MOUNT MICHAEL ABBEY

OBLATES OF SAINT BENEDICT

August 2019

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Letter from Our Oblate Director

Dear Oblates,

Saint Benedict's spiritual journey starts in the cave at Subiaco, a place of Prayer, Lectio, and silence.

In the silence Benedict goes down deep into the cave of his heart where the Lord waits in love for our return. Benedict grows in love until he must leave the desert silence, and move out in loving relationship to his brothers and sisters. The Rule he writes at the end of his life gives us the guide and path to living in a relationship with others in love and harmony.

When we fill ourselves with the love of God the Father, we walk with and nourish ourselves with the Bread of Life, God the Son, and are guided and encouraged by God the Spirit to become life giving to our brothers and sisters.

See the image of God in yourself and all of creation. Agelus Silesius writes:

No speck so tiny is,
No spark can be so dim.
The wise man does not see
God's splendor deep within.

I look forward to seeing you in September as we begin our 2019-2020 oblate meetings.

I thank everyone for the new chairs the abbey prayer room, and thank you for all that you do for the monastic community.
May you be blessed with peace and joy,

Brother Jerome Kmiecik, OSB

Oblate Director

Who is an Oblate?

An Oblate is someone who is in love with God.

He or she is an offering, a gift, a sacrifice of love to God and His people.

An Oblate is someone who is living his or her own vocation to the fullest, striving only to serve God and other in the unique way each of us can do.

He or she is someone who listens to God's voice in the silence, humbly obeys and follows God and His Way. Through Lectio Divina, we Oblates allow God's Word to be "a light for our path", saying our "yes" to Him Who alone has the power to change and mold us according to His Will.

An Oblate is someone who is ready to receive God's love with open hands and with open hands he or she is ready to share His love with a suffering world in need of God's healing and mercy.

An Oblate daily seeks to see the face of God, alive and present in the Most Holy Eucharist, in the Word, and hidden beyond the faces of all those around us.

An Oblate is someone who lives in the world, outside the walls of the monastery. He or she does not belong to the world, and yet is called to share the light and peace of Christ, and to "feed" a world starving for compassion and love.

With Saint Benedict and our whole Benedictine family at our side, we plant seeds of hope, spread the fragrance of God's Love and re-awaken in the world the desire for Him and the coming of His Kingdom. This is our call. This is our challenge.

Lord Jesus, be our guide, our teacher, our truth! Holy Spirit inspire us and inflame our hearts with you Love! May our life be a song of praise and glory to you, our Heavenly Father! Amen.

Saint Benedict and Saint Scholastica, pray for us.

Francesca Dammermann
Oblate Dean

Good heavens...WHERE ARE YOU?

Many of the Oblates of Saint Benedict at Mount Michael have been pondering that question. We miss you; those that have not been able to attend our fun and spiritual monthly meetings at Mount Michael. We'd like nothing more than to see those of you who can, participate in our meetings. It's that "open arms" thing.

We missed many of you at the just concluded annual picnic with the monks; but not to worry. You'll have another opportunity to join us next year.

But, we wouldn't want you to stop there. Our monthly meetings, September through June, are an oasis of spirituality and interesting conversation with like minded Oblates. We spend time in prayer in the form of Lectio Divina; a wonderful way to deepen one's spirituality. We also have book discussions, and to top the meeting off, time for a social "hour" before adjourning. Attending vespers prior to leaving Mount Michael is also an option following the meetings.

In addition, Oblates have the option of participating in a special Lectio Divina monthly in the guest house.

As we said at the beginning of this note, we would like nothing better than to have you back at our gatherings. So please, mark the date, September 8th at the abbey for the first meeting of the year. We look forward to seeing you all once again.

Howard Schanzer, Jr.
Oblate Dean

2019 Mount Michael Student Oblates

We are blessed to welcome this year's Student Oblates to Mount Michael Abbey! The students were received as Benedictine Oblates in the chapel. After posing for a photo with Abbot Michael the student Oblates and their guests enjoyed a reception in the Abbey with the monastic community. Congratulations and a warm welcome to our newest Oblates.

(L - R): Henry Gnann, Ben Rempe, Andrew Drew Carleton, Wyatt Walters, Quinton Mohr, Abbot Michael,
Gerald Righter, Marc Fayed, Sebastian Cardenas, Ben Quinlan, Andrew Skaggs. Ian Miller

Meeting Dates & Special Events

Please keep these meeting dates and special events in mind. Oblate meetings are the 2nd Sunday of the month unless noted. Lectio at the Guest House is the the 4th Saturday of the month unless noted.

We will continue to use the book, *HOW to LIVE - What the Rule of Saint Benedict Teaches Us About Happiness, Meaning and Community*, by Judith Valente (ISBN: 978-1-57174-798-3) during the upcoming year during our Sunday Oblate meetings.

- **SEP 8 - Novice & Oblate Meetings** in the Abbey
    - 2:00 - Novice Meeting - This meeting is for both new candidates & novices who will be making oblation in October
    - 3:00 - Oblate Meeting (*How to Live* chapter 9)
    - 4:30 - Social
    - 5:15 - Vespers with the Monks in the Chapel
- **SEP 15 - Mount Michael Fall Festival**
    - Oblates work the Flea Market during the festival, various times are available for sign up
- **SEP 28**
    - 8:00 - Morning Prayer & Eucharist in the Chapel
    - 9:00 - Lectio Divina in the Guest House
- **OCT 13 - Novice & Oblate Meetings** in the Abbey
    - 2:00 - Novice Meeting
    - 3:00 - Oblate Meeting (*How to Live* chapter 10)
    - 5:15 - Vespers with the Monks & **Oblation of Novices** in the Chapel
    - 6:00 - Return to Abbey for Social
- **OCT 26**
    - 8:00 - Morning Prayer & Eucharist in the Chapel
    - 9:00 - Lectio Divina in the Guest House
- **NOV 10 - Novice & Oblate Meetings** in the Abbey ***(Please note we begin our Winter meeting hours)***
    - 12:30 - Novice Meeting
    - 1:30 - Oblate Meeting (*How to Live* chapter 11)
    - 3:00 - Social
    - 5:15 - Vespers with the Monks in the Chapel
- **NOV 23**
    - 8:00 - Morning Prayer & Eucharist in the Chapel
    - 9:00 - Lectio Divina in the Guest House
- **DEC 8 - Advent Retreat** In lieu of our regular Oblate and Novice meetings, there will be a special Advent Retreat!
    - OPTIONS prior to the start of the Retreat include:
        - 9:30 AM - Eucharist in the Chapel followed by free time & prayer
        - 11:00 - Noon Day Prayer & Brunch
    - 1:00 - Oblate Retreat in the Abbey
    - 4:30 - Christmas Social
    - 5:15 - Vespers with the Monks in the Chapel
- **DEC 28**
    - 8:00 - Morning Prayer & Eucharist in the Chapel
    - 9:00 - Lectio Divina in the Guest House
- **JAN 12 - Novice & Oblate Meetings** in the Abbey
    - 12:30 - Novice Meeting
    - 1:30 - Oblate Meeting (*How to Live* chapter 12)
    - 3:00 - Social
    - 5:15 - Vespers with the Monks in the Chapel
- **JAN 25**
    - 8:00 - Morning Prayer & Eucharist in the Chapel
    - 9:00 - Lectio Divina in the Guest House
- **FEB 9 - Novice & Oblate Meetings** in the Abbey
    - 12:30 - Novice Meeting
    - 1:30 - Oblate Meeting (*How to Live* chapter 13)
    - 3:00 - Social
    - 5:15 - Vespers with the Monks in the Chapel
- **FEB 22**
    - 8:00 - Morning Prayer & Eucharist in the Chapel
    - 9:00 - Lectio Divina in the Guest House
- **MAR 8 - Lenten Retreat**
    - Options prior to the start of the 1:00 retreat:
        - 9:30 Eucharist in the Chapel
        - 11:00 Noon Day Prayer & Brunch
    - 1:00 - Oblate Retreat

    - 4:30 - Social
    - 5:15 - Vespers with the Monks in the Chapel

- **MAR 22,** 4th Sunday **Dinner with the Monks**
    - 5:15 - Vespers with the Monks in the Chapel
    - 6:00 - Social & Dinner in the Abbey provided by the Monks to honor the Feast of Saint Benedict
- **MAR 28**
    - 8:00 - Morning Prayer & Eucharist in the Chapel
    - 9:00 - Lectio Divina in the Guest House
- **APR 19 - Novice & Oblate Meetings** in the Abbey ***(Please note we begin our Summer meeting hours)***
    - 2:00 - Novice Meeting
    - 3:00 - Oblate Meeting (*How to Live* chapter 14)
    - 4:30 - Social
    - 5:15 - Vespers with the Monks in the Chapel
- **APR 25**
    - 8:00 - Morning Prayer & Eucharist in the Chapel
    - 9:00 - Lectio Divina in the Guest House
- **MAY 3 - Novice & Oblate Meetings** 1st Sunday (due to Mother's Day) in the Abbey
    - 2:00 - Novice Meeting
    - 3:00 - Oblate Meeting (*How to Live* chapter 15)
    - 4:30 - Social
    - 5:15 - Vespers with the Monks & **Receive New Oblates** in the Chapel
- **MAY 23**
    - 8:00 - Morning Prayer & Eucharist in the Chapel
    - 9:00 - Lectio Divina in the Guest House
- **JUNE - Pilgrimage / Retreat - date & details TBA**

Oblate Ministry Updates

All are welcome to participate and contribute to our Oblate Ministries. Ministry opportunities will be discussed at the monthly meetings.

- **Mount Michael Fall Festival -** The annual Mount Michael Fall Festival is on Sunday, September 15, 2019. Oblates staff the Flea Market during the festival. Please sign up to help with this fun event at one of our Oblate meetings. It's a great opportunity for our guests to meet our Benedictine Oblate community.

- **Christmas Giving Baskets -** Oblates donate to the annual Christmas Giving Baskets. The baskets are distributed to brighten up Christmas for families in our community to help them through the season and to let them know they are in our thoughts and prayers. THANK YOU for all your generous donations in the past! We will gather donations again this year as we near the Advent season.

- **Snacks** - Our Oblate meeting snacks are provided by various Oblates during the year. Kindly sign up at one of our meetings to bring some treats to share. Many thanks for your hospitality.

Contact Information

Mount Michael Abbey Oblates of Saint Benedict

"Listen carefully, my son, to the master's instructions, and attend to them with the ear of your heart."

(Opening words of the Prologue of The Rule of Saint Benedict)

Oblate Director
Brother Jerome Kmiecik, OSB - jkmiecik@mountmichael.org

Assistant Oblate Director
Abbot Theodore Wolff, OSB - twolff@mountmichael.org

Oblate Deans
Howard Schanzer - hschanz@cox.net
Francesca Dammermann - mdammermann@aol.com

Oblate Ministries

"All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ..."
(RB 53.1)

Visiting Oblates care facilities or homebound
Francesca Dammermann - 402-332-2986, mdammermann@aol.com

Hospitality snacks for socials after oblate meetings
Howard Schanzer - hschanz@cox.net

Guest House help
Brother Jerome, OSB - 402-206-2069, jkmiecik@mountmichael.org

Flea Market help
Brother Jerome Kmiecik, OSB - jkmiecik@mountmichael.org

Abbey help with special events, provide transportation as needed for aging members of the monastic community; assist with monastic community Sunday meal
Brother Jerome Kmiecik, OSB - 402-206-2069, jkmiecik@mountmichael.org

Oblate Formation mentor oblate novices
Francesca Dammermann - 402-332-2986, mdammermann@aol.com

Prayer Ministry
Abbot Theodore Wolff, OSB - twolff@mountmichael.org

Newsletter Editor
Jean Hlavacek - 402-504-4222, jean.jeweler@gmail.com

Useful Links for Oblates

Mount Michael Oblate Website
http://www.mountmichael.org/Pages/Oblates

Daily Liturgy of the Hours
http://www.universalis.com/Library/index.htm

International Benedictine Web Portal
http://www.osb.org