.

I think most would agree that the Rule of Benedict is obviously a blueprint of conduct. Benedict even refers to the Rule as a rule for beginners. If we think about it, it is through charity that we find God. God has placed us in a specific community/family because it is through that association and life (living with persons we might not always enjoy), that we can best find God. Charity is God's way to us and our way to God. We all know that charity is not always easy. When our common life is disturbed, and it will be at some point, we have an opportunity for learning something about ourselves. All our fuss and bother, when we are cooled down, isn't that mountain of annoyance we initially thought it was. We all need to strive for better communication with others and thus not limit our power to love others. Benedict reminds us at least three times "Not to do to another what one would not want to have done to yourself." RB 61 and 70. And of course, Jesus tells us "to love one another." John 13. There can be no conditions. I don't believe Jesus or Benedict had conditions in mind when referring to charity.

When we really try to get to know someone, forgive their faults, and avoid judging them, we often discover that the person really isn't so bad after all. When we strive to do this, grace happens. Obviously, community and family life can be difficult but not impossible! It should not take us long to realize that each one of us has been the recipient of charity for years. That should make us ever more conscious of extending that on to others. Christ's love for us has gifted each one of us in many ways. We are thus challenged to pass that love (charity) on in spite of occasional negative experiences from others. Let us be grateful and remember what Benedict says: "... bear most patiently one another's infirmities whether of body or character," and thus you shall fulfill the law of Christ.



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

Saint Martin's News announced that on Oct. 16, 1955, **Father Matthew Britt (1872-1955)** returned from Saint Peter Hospital. That same day, **Abbot Raphael Heider (1903-1971)** had a meeting with the Port Angeles Oblates. On Oct. 18, the Abbey Senior Council discussed procedures necessary for borrowing sufficient money to build a dormitory for college students. On Oct. 22, **Abbot Raphael** and **Fathers Paul Kucera (1887-1974), Marcel Berthon (1899-1975), Jerome Toner (1899-1977), Damian Ciern 1907-1986), Meinrad Gaul (1907-1984) and Michael Feeney (1919-2000)** attended an alumni testimonial, dinner in honor of **Father Edward Weckert (1888-1965)**, athletic coach from 1909 to 1933. On Oct. 28, **Abbot Raphael** signed and submitted to the federal Housing and Home Finance Agency preliminary application for a loan of \$450,000 for the construction of a dormitory for 136 college students. On Oct. 31, Don Batey of Moscow, Idaho arrived at the abbey to begin a period of postulancy, a preliminary phase prior to beginning the canonical novitiate.

On Nov. 3, **Father Timothy Lamm** and a group of high school journalists drove the abbey station wagon to Spokane to attend the Catholic High School Press Conference. On Nov. 5, the deceased of the abbey were remembered in matins, lauds and vespers of the dead in addition to the regular divine office. On Nov. 6, **Fathers Damian, Michael and Conrad Rausch (1921-2011)** attended the dedication ceremonies of Blanchet High School, Seattle. On Nov.10 the abbey building committee met to discuss plans for construction and expansion, the committee members being **Abbot Raphael, Father Prior James Piotrkowski (1897-1974), Father Subprior Bede Ernsdroff (1909-1982), the procurator Father Walter Hellan (1920- 1958) and Fathers Conrad, Michael and Richard Cebula (1916-2004).** On Nov. 25, an electrician installed a new mercury vapor light to illuminate the stairs and the area near the music building on the west side of the Main Building.

Membership in the Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools was accorded to Saint Martin's High School at the annual meeting held in Spokane on Nov. 14-15, 1955. Father Marcel, principal 1946-1955, and his successor **Father Michael** brought this step to a successful conclusion. (The college had become a member of the association in 1933.) **Father Jerome** attended the Catholic Business Education Association (Northwest Unit) in Spokane on Nov. 12. He also discussed the Right to Work laws with the Jesuit scholastics at Mount Saint Michael. **Fathers Richard Cebula and Dunstan Curtis (1921-1981)** interviewed 45 students at the College Conference at Olympia High School on November 14, and then interviewed more students at Shelton that afternoon. On Nov. 8, **Father Richard** and the seniors in civil engineering were guests at the Tacoma section of the American Society of Civil Engineers at their regular dinner meeting.

Mr. Henry Wohl, professor of agriculture at Saint Martin's College, was working hard to develop a purebred Holstein dairy herd. A Saint Martin's Livestock Improvement Fund had recently been established. Mr. Wohl came to Saint Martin's in 1954 to continue agricultural developments begun by Mr. H. I. Magladry and **Father Felix Wirth (1913-1984).** Saint Martin's was the first Catholic college in the United States to develop a program for agriculture. In subsequent years, several colleges in the Midwest had commenced comparable programs. Mr. Herbert Funk, who had taught at Saint Martin's some years before, was by now head of the agriculture department at Saint Benedict's College in Atchison, Kansas. (Unfortunately, various factors contributed to the closing of the abbey beginning in 1957 and thus the agriculture department at Saint Martin's.)

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



In the bell tower courtyard of the Abbey Church, there are two crepe myrtle trees, of two different varieties. Last year they were abloom with gorgeous flowers. This fall, their leaves draw one's attention. They are strongly red-orange. At the same time that the crepe myrtle are heralding the arrival of fall -- and winter -- the three early-blooming camellias in the church gardens are in full bloom. Perhaps they are a reminder that after fall and winter comes spring - both physically and spiritually/psychologically?

It has been a full fall for the monastic community, following a fine summer. During the last weeks of summer, **ABBOT NEAL ROTH**, **SUBPRIOR RAMON NEWELL**, and **BROTHER**

MARK BONNEVILLE joined the local Byzantine community at Holy Theophany Monastery for the tonsure of one of their nuns, presided over by their bishop. ...As classes began, both **ABBOT NEAL** and **FATHER PETER TYNAN** had prominent roles in the new student convocation. ...Shortly after the beginning of the academic year, **BROTHER NICOLAUS WILSON** spoke to the assembled Benedictine Oblates of the Abbey. The title of his well-received talk was: "On Prudence and Charity in the Monastic Tradition." **BROTHER LUKE DEVINE** defended his doctoral thesis at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley very successfully and can now add "doctor" to his name. ...**PRIOR JUSTIN MCCREEDY** blessed the university's engineering department's new industrial lab building. The ceremonies were attended by members of the abbey and university communities as well as invited guests. **ABBOT NEAL** and the monastic community provided crucifixes for the major rooms of the lab.

FATHER EDWARD RECECONI represented the abbey at the 125th anniversary of Holy Rosary Church, Tacoma. It was for many years **FATHER EDWARD'S** family's parish church, where his mother acted as sacristan. The monks of Saint Martin's Abbey served there for many decades, until late in the twentieth century.

Every three to four years, Benedictine monasteries of our Congregation have a visitation. This is a formal visit by monks appointed by the Congregation President. They interview all of the monks, read the minutes of the meetings, and generally get a "feel" for how things are going and to make certain that the monastic life is being observed appropriately. Our regular visitation took place this fall, and was conducted by one monk from the mid-west and one from the east and our newly elected Abbot President.

Members of the community did a fair amount of traveling this fall. **ABBOT NEAL** traveled twice to Yakima. Once, he attended functions related to our university and to education within the diocese of Yakima; later he returned for the annual meeting of Bishops and Major Religious Superiors, an annual event. ...**FATHER GEORGE SEIDEL** presented a paper at a meeting of Pacific Northwest Philosophers at Gonzaga University, Spokane. ...**FATHER BEDE CLASSICK** took some time off to pay a visit to his twin sister in Texas. ...**PRIOR JUSTIN** is scheduled to attend a meeting and workshop of Benedictine priors at Saint Meinrad's Archabbey, in Indiana.

Be well, and enjoy the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest which the Creator has gifted us.

Some Thoughts by Oblate Rev. Steven Gallagher

As we journey through life, we encounter so many different obstacles. Not only do we encounter obstacles but also we have many adventures, which create many memories for us, which we carry for a lifetime.

Some of the memories I personally can call to mind are what I call “landmarks,” they help me to make my ancestry personal and real; such as, my great-grandfather was born in 1858, two years before the start of the Civil War and the same year as old “Rough & Ready,” President Theodore Roosevelt was born.

If you were born in the 1950’s or before you might remember the very sad date of November 22, 1963; if asked, you can tell everyone right where you were when you heard the news. For me, I was eleven years old and in the 5th grade at Queen of Angels Catholic School in Port Angeles, Washington when the principal came in and announced that President Kennedy had just been killed.

For many, these memories also include the day the space shuttle blew up, the day Pope John Paul II was shot or the day the twin towers went down. Creating memories – OK – but do, you remember what happened on September 5, 1997. That was the day Mother Teresa died from a heart attack in Calcutta at the age of 87. Do you remember where you were or what you were doing when you heard the news?

So many people across so many man-created lines and divisions knew who Mother Teresa was. She represented the best in every one of us, doing what we all know needs to be done but, for reasons known to us and to God alone, we do not do it – at least not at the depth of being in which Mother Teresa did. Mother Teresa taught us that we literally can live off nothing and this is where we can assess our lives in comparison to hers. Do I sacrifice and serve the way I am called by God to do? Do I really trust God enough to surrender everything – and I mean everything – for God?

Another landmark for me was this past September 4th. On that Sunday Mother Teresa was canonized in Vatican City as a saint. For the Catholic Church this is like the “seal of approval” in that the church is making an official declaration that the one canonized is recognized to officially be in heaven, hence the title, “Saint.”

The Church demands heroic virtue of those she canonizes; heroic virtues, which set splendid examples of holiness to others. As for me, I seriously doubt I will ever be canonized, but I can tell you for sure that I will never give up trying to be holy like Mother Teresa was. Have you given up? Please reconsider and let the example of Mother Teresa inspire you to great things because you can do all things in Christ who strengthens you (Philippians 4:13).



All Hallow's Eve by Father Benedict Auer, O.S.B.

"...I'll follow you into the dark..."

Death Cab for Cutie

We did not do anything special for All Hallow's Eve. All of the monks are a bit old to spend the night parading the street "trick or treating." We had a lot of candy, gifts from friends, that fueled monastic ADD. No one wore costumes other than our Benedictine habit, and since it was Sunday most monks were dressed as regular people, or as students say, "I never saw you with clothes on." It was not like the year when I was eight and went as a lion, tail and all, from door to neighborhood door filling paper bags with enough candy and fruit to last until Thanksgiving and possibly after. Halloween was a day we looked forward to, and the witches and black cats were not a terror, but like the Easter Bunny or Santa Claus another part of growing up.



Holiday Bazaar

Holiday Bazaar

St. Martin's Oblate Community Bazaar Nov. 18 — 20th,

Friday and Saturday 18th and 19th, 1-4 pm

Sunday 20th Noon to 8:30p.m.

Please come and get Christmas gifts for family and loved ones. Religious items, a variety of framed pictures, baked items, many new items and some slightly used items. Bargains for everyone. Please help make this Bazaar a smashing success as 50% of proceeds go to Norcia Community and 50% remains for operational budget.

If you cannot contribute any items, please consider making a donation St. Martin's Oblates and this will be included with the Bazaar income. The funds will be attached to whatever the Abbey sends in early December.

Please bring any items for the Bazaar on the 17th of November or during the days of sales.

December 4th Oblate Community Sunday

Join your fellow Oblates and Monks for Mass in the Abbey church at 11 A.M. , followed by brunch for purchase in the student cafeteria (St. Gertrude's Hall). Share your journey and get to know your community. At 1:30 attend a presentation in the Abbey Church given by Deacon Joe Nichols. He will be speaking on "Following in the Footsteps of St. Benedict in the 21st Century."

Oblate Community dates for 2017

March 5th with Abbot Timothy talking on "Lectio Divina."

May 7th Sr. Gertrude speaking on "The art of searching for God."

July 2nd Fr. Peter speaking on "Wisdom." Also our annual potluck picnic.

August 12th Retreat and potluck at Lambert lodge.

September 3rd Br. Nicolaus

December 3rd Br. Luke

yippee

The Calendars for 2017 should be available in time for the November Bazaar.

Outward Signs By Oblate Bill Lagreid

While going to the mailbox in the apartment building where my wife and I live I saw two woman residents seated and talking. One of them pointed to the crucifix I was wearing around my neck and asked, "Are you a deacon?" I explained that no, I had just finished my morning prayers and I was an Oblate of Saint Benedict and put the crucifix back under my shirt.

"What's that?" the other lady asked so I explained about St. Martin's Abbey and University, Priests, Brothers, and Oblates and that I was invested in 2006 as an Oblate. They were interested and started asking very pleasant questions. It was a very simple friendly and informative exchange.

Reflecting on the simple exchange I couldn't help but wonder how frequently we oblates interact in different ways with and influence people we live and work with every day by just being who we are and how we interact, recreate, pray, exchange thoughts and attitudes about everyday life situations and concerns by just being ourselves as Oblates.



As voters, we are called, at election time and encouraged to cast our vote on political candidates seeking office and on issues to be approved or rejected. This act is a very private one and is an outward sign oblate that only you can register by your vote to elect people to office and approve or refuse the issues that reflect your choices and best judgment as a citizen of the country. It is based on your moral values and understanding of the law that will be influenced by your moral and political values in the privacy of your own conscience when you cast your ballot.

This is another way we express, with an outward sign, our commitment as Oblates.

On the Book Shelf

Conversation in the Abbey: The Next Generation of Monks Reflect on Their Lives by Ruth C. Engs.

God Calls Us, Spiritual Poetry by Thomas Rillo

Let Them Prefer Nothing Whatsoever to Christ by Fr. Adrian Burke.

The late Oblate Chi Chi's one-year anniversary is coming on January 6. The family is planning a memorial service at St. Michael's Parish in Olympia and at the Grave Site. Ike, her husband hopes for a good showing of Oblates. More news will come for those who have emails.

Prayer Requests

For those who have recently passed away.

Oblate Norman Falcone's father Joseph.

Oblate Carman Hertel's father.

Oblate Mary Jorgensen's Uncle Bill.

For all Oblates who are homebound and sick or physically challenged.

A call to unity and prayer

On 24 August 2016, a devastating earthquake hit Central Italy, in particular Norcia. This part of Italy is birthplace of our Benedictine heritage. To express the solidarity, we as oblates are joining in the year of prayer to go until 24 August 2017 (the 1st anniversary of the earthquake). Every Wednesday (the day of the earthquake), we invite you to pray below (or a prayer of your own choosing) for all those affected. In addition, this calendar is an invitation to pray a petition each day for a specific community of our sisters and brothers who have suffered damage or loss from the earthquake.

PRAYER Until 24 August 2017

Faithful God, master of all creation, trusting in your vigilant care for your loved ones, we pray for our Benedictine Sisters and Brothers of Central Italy who are suffering the results of the August 2016 earthquake. Restore hope in their hearts. Give them the courage and perseverance they need to work through the rubble of their buildings and the fear or anxiety in their hearts. May they find reassurance and peace in our heartfelt prayers for them and solidarity with them. With confident hearts, we pray in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

DAILY INTENTIONS

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| 1 S. Antonio Abate, Norcia | 17 S. Giacomo, San Ginesio |
| 2 S. Margherita, Fabriano | 18 S. Maria delle Rose, Sant' Angelo in Pontano |
| 3 S. Lorenzo, Amandola | 19 S. Benedetto, Norcia, (Monks) |
| 4 S. Onofrio, Ascoli Piceno | 20 All schools and cities affected by the earthquake |
| 5 S. Caterina, Monte San Martino | 21 S. Antonio Abate, Norcia |
| 6 S. Marco, Offida | 22 S. Margherita, Fabriano |
| 7 S. Giacomo, San Ginesio | 23 S. Lorenzo, Amandola |
| 8 S. Maria delle Rose, Sant' Angelo in Pontano | 24 S. Onofrio, Ascoli Piceno |
| 9 S. Benedetto, Norcia, (Monks) | 25 S. Caterina, Monte San Martino |
| 10 All churches affected by the earthquake | 26 S. Marco, Offida |
| 11 S. Antonio Abate, Norcia | 27 S. Giacomo, San Ginesio |
| 12 S. Margherita, Fabriano | 28 S. Maria delle Rose, Sant' Angelo in Pontano |
| 13 S. Lorenzo, Amandola | 29 S. Benedetto, Norcia, (Monks) |
| 14 S. Onofrio, Ascoli Piceno | 30 All families affected by the earthquake |
| 15 S. Caterina, Monte San Martino | 31 All monasteries affected by the earthquake |
| 16 S. Marco, Offida | |

Abbey Church Events

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

Nov. 21st at 8:00 pm **William Feasley, guitar**

Jan. 28th at 8:00 pm **WindSync, wind quintet**

April 28th at 7:00 pm **Bishop Robert D Hofstad** will speak on "Roman Catholic- Lutheran Relations: Which way is Forward"

April 29th at 8:00 pm **Clamus, vocal quintet**

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.



We welcome to our community Teresa LaBouff and Hopie Lopez who made their final Oblation on Sept 4th.

GOOD WORKS

Contact Brother Edmund at 360-438-4457

Email: br_edmund@stmartin.edu

LAMBERT LODGE WORK

Time: 10:00 - 3:00

2017 Dates: March 11th, and Oct. 14th

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

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.

Rosary Makers will meet:

Time: 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm.

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

2017 Dates: Feb.4th, March 4th, April 1st, May 6th, June 3rd, July 1st, Aug. 5th, Sept. 2nd, Oct. 7th, Nov. 4th, Dec. 2nd.

Anyone, oblate or not, wanting and able to help with gardening or wood stacking, splitting, please give Br. Edmund your emails and names that he may contact you when he plans to do works of mercy.

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.

Oblate Advisory Meeting

Time: 10:00AM

Place: St Gertrude's Hall. (student cafeteria)

2016 December 3rd.

2017: March 4th, May 6th, July 1st, Sept. 2nd, Dec. 2nd.