



Oblate Letter

Reflections on the Rule of St. Benedict by Sr. Catherine Martinez, OSB, St. Joseph Monastery

Allowing Time for Growth

How many times should a person be able to deviate/runaway from the group and be accepted back? This question has been posed in various ways in different situations. The disciples asked Jesus how many times a person should reasonably be forgiven. The response was 70 times 7 times--which in that time was an enormous amount--almost infinite. In the Rule, the question is how many times may a person leave and expect to be welcomed back. Benedict's response was 3 times.

Being a person who has to learn through experience and having an affinity for life on the edge, I find comfort in the fact that Benedict does allow opportunity for growth and maturity. He understands that for various reasons a person may need to take a break for a time...a kind of time out to reevaluate their life. He also understands that after this deviation there may be reason to ask to come back to the group with a renewed understanding. Benedict does put a limit on this leave-taking. Stability would encourage me not to leave every time things do not go my

way. Just because I am having a rough week or day is not reason to just totally give up.

Material Goods

I like new things. I like the feel of a new pen, the smell of new books, the excitement of opening a new piece of technology. The "new" just seems to evoke different emotions in me.

Chapter 32 of the Rule deals with the goods of the monastery. Although I do not own anything as an individual, the monastery as an entity does possess property, vehicles, buildings and other things.

In reading Chapter 32, Benedict invites me to deal with material possessions that show care and reverence. Reverence not so much for the item but to signify my awareness that all, even my body is on loan to me. Just as I would be careful with something which I borrowed and would try to return it in good condition....so also with all possessions. I am to remember that I have these things for a time and will be called on to return them at the end in good shape.

This attitude can be a challenge for me at times because I tend to lose interest in what is not new and shiny anymore. I tend to be easily distracted. I need to remember that all is gift from God for the good of others.

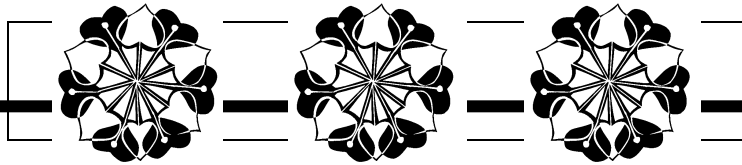
Getting What I Need

It is written: 'Distribution was made to each one as he had need' (Acts 4:35). By this we do not imply that there should be favoritism--God forbid--but rather consideration for weaknesses. RB80.34.1-2

Parents will often say that they love all of their children...but show that love and care in different ways for each. Everyone responds in a different manner to various situations; being an individual particular interests and need should be taken into account. For example, my younger brother could easily be coaxed into doing things with the promise of more tech time; whereas I would probably be more interested in a new book or more social time with friends.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 1st
All Saints Day

November 2
Commemoration of All the
Faithful Departed

November 13th
Feast of
St. Francis Xavier Cabrini
Feast Day of
Sr. Mary Cabrini Boland

November 24th
Happy and Blessed
Thanksgiving Day!

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, we ask your blessings on our family, our friends, our home, and our health. We thank you for the many gifts that you have given us. Help us to remember those less fortunate, and may your love consume us all that we might share in your glory. Amen



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



OBLATE MEETING

November 13, 2011

10:30 A.M. Mass in the Oratory—everyone is welcome

12:15 p.m. Study Group will meet in the Monastery Library.

1:15 p.m. Vespers in the Marian Chapel Followed by Refreshments and Meeting

We welcome our new Oblates to St. Joseph Monastery:

Eve Abrams

Marie Al-Sadi

Karen Covey

Alice Fagan

Kay Linke

Karel Mendenhall

Jane Rausch

Those who have made a permanent commitment as Oblates of a monastic community should renew their commitment annually.

If you were not able to attend Vespers on Sunday, October 9th as Oblates of St. Joseph Monastery renewed their

Oblation, you may make your renewal privately reciting as follows:

In the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

I, (Oblate's name) renew my oblation, and do offer myself to Almighty God, to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and to our Holy Father Benedict as an Oblate of St. Joseph Monastery. I do promise, before God and all the Saints, the conversion of life as directed by the Rule of St. Benedict.

Prayer

God, most holy 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. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.





Prayer Intentions:

We pray for abundant healing of:

Kay Limke, Oblate

Sr. Barbara Austin

Bob Lutton,
husband of Camilla Lutton, Oblate

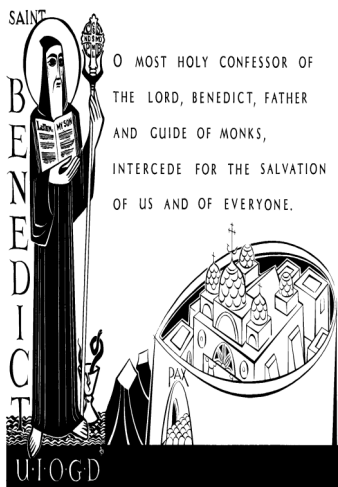
Fred Segura,
husband of Marta Segura, Oblate

Don and Sally Laden, Oblates

Paul Buthod,
father of Sr. Mary Clare Buthod

David Reagan,
brother of Sr. Scholastica Reagan

Si Dorado,
brother of Sr. Jacinta Dorado



Around the House

Sr. Catherine will be attending a Conference on Projection Software Nov. 7—9 in St. Louis. The conference sponsored by the Resource Center of Religious Institutes will introduce religious treasurers to a new program for projecting the future of their institutes.

Sr. Eugenia's artwork will be displayed at several exhibits during November and December. The Art Guild of Oklahoma will feature her works at their Guthrie exhibit Oct. 30—Nov. 20. She will have paintings in the Alpha Rho Tau art sorority show at Tulsa Community College Nov. 10—Dec. 1. Nov. 13—Dec. 12, she will have a painting and a sculpture in the Festival of Trees Christmas exhibit at The Philbrook in Tulsa.

The Region 13 Conference of Formation Directors and those in formation met in Leavenworth, KS Oct. 14—16. Sisters Marie Therese and Maria Paula participated in the conference on leadership led by Denise Antonini from Kansas City. Eight young women in formation and 5 directors attended the conference representing religious communities from Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma.

Sr. Mary Clare at Stand in the Gap Ministries sends thanks to the Oblates for their participation. The Ministries are now planning a workshop and Catholic support group for widows.

The Tulsa Community band opened their 2011—12 concert season. Sr. Anna, a member of the band, participated in the opening concert at Clinton Middle School. The next concert will be at the Monte Cassino Performing Arts Center in December.

The Oblates joined the Sisters in preparing and serving their annual lunch to 160 students at the University of Tulsa Newman Center. Many Oblates provided tasty desserts.

In October, the monastery parking pavilion was filled with all kinds of treasures from the closets and storage places in the monastery as Oblates and Sisters joined forces for a gigantic garage sale. Under the careful sleuthing of Oblate Mary Beth Frampton and Sr. Marie Therese all kinds of hidden treasures appeared, and were sold.



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Today, Benedict reminds us that all need to receive what they need. There is really no 'one size fits all' in any community--family, team, classroom, work place. The talented leader is able to look at the group and assess what will be the most successful for the whole. Do they need more encouragement? Do they need to be challenged? Do they respond well to more time? What is the 'magic blend' for each person on the team?

When I am called to be a leader even in a small way, I need to remember the individual as well as the whole. I need to be aware of what will help the group as well as what the member needs to succeed.

How am I being aware of the needs of those I work with today?



BENEDICTINE OBLATES OF
SAINT JOSEPH MONASTERY

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

Monastery Schedule

2011—2012

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

Morning Prayer: Monday—Friday—6:30AM / **Eucharist** at 7:00AM (Monday, Wednesday & Friday) 8:15AM (Tuesday & Thursday in the Marian Chapel with Students)
Saturday—11:00AM / **Eucharist** at 11:30AM
Sunday—8:15AM / **Eucharist** at 10:30AM

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

Vespers: Monday—Saturday—5:00PM
Sunday—4:00PM (1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sunday of the month)
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 website grow: www.stjosephmonastery.org