



Oblate Letter

Time Meditation

By Mary Maness, Oblate of St. Joseph Monastery

April 10, 2009 - Good Friday

These thoughts on time were given to me on the morning of Good Friday. They are personal revelation and reflection.

Time –

We are in a time of seed and harvest, waiting. This time is from the fall of Adam and Eve till the second coming of Jesus that will bring a new Heaven and a new Earth and a new Time that is without time. No death, no tears, no planting, no harvesting, no seasons, no time as we know it. Time being something that has a beginning, a middle or waiting, and an ending or harvest or change.

Before the fall of man, there was existence with God. There was love. There was life. There was no decay. No need to replace anything. No need to store. Food came easily. Food was provided by God. No waiting - real "Fast Food."

After the fall, time, as we know it, began. The earth and everyone, including animals and plants changed. Time became a "Waiting." During this time, we as a creation are learning and we are in a period of God's grace.

We must learn to appreciate that which comes after the waiting. We wait through winter for spring each year.

We wait for light after dark each morning. We wait for crops after planting. We wait nine months from conception to birth. We wait for animals to give birth at their appropriate time. We wait for our children to grow. We age to gain wisdom. We are born and we die. During our life, we learn. Experiencing time teaches us of God.

But God, Himself, is timeless. He had no beginning and He has no end. He is Everlasting. God does not decay. He does not age. He does not learn, for He is all-knowing.

Before Jesus was born, creation waited for Him. After Jesus died, resurrected, and ascended, creation waits for His return.

God sends His Son into our time. In our time and now His time as well, Jesus waits to be born. He grows and He learns. He teaches. He instills Hope and Knowledge of God. He shows us God. He shows us His Father and Himself. He defies logic. He reaches outside boundaries. He teaches us faith, things that we cannot see. He shows us what the earth is waiting for.

One day, when the time is right, Jesus will return. Time as we know it will end. It will be similar to the time before the fall. Now, though, creation has learned to appreciate God. The earth

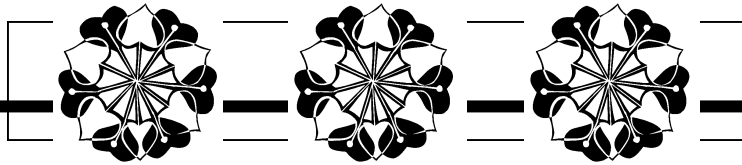
is new and Heaven is new and now together in one everlasting time. You might say the earth, graduates, or is born, or is Morning, or is spring. It no longer has to wait for light. Light has come and will remain with us always.

Until His return, we will continue to learn that time on this earth is God's grace. We learned from Jesus of God's forgiveness.

Now is the time wherever we are or whenever we are to enter into God's endless time through prayer and an awareness of God's presence within us and around us. If we are aware of being with God, we become one with Him in both our time (which ticks away or ticks toward, which ever way you look at it) and God's time, which is everlasting.

Though we, along with this earth, await our new earth and His return, we can step out and reach up or within and find through the Holy Spirit our union with an Everlasting God. This union made possible by our redeemer, Jesus, who has shown us obedience and forgiveness of sin. Through Jesus, we now know what we are waiting for. Through His eyes we see Our Father God holding us, loving us, forgiving us and knowing us. Let us spend this time we have, loving and knowing our God.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 14th
Feast of
The Body and Blood of
Christ
Feast day of
Sr. Christine Ereiser

June 19th
Solemnity of the
Sacred Heart of Jesus
We are called the
Congregation of the
Benedictine Sisters of
the Sacred Hearts

June 29th
Feast of Sts. Peter and
Paul Apostles
Feast day of
Sr. Marie Pierre Fleming



*Please keep all of the Sisters
in your prayers
as they do for you.*



OBLATE MEETING

June 14, 2009

- 10:30 A.M. Mass in the Oratory—everyone is welcome
- 12:15 p.m. Study Group will meet in the Monastery Library. Please bring your book.
- 12:15 p.m. Novice Study Group will meet in the Conference Room
- 1:15 p.m. Vespers in the Marian Chapel
Program: Ken Coughlin, teacher at Bishop Kelley High School, will give a presentation on St. Paul

The Benedictine Sisters of
St. Joseph Monastery
invite you to

**Institute for Benedictine
Oblates**

July 16-19, 2009

Family & Oblate Fun Day

Saturday, June 27th
2:00 pm—6:00 pm
Monastery Lawn
Rain or Shine

A gathering for our families,
employees & families, and
Oblates' families

GAMES, PICNIC,
ENTERTAINMENT,
VISITING
Plan to attend!

RSVP (918) 746-4223

Or

VONeil@montecassino.org

By June 19th

*Sunday Eucharist will be
celebrated at 5:00 p.m.*

The second annual **Institute for
Benedictine Oblates** will be held at
Sophia Center, a ministry of the
Benedictine Sisters of
Mount St. Scholastica in
Atchison, KS.

Along with keynote speaker

Abbot Jerome Kodell
of Subiaco, AR, there will be other
presentations and activities and an
opportunity for Oblates to network
with one another and enrich their
monastic formation. More information
will be forthcoming at:

www.mountosb.org/sophia.html.

To be placed on the mailing list for
the program, contact:

sophia @ mountosb.org
or call (913) 360-6173.



Prayer Intentions:

We pray for the repose of the soul of:

Fred Bashaw,
father of Susie Cummins, Oblate

Ron Fowler,
brother of Dolores Treat, Oblate

Bob Sokolosky,
brother of Sr. Veronica Sokolosky

Cecelia Boland
sister of Sr. Cabrini Boland

We pray for abundant healing of:

Si Dorado,
brother of Sr. Jacinta Dorado

Kathleen Reagan,
sister-in-law of Sr. Scholastica Reagan



Benedictine Bookshelf

By **Mary Beth Frampton**

Monastery Librarian

The Women of Helfta: Scholars and Mystics by Mary Jeremy Finnegan,
O.P. (1962, 1991)

The flowering of religious and intellectual fervor that occurred during Helfta's "golden age" -- from the time of the election of Abbess Gertrude of Hackeborn in 1251 to the death of Gertrude the Great in 1301/2 -- can only be fully appreciated when viewed in the context of the development and history of the entire monastic community at Helfta at that time. The great saints and mystics of Helfta did not live in a vacuum. They knew each other well -- in fact, many of the sisters were related to one another -- and they helped each other grow in the spiritual life. The community itself lived as an orderly conventual household of its day. The daily life of the sisters was as full of daily chores as it was of the singing of the Office and attendance at mass and study sessions. The sisters ran a school and worked diligently to keep the community financially sound during this politically unsettled time in the baronial regions of Saxony where they were located. The community at Helfta was highly-regarded as a center for learning and spiritual achievement and was known for its careful observance of monastic regulations. This reputation rested to a great degree upon the gentle and loving governance of Gertrude of Hackeborn who ruled the community for over 40 years.

Originally published in 1962 and updated in 1991, The Women of Helfta: Scholars and Mystics is a scholarly, but imminently readable study of the mystic saints Gertrude the Great, Mechtild of Hackeborn and Mechtild of Magdeburg. The author of the book, Mary Jeremy Finnegan, O.P., was a professor of English at Rosary College in River Forest, Illinois. Her literary background is evident in her approach to the various writings of Gertrude and the two Mechtilds; and her appreciation and understanding of the Dominican influences upon the Helfta community is apparent as well. In a book where the opportunity for name confusion is immense, the author manages quite well to keep the various subjects of her study distinct. She is able to define the various personalities of the mystics of Helfta and to uncover subtle influences in each of their lives. The two main biographies in the book are of Mechtild of Hackeborn, sister to Abbess Gertrude, and Gertrude the Great, referred to throughout the study as the "younger Gertrude." Their significant role in the development of the devotion to the Sacred Heart is expertly chronicled in the penultimate chapter. It is in their shared devotion to the heart of Christ that the theological interplay between the two most famous mystics of Helfta is so clearly evident. Less attention is given by the author to the older Mechtild of Magdeburg, who lived as a Beguine for 40 years and came to Helfta as an elderly woman in failing health, but the influence of the older Mechtild in the devotion to the Sacred Heart within the Helfta community cannot be denied.

Anyone wishing to better understand Gertrude the Great would be well-advised to read The Women of Helfta. The literary analysis presented in the book serves as a fine introduction to her mystical writings. And the historical and spiritual context provided in the book is invaluable to a greater understanding of the truly Benedictine spirituality of St. Gertrude.



BENEDICTINE OBLATES OF
SAINT JOSEPH MONASTERY

CONGREGATION OF BENEDICTINE SISTERS
OF THE SACRED HEARTS INC.
2200 SOUTH LEWIS AVENUE
TULSA, OK 74114-3117

Monastery Summer Schedule 2009

(begins Monday, June 8th)

*Oblates & Friends of the Benedictine Sisters are invited to join them in
praying the Divine Office at St. Joseph Monastery*

Morning Prayer: Monday through Friday—8:00AM / **Eucharist** at 8:30AM
Saturday—11:00AM / **Eucharist** at 11:30AM
Sunday—8:00AM / **Eucharist** at 10:30AM

Midday Prayer: Monday thru Friday—11:45AM, followed by lunch

Evening Prayer: Monday—Saturday—5:00PM
Sunday—Sung, 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th—4:00PM
Oblate Sunday—2nd Sunday—1:15PM followed by an Oblate Meeting—all are welcome

*****be sure to call to verify schedule for the day you plan to come,
because at times it does change.*****



Watch the new website grow: www.stjosephmonastery.org