

Oblate Benedictine



Saint Meinrad



Fr. Meinrad Brune, OSB, listens to a speaker during The Midwest Woodlands Regional Conference held at Saint Meinrad October 2-4, 2016. The topic of the conference was "The Gift of Shared Leadership." There were 50 participants from 10 of the 16 monasteries in the region, which includes Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Alabama.

After 21 years, Fr. Meinrad to retire as oblate director



Fr. Meinrad Brune

In a letter to all oblates of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in early November, Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB, announced the upcoming retirement of longtime oblate director Fr. Meinrad Brune, OSB.

Archabbot Kurt granted Fr. Meinrad's request for retirement, although Fr. Meinrad will continue in his position as director through June 2017. He has served as oblate director since 1995.

"There is no one monk who is available to simply step in and assume all of Father Meinrad's present responsibilities," wrote Archabbot Kurt in his letter. Instead, two new positions have been created – oblate chaplain and oblate director.

The archabbot appointed Fr. Joseph Cox, OSB, who has worked in the oblate program for many years, as the oblate chaplain. In this role, he will serve as the liaison between the monastic community, the oblate director and the oblate community.

He will represent the monastery at the funerals of oblates when possible; assist with the oblate correspondence on spiritual matters; attend retreats, days of recollection and other oblate events as a representative of the monastic community; and meet with the Oblate Advisory Council and the Oblate Finance Committee.

Mrs. Janis Dopp, an oblate of Saint Meinrad for 25 years, will serve as the oblate director. She will assume many of Fr. Meinrad's administrative duties and so maintain the continuity and contribute to the development of the oblate program.

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A POINT TO PONDER FROM *The Rule*

“Care of the sick must rank above and before all else so that they may truly be served as Christ.”

Rule of St. Benedict Chapter 36:1

An important message that St. Benedict conveys in this chapter is that, in helping the needy and the sick, one encounters Christ himself. Monks in the infirmary who are ill or near death will be given the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. This sacrament is very special, for it conveys hope for recovery or for admission into the kingdom.

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In his letter, Archabbot Kurt noted he has mixed feelings about Fr. Meinrad's retirement. "I have granted his request reluctantly, for our oblate program has benefited greatly from his initiative and his administrative and pastoral skills," he said.

"But I also grant his request gratefully, for I readily acknowledge his tireless work over the years! And I grant his request confidently, knowing that you and your over 1,300 oblate confreres will continue to benefit from the programs and the people he has put in place."



Fr. Joseph Cox

Fr. Joseph Cox, OSB, was born in Peoria, IL, and grew up in Bloomington-Normal, IL. In 1981 he received a Bachelor of Science degree in international

business from Quincy University. He then worked in the loan department at the Bank of Illinois in Normal.

In 1986, Fr. Joseph went to Saint Meinrad School of Theology to study to be a diocesan priest for the Diocese of Peoria. After being ordained in 1991, he served as assistant pastor at St. Pius X Parish in Rock Island. In 1993, Fr. Joseph was transferred to Sacred Heart Parish in Annawan and St. Mary's Parish in Hoophole, where he was pastor for four years.

After discerning a call to a life of deeper prayer and community, Fr. Joseph went to Saint Meinrad Archabbey to join the Benedictine community there. After one year of novitiate and three years in the juniorate, he professed solemn vows in 2001.

Fr. Joseph serves as oblate chaplain, secretary for the Archabbot's Council, secretary for the Archabbey Chapter and cataloger at the Archabbey Library. He

also does weekend parish work, gives parish missions, and gives retreats to priests and religious communities.



Janis Dopp

Janis Dopp has been an oblate of Saint Meinrad Archabbey for 25 years and has served as the chair of the Oblate Advisory Council for 18 years. She received a Master of Theological Studies degree from Saint Meinrad School of Theology in 1997.

She served as the director of religious education at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington, IN, for 24 years before her retirement in 2015. Along with Diane Rivera and Nancy Lux, she helped to establish the Bloomington Oblate Chapter in 1991, serving as a co-coordinator until this past October.

She is a member of the International Planning Team for the 2017 World Congress of Benedictine Oblates, which will take place in Rome. She and her husband, Jack, have made their home in Bloomington since 1970, and they have two adult children, Michele and Michael. ♦

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Benedictine Spirituality

The *Rule* is a guide in troubled times



Thomas J. Rillo

world.

St. Benedict has a lot to say about humility, obedience and silence in the Prologue of the *Rule*. These three vows are considered signs of weakness in much of our present-day culture. They also can be considered strengths, for it takes courage and fidelity to adhere to the vows that St. Benedict considered most important.

Most difficult for the successful individual in the secular world can be to give up his or her will and prefer nothing to Christ. St. Benedict wants us to move into action, quoting Scripture when he writes: “it is high time to arise from sleep” (Romans 13:11).

The *Rule of St. Benedict* is our spiritual guide in making decisions during troubled times. These decisions are not only on the political and economic levels, but also in familial relationships. There will be always troubled times as long as the human race is made up of diverse individuals. The *Rule* helps us to stay afloat and sail the sea of turbulence with confidence.

The *Rule* teaches us to forgive all transgressions. In thinking about St. Benedict’s admonition that his monks should not sleep with their swords, I interpret this as meaning that I should never go to sleep without forgiving or making peace with another person.

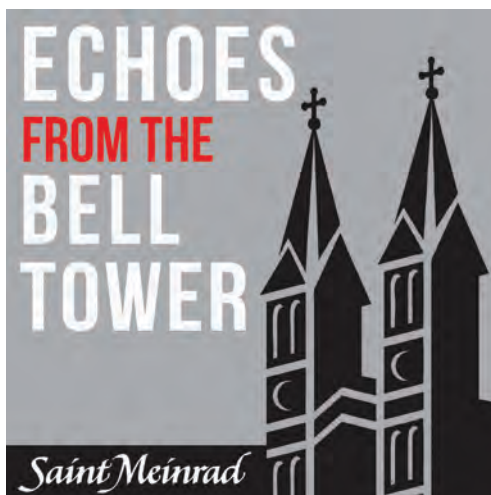
We all have to make decisions each day in regard to living in the secular world. We need a guide that sets parameters with how to synchronize our secular world with our spiritual

St. Benedict understood human behavior and his *Rule* exemplifies this. Let us apply the basic tenets of Benedictine spirituality: humility, obedience, silence or restraint of speech. St. Benedict refers to these as tools of good works.

There is a saying in popular culture: “Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!” In troubled times, we need to have the intestinal fortitude to do this; the *Rule* will guide us. All of us live in communities, whether large or small. The *Rule* was written as a guide for living in community.

Troubled times can become good times if we are willing to change and to act. Let the Benedictine spirituality that is within us be the catalyst for action. This is what St. Benedict wants for us.

Thomas J. Rillo, oblate
Bloomington, IN



ALL NEW SEASON
AIRING IN
MARCH

www.saintmeinrad.edu/echoes

OBLATES

In their own words



Oblate Marie Kobos
Cary, IL

“Being part of the oblate community helps me feel part of something much larger than myself, much deeper. And so I have developed friendships in the oblate community that, even if we don’t see each other very often, the friends are there so that when we do meet up again it’s as if we had never separated.”



Voices from the Past

Editor's note: The following is from an article that appeared in a 1946 issue of the oblate newsletter, as written by Fr. Walter Sullivan, OSB. Oblate Michael Edwards of Evanston, IN, condensed the original article.

It is noteworthy that St. Benedict's first step toward the monastic vocation was a flight from the world. It is recorded that he ran away from the corrupt public schools of Rome to escape from the companionship of worldly and frivolous school-fellows and the empty distractions of a big city.

According to all standards of modern psychology, this flight from the city would have marked Benedict as a moral weakling and an anti-social fanatic, because he seemed to be running away from life and reality. But when we stop to consider what modern thinkers mean by life and reality, we realize that St. Benedict was running away not from life, but from artificiality and dissipation.

What do modern thinkers mean by life? They usually mean the whirl of

excitement and the din which men create around them when they are supposed to be living: they mean shouts and cries, the roar of traffic, the whistles of trains and factories, bright lights blazing from neon signs, the exchange of gossip, the blare of radios running on endlessly from morning to night, the buzzing of doorbells and telephones, a rushing to and fro with much noise and fuss, a bedlam of nervous activity in which recollection is utterly destroyed, reverence forgotten and thinking impossible: in short, an existence in which mind and heart are made desolate through daily dissipation.

St. Benedict fled from the city of Rome to the wild vastness of Subiaco not to escape life, but to seek the source of life in God. He did what every good general has done in the course of military history. He retreated

from the enemy's frontline, not to run from the fight, but to take up a better and more secure position.

Sooner or later, every Christian, regardless of his state in life, will discover that without regular periods of prayerful solitude and recollection a spiritual life is not only difficult, but even impossible.

If a man or a woman does not get the opportunity for periodic seclusion and solitude, the human personality will rapidly deteriorate and fall to pieces. Until such time as you can refresh your soul with a retreat, arrange your order of the day so as to include at least 10 minutes of prayerful solitude, either in meditation or by private spiritual reading. ♦



Oblate Director Fr. Meinrad Brune, OSB, (left) poses with his cousins from England. Next to him, from left, are Deacon John Lang and his wife Susan Lang, John's parents Joe and Jackie Lang, and son/grandson David Lang. Susan made her oblation while visiting Saint Meinrad.



Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB, gives a conference during the Advent Oblate Retreat at Saint Meinrad, held December 9-11. About 90 oblates participated in the retreat.

Voices from the Past

Editor's note: This condensed message by Fr. Walter Sullivan, OSB, appeared in the May 1954 issue of the Oblate Newsletter.



Michael Edwards

Self-centeredness is the mark of the proud person, and God-centeredness is the mark of the humble person. This, in a nutshell, is the doctrine of St. Benedict in the seventh chapter of the holy *Rule*. It is self-centeredness that is at the heart of most of our spiritual misery in this life.

The self-centered or proud person is recognized by their favorite expressions. "I have a right to be happy and to live as I damn please..." I heard a young woman say not so long ago. This sounds like a declaration of independence. But is it a declaration of selfishness and ruthless pride? It really means: I'm going to live just as I please and do what I please, and to hell with what it does to God, to my own soul and to others.

The belief that we can live our own life, regardless of God or other people, is as modern as Bing Crosby and Bob Hope and as ancient as the monastic renegades of the sixth century, the sarabaites, who called holy what they wanted to do very badly, and unholy what did not appeal to their tastes. The fact that millions of people poison their lives by living such a warped and self-centered existence does not make it right.

St. Benedict, realizing that this unhealthy centeredness is at the root of all pride, lays the ax to it in the holy *Rule* when he says, "The second degree of humility is that a person

love not his own will, nor take pleasure in satisfying his desires, but model his actions on the saying of our Lord, 'I have come not to do my own will, but the will of Him Who sent me.'"

St. Benedict does not expect us to hate our own will, but he warns us not to make our will the principle of whatever we do. Instead of looking to see what we want, he would have us look at what God wants. Instead of acting only upon the impulse of our strong desires, he would have us act always upon the will of God imitating Christ our Lord.

The simple question that all the saints asked themselves every moment of their lives is, "What is your will with me?" It is a question that rises easily to the lips of the God-centered person for whom the Divine Will is everything. And if we imitate Our Lord and place the Divine Will before our own in all the circumstances of our life, we shall discover a new and wonderful freedom of the spirit.

For if we will what God wills, we shall always get our own way – because our way is God's way. That is what St. Augustine meant when he described man in paradise living just as he pleased so long as he willed what God commanded. It is what he meant when he wrote in *The City of God* that "only the blessed live as they please." It is what he meant when he gave us that wonderful key to true freedom of spirit: "Love God," he said, "and then do what you will."

*Michael Edwards, oblate
Evanston, IN*

A look back: 100 years ago

Editor's note: This article is taken from the December 1917 Announcement edition of the Oblate Letter.

This little paper, as its name signifies, is to be published in the interest of the Secular Oblates of St. Meinrad. Let us hope its monthly appearance may prove most welcome to each and every member of the society.

Its purpose may be summed up thus: to furnish instruction regarding the duties of the Society; to give information concerning indulgences to be gained, as well as feast days to be celebrated; besides, to offer all members an opportunity of furthering such literary talent as they may possess; finally, to provide a little hilarity, by way of brief and innocent humorous items.

The Society in its present status numbers eighty-three members. There are twenty-three priests belonging to different dioceses, who as students or seminarians joined the Society here; and finally, some ten others who are elsewhere still pursuing their studies. It is proposed that by means of this little messenger, to unify those members who are scattered over the country.

The prayers of all are asked that this modest beginning may be blest by God and may bear fruit a hundred-fold! [And indeed, it has over the last nearly 100 years.] ♦

**PRAY FOR
VOCATIONS**



Photos, beginning at top left: The participants who attended the Oblate Regional Conference for Oblate Directors and Future Oblate Leaders of the Midwest Woodlands Regions in October pose for a group photo on the Archabbey Church steps.

Anne Peacock of St. Louis, MO, became an oblate on October 15, 2016, in Saint Meinrad's Archabbey Church. With her are her husband and son.

Fr. Harold Camacho, OSB, from St. Benedict's Abbey, Bartonville, IL, explains a point during a discussion held at the Midwest Woodlands Regional Conference.

Oblate Bob Siebenaller of the Saint Meinrad Oblate Community listens to a conference speaker. Next to him is oblate Maureen Reichardt, also of the Saint Meinrad Oblate Community.

Oblate Ted Castronova, of the Bloomington, IN, Oblate Chapter, was given a blessing as the new co-coordinator by Oblate Director Fr. Meinrad Brune, OSB, on October 6, 2016.



Photos, beginning at top left: Oblate Cathy Funkhouser prays during liturgy in the Guest House Chapel during the Regional Conference.

Br. Simon Herrmann, OSB, gives a conference on "The Prologue as a Starting Point" during "The Gift of Shared Leadership" conference.

Oblate Rev. William Wilson congratulates Br. Simon Herrmann, OSB, after his conference presentation.

Members of the Memphis Oblate, TN, Chapter gathered for a group picture after renewing their oblate promises in the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception in Memphis.

Oblate Janis Dopp gives the sign of peace at the closing Noon Prayer of the Regional Conference.



'Gift of Shared Leadership' is topic of regional leadership conference



Elizabeth Wourms

Oblate directors and oblates from six states met at Saint Meinrad Archabbey October 2-4, 2016, to engage the topic of shared leadership.

The Midwest Woodlands Region is a regional group of the North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors (NAABOD). Its mission is to "commit to the support and enrichment of Oblate Directors within the region. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we gather to share prayer, ideas, resources, inspiration, and challenges. We are empowered to take our broadened vision to our monastic and oblate communities."

Sr. Antoinette Purcell, OSB, oblate director at Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, IN, serves as the coordinator of this regional group. They meet biennially, in the years opposite the meetings of NAABOD.

In lively and evocative sessions, conference participants modeled the topic they came to engage. Through formal presentations, individual and small group work, panel discussion and collaborative discourse, this year's gathering focused on what it means to engage in shared leadership.

How can oblate directors engage their chapter coordinators in fuller and more meaningful ways? How can chapter coordinators equip and empower their members for fruitful leadership roles? What does it mean to bring the religious in monastic communities into shared leadership

with the oblates with whom they're in relationship? How can oblates participate more widely and be a blessing to their monastic communities? These were some of the many important questions the gathering addressed.

The group also focused on the vital need for ongoing and intentional formation of oblates in the *Rule of St. Benedict* and in Benedictine spirituality. Many creative ideas and best practices were shared, and chapter coordinators will be challenged to continue to develop plans and processes for forming their members.

Participants were enriched by participating in the Liturgy of the Hours with the monks of Saint Meinrad and by celebrating Masses with Fr. Meinrad Brune, OSB, oblate director at Saint Meinrad, and Saint Meinrad Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB.

As the Midwest Woodlands Region looks to the future, it will consider ways that this gathering can be a springboard for further conversation and planning so that shared leadership may be authentically implemented into the life of each monastic and oblate community within the Midwest Woodlands Region.

*Elizabeth Wourms, oblate
Beaver Creek, OH*

Finance Committee reviews fiscal year finances



Mike Reffett

The Oblate Finance Committee met October 14 to review financial results for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2016. Revenue increased from

the prior year, with retreat revenue accounting for most of the change.

Postage costs decreased from the previous year, which included mailing costs for new chapter coordinator handbooks. Oblate Office staff, travel and printing costs comprised the majority of the other expenses.

Oblate Director Fr. Meinrad Brune, OSB, expressed his gratitude for the continued financial support of the oblates.

*Mike Reffett, oblate
Evansville, IN*

Oblate Council learns of director's impending retirement



Jennie Latta

The Oblate Advisory Council met on October 15 in the Oblate Office on the Hill. Although an extensive agenda was circulated in

advance of the meeting, most of the day was taken up by Fr. Meinrad's announcement that he has received permission from the archabbot to retire as oblate director following the Meeting of Chapter Coordinators in May 2017.

With reluctance and sadness on all sides, Fr. Meinrad explained that he felt the need to step away from a position that requires long hours and extensive travel. He told the council of his conversations with Archabbot Kurt Stasiak about the transition. He also related to the council that there is no one monk available at this time to take on all the responsibilities of oblate director.

The council held an excellent discussion of alternatives that could secure the continued excellence of the oblate community, which, under Fr. Meinrad's leadership, has swelled to some 1,300 oblates. As a result, two of the council members present on the Hill, together with Janis Dopp by telephone, were invited to meet with Archabbot Kurt that afternoon to express the council's concerns and proposals. Fr. Abbot was extremely solicitous of the needs of the oblates and promised a quick resolution.

Within a week, Archabbot Kurt announced the creation of two new positions, that of oblate chaplain, to be filled by a monk, and oblate director, to be filled by a lay person. Within another week or two, Archabbot Kurt announced that Fr. Joseph Cox, OSB, had been appointed oblate chaplain.

Fr. Joseph will serve as the liaison between the monastic community and the oblate community, through the oblate director. He will represent the monastery at funerals of oblates whenever possible; assist with oblate correspondence of a spiritual nature; attend oblate retreats, days of recollection and other events; and meet with the Oblate Advisory Council and Oblate Finance Committee.

After inviting members of the Oblate Advisory Council and Oblate Finance Committee to apply, Archabbot Kurt selected Janis Dopp, who has served as chair of the Oblate Advisory Council since its inception, to fill the position of oblate director. Ms. Dopp will perform the administrative functions previously shouldered by Fr. Meinrad.

Those duties will include planning retreats and days of recollection; publication of the oblate newsletter;

communication with and formation of chapter coordinators; and scheduling of investitures and final oblations. In addition, Ms. Dopp will represent the oblates of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in communication with the wider community of Benedictine oblates, including the North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors and the World Congress of Benedictine Oblates.

Although the Council cannot imagine oblate life without the leadership of Fr. Meinrad, it is pleased with the excellent appointments made by Archabbot Kurt and looks forward to this new chapter in the life of the Oblate Community of Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

*Jennie Latta, oblate
Memphis, TN*

Memphis Oblate Chapter hosts Saint Meinrad guests

The Memphis Oblate Chapter is in a period of rebuilding following the extended illness of Chapter Coordinator Gail Chambers. The Memphis oblates and friends have been leading Morning Prayer at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception following the Saturday morning Mass since August. An announcement appears in the weekly bulletin at the Cathedral. This has brought about more awareness of the chapter and its work.

As a result, a number of persons have expressed interest in the chapter. Jennie Latta has created a Google Group for the Memphis Oblates and other interested persons. This allows for easy communication of prayer requests, news of Saint Meinrad and the wider Benedictine family, and discussion of the daily excerpts from the *Rule of St. Benedict*.

During the first weekend in November, Oblate Director Fr. Meinrad Brune, OSB, and Ron DeMarco, a Cincinnati oblate and member of the Oblate Advisory Council, visited Memphis. They joined the oblates for Morning Prayer and breakfast. In the evening, Fr. Meinrad concelebrated the anticipated Mass and received renewals of oblation from a number of oblates. Afterward, all went to supper at the Bar B Q Shop, a Memphis institution, where Ron DeMarco shared his thoughts on what oblate life means to him.

Between these events, Ron and Fr. Meinrad were able to visit the Pavilion at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, which houses displays concerning the work of Danny Thomas and his family in founding the hospital. They also visited the Magevney House, site of the first Catholic Mass, wedding and baptism in Memphis; and St. Peter Church, the oldest Catholic Church in Memphis, founded in 1840.

*Jennie Latta, oblate
Memphis, TN*

Oblate pin opens the conversation



After the solemn Vespers before the installation of Martin David Holley as fifth bishop of the Diocese of Memphis, I passed a man wearing a pectoral cross on the stair gallery, so I held out my hand to say hello.

He asked about my lapel pin, so I explained that I am an oblate of Saint Meinrad and also a judge. He said, "I've met you before. I spoke at your graduation from Saint Meinrad." I said, "You have the better of me." He

said, "I'm Archbishop Kurtz of Louisville!"

I graduated from Saint Meinrad in 2003. How amazing that Archbishop Kurtz would remember speaking with me all those years ago! And this conversation wouldn't have happened had I not been wearing my oblate pin!

*Jennie Latta, oblate
Memphis, TN*

Oblate receives Outstanding Caregiver Award



Linda Faulhaber was nominated by St. Mary Parish in Bethel, Ohio, to receive an Outstanding Caregiver Award for 2016. She received the award in recognition of

National Caregivers Month in November during a ceremony at St. Peter-in-Chains Cathedral on November 6, 2016.

For many years, Linda has taken Holy Communion to residents of a nursing home in Eastgate. She also arranges for a priest to say weekly Mass, plans activities for the residents and brings them small gifts to perk them up.

*Pat Dorn, oblate
Cincinnati, OH*

INVESTITURES

August 24, 2016 – **Rev. Harriett Akins-Banman** of New Albany, IN; **Gayle Schrank** of Floyds Knobs, IN

September 1, 2016 – **Clayton Nunes** and **Sunita Nunes**, both of Bloomington, IN

September 4, 2016 – **Hervé Barbosa**, **Marlyn Batan**, **Flavia Sarasua** and **Sonia Tan**, all of Bronx, NY; **Jesse Chan** and **Deacon Jose C. Ungco**, both of New York, NY; **Mary Theresa Shanley** of Farmingdale, NY

September 22, 2016 – **Mary Palau** of Delaware, OH

September 24, 2016 – **Nora Negron** of Dayton, OH

September 27, 2016 – **Floriana C. Huczek** of Poseyville, IN

October 2, 2016 – **Rose A. Cavins** of Evansville, IN

October 5, 2016 – **Jeremiah H. Malone** of Louisville, KY

October 8, 2016 – **Karen Adams** of Haubstadt, IN; **Susan M. Melton** of Madison, IN; **Richard Rader** of Indianapolis, IN

October 9, 2016 – **Cynthia Jenkins** of Crown Point, IN

October 13, 2016 – **Rev. Jason Moore** of Dale, IN

October 15, 2016 – **Ann Peacock** of St. Louis, MO

October 22, 2016 – **Erica Haimbaugh** of Fort Wayne, IN

October 24, 2016 – **David Booram** and **Robert Pallikan**, both of Indianapolis, IN

November 4, 2016 – **Evelyn Diaz-Fey** and **Joseph C. Fey**, both of Port Orange, FL

November 11, 2016 – **A. Louise Jergert** of Jasper, IN

November 17, 2016 – **Rebecca Brune** of Evansville, IN; **Rita C. Pouliotte** of Bryan, TX

November 27, 2016 – **Mary Magdalene Ukonu** of West Babylon, NY ♦

OBLATIONS

September 3, 2016 – **Rev. Dr. Philip Gregory DeJonge** of Kentwood, MI

September 4, 2016 – **Marie Denise Teresa of Calcutta Devine** of Kings Park, NY; **Fred Matthew Gervat** of Pelham, NY; **Mario Reuben Mark Tupas** of New York City, NY

September 14, 2016 – **Charmaine Rita Wawrzyniec** and **Phillip Lawrence Wawrzyniec**, both of Carleton, MI

October 20, 2016 – **Dr. Lori Esther Brister Hurst** of Greenfield, IN

October 22, 2016 – **Irma Lucinda Michael Benedicta Maria Piña** of Pearland, TX

October 27, 2016 – **Monica Marie Dorothy Clare Siemer** of Columbus, OH

October 30, 2016 – **Ronald R. Anthony Lewis** of Branchville, IN

October 31, 2016 – **Lisa Ruth Naffziger** and **Alvin Floyd John the Apostle Wiley**, both of New Castle, IN

November 2, 2016 – **John Joseph Wilson** and **Sandra Elizabeth Wilson**, both of St. Meinrad, IN

November 12, 2016 – **Andrew Thomas Kosegi** and **Bridget Teresa Kosegi**, both of Greenwood, IN

November 16, 2016 – **Susan Jane Lang** of Sandy, Bedfordshire, UK

November 17, 2016 – **Mary Frances Catherine Laboure Hooker**, **Ronald Andrew Hooker** and **John Therese of Lisieux Kuhns**, all of Columbus, OH; **Beverly Margaret Winner** of Circleville, OH

November 27, 2016 – **Elena Teresa Angelica Nopre** of Bronx, NY ♦

TRANSFER OF OBLATIONS

August 18, 2016 – **Barbara W. Jennings** and **E. Shannon Jennings** of Louisville, KY, transferred from The Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration at Clyde, MO. ♦

ANNIVERSARY OF OBLATION

John and Betty Obst of Georgetown, TX, will celebrate their 40th anniversaries of oblation on February 12, 2017. ♦

ANNIVERSARIES

Oblates **Peyton and Louise Reed** of Williamsburg, OH, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on November 13 with a special reception. ♦

COUPLE HONORED FOR PARISH SERVICE

Oblates **Paul and Irene Muhs**, 60-year members of St. Kilian Parish in Farmingdale, NY, received the St. Agnes Medal of Service on November 20. They were nominated by their pastor for this diocesan award, particularly for their work with the right to life movement. Both have been active in many parish ministries through the years. ♦

DEATHS

August 19, 2016 – **Gary Ziegler** of Columbus, IN

September 17, 2016 – **Barbara Miller** of Louisville, KY

September 18, 2016 – **Joan G. DeBona** of North Massapequa, NY

October 7, 2016 – **Fr. Hilary G. Meny** of Haubstadt, IN (oblate for 85 years)

October 13, 2016 – **Helen Sexton** of Hilliard, OH

October 30, 2016 – **Josephine Stickford** of Indianapolis, IN

November 23, 2016 – **Oliver Ogden** of Lancaster, PA; Oliver was co-coordinator with his wife Sharon of the Lancaster, PA, Oblate Chapter. ♦

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 20-22, 2017 – The March Oblate Retreat will have Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB, as the presenter. The title of his retreat will be “The Way of the Cross According to the Gospel of Matthew.”

April 8, 2017 – The Day of Recollection for the Louisville, KY, area oblates will feature Fr. Meinrad Brune, OSB, as the presenter. The title is “St. Thérèse of Lisieux and the *Rule of St. Benedict*.”

May 20, 2017 – The Day of Recollection for the Ohio Oblates will be held in the Cincinnati area. Br. Francis Wagner, OSB, will be the presenter on “The Heart of Benedictine Spirituality.”

June 12-15, 2017 – Oblate Study Days at Saint Meinrad Archabbey will take place with Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB, as the presenter. The title is: “The Challenges of Community Life According to the Thought of St. Paul.”

July 11, 2017 – The Saint Meinrad Day of Recollection will have Fr. Denis Quinkert, OSB, as the presenter. His topic is “Daily Living of the Benedictine Stability of Heart.” ♦

VOLUNTEERS APPRECIATED

Recent volunteers in the Oblate Office have included Dennis Skelton, Sandra Duffee, Michael Edwards, Elizabeth Wourms, George Thompson, Caryn Mucci, Candidate Joseph Wagner, Ted Castronova, Ruth Engs, Andy and Bridget Kosegi, and Novice Joshua Leeuw. ♦

OBLATE DECALS STILL AVAILABLE

Oblate decals are available for \$5 each (includes postage).

Please phone or email the Oblate Office, 812-357-6817 or oblates@saintmeinrad.edu, to place an order.



Smugmug

For more photos of Saint Meinrad events, visit:

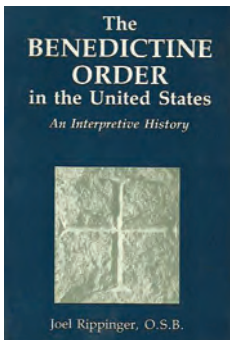
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Oblate Director Fr. Meinrad Brune, OSB, congratulates Irma Pina of Pearland, TX, right, who made her oblation. On the left is Irma's sister, also of Texas, who attended the oblation.

Reading Room

Rippinger, Joel, OSB. *The Benedictine Order in the United States: An Interpretative History*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1999.



The author of *The Benedictine Order in the United States: An Interpretative History* is a monk of Marmion Abbey in Aurora, IL. Fr. Joel Rippinger, OSB, begins his book with a revelation that in the 19th century political forces had reduced Benedictine monasteries to their lowest number in a millennium. He points out that, just as the Catholic Church had its

demographic problems, so did the monastic order of Benedictines.

The American Benedictines are inextricably linked to the history of immigrant America. The primary purpose of the Benedictines coming to the United States was the pastoral care of European immigrants. This was true of the monastic orders that founded seminaries to prepare German-speaking priests to minister to German-speaking farmers and their families.

An interesting factor that the author points out is that some of the sons and daughters of these farming families became Benedictine priests, brothers and nuns. They populated the early Benedictine missionary houses.

This was especially true for the founding of Saint Meinrad Abbey. Many years later, it became an archabbey, one of only two in the United States. The Swiss Abbey of Einsiedeln, like many other monasteries, received a steady flow of requests to establish missionary foundations in the United States.

Oblates and others with an interest in the history of the Benedictine order will find this book an excellent tool for research. It will foster an understanding of Benedictine monastic history. Oblates will come to know the historical roots of the monastic order to which they made their oblation. They will also learn about the evolutionary development of Benedictine houses throughout the United States.

*Thomas J. Rillo, oblate
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