



TUCSON OBLATE NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2017

“But as we progress in this way of life and in faith, we shall run on the path of God’s commandments, our hearts overflowing with the inexpressible delight of love.” RB prologue

One of the delightful traditions in monastic community life is the attention paid to the celebration of Feast Days. The Church’s readings at the Eucharistic celebration set the tone for the selection of inspiring music, and the Divine Office is prayed with fitting psalms and beautiful refrains written especially for the occasion. Our monastic custom of celebration extends throughout the day and includes a festive meal.

On the recent Feast Day of All Saints, November 1st, I heard a brief conversation in which someone had commended a friend on “being a saint.” There came an immediate and humble denial, followed by the comment: “No one wants to be a saint nowadays... no one wants to suffer.” On a day joyously acknowledging not just one saint, but all the saints, I thought of the countless number of people throughout the world, past and present, who have chosen to live their lives following in the footsteps of Christ, regardless of the cost to themselves personally. It is well to recall that sanctity is not the special preserve of a handful of spiritual heroes. Indeed, the ordinary goal of the Christian life is to be a saint. Being holy is being the person that *God wants us to be*. To be holy is to follow God’s will... and God’s will is always a will to love... the willing of good for others. St. Benedict knew well the path to holiness on which he led his fellow monks. Throughout his rule, he laid out the practical ways that lead us to union with God and others in love. As Oblates, may we *progress in this way of life and in faith*. May we follow in the footsteps of Christ who is Love Incarnate and walk the path of holiness.

NOVEMBER OBLATE MEETING: Our next meeting on **November 19th** begins at 2:00 p.m. in Murphey Gallery East at St. Philip’s in the Hills Church (Campbell and River Rd). Doors remain open for anyone who wishes to come early and visit with others. Our deans Sharon Hammond and William Joseph who attended the International Congress for Benedictine Oblates in Rome, Italy will share their experience with us. Benedictine Oblates and Oblate directors from all over the world gathered November 4-10 to discuss, share, celebrate, pray, and work together exploring the Congress theme: A Way Forward - the Benedictine Community in Movement. Sr. Joan Chittister, a prominent author on Benedictine spirituality, was the keynote speaker for the conference. Sharon and William will have much to present to us. In an email from Rome, Sharon wrote: *“Sister Joan Chittister came in this afternoon. We feel especially blessed that she made such a huge journey for us. Everyone is so welcoming. We have an exciting week ahead.”*

INQUIRERS’ AND CANDIDATES CLASS: Inquirers meet in the Ferguson Room from 1:00 -1:45 p.m. The door is unlocked for those wishing to arrive early. William Joseph will lead the class on **Benedictine Obedience**. **Read in advance:** RB Ch.5 Obedience, Ch.68 Assignment of Impossible Tasks, Ch. 43 Tardiness. **Questions for discussion:** 1. How do you see balance and listening in Benedict’s discussion of obedience? 2. How would you feel about making a promise of obedience?

SUMMARY OF OCTOBER PRESENTATION

At the October meeting, Sr. Kathleen Clare presented on *The Oblate Way of Life*. As seekers of God in their own way of life, Oblates affirm their desire for growth in holiness, and choose to live a

“*spiritual life of becoming*” which impacts their community and the world. The Oblate Way of Life is about:

- seeking the deeper meaning of life
- seeking God in affiliation with a monastic community
- participation in the nourishment of liturgical worship
- becoming holy in the world...living a balanced life through integration of prayer, work, and leisure
- love in community
- witness to Christ’s presence in society
- becoming a bearer of peace and healing for others

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A “*heads-up*”: Our **January Renewal Day** this coming year will be in Murphey Gallery East on the **third Saturday** of the month, **Sat. January 20th**, instead of our usual meeting date on the third Sunday. We regret any inconvenience this may cause. Further details to follow nearing the date.
- Frank Frisina is offering transportation for up to three passengers for anyone needing a ride to Oblate meetings. Let us know if you are interested.
- A reminder that St. Philip’s expansive parish library located just a few doors down from our meeting room is open to our Oblates for your enrichment.
- When signing-in at meetings, please update changes in email, street addresses, and phone numbers.
- Your thoughtfulness and generosity in bringing snacks from time-to-time to our meetings is much appreciated.

PRAYER REQUEST: Please pray for Andria Kowalczyk, wife of oblate Nicholas, who passed away suddenly. May God grant her eternal light and peace. May Nicholas and his family know the compassionate love of God as they mourn her passing.

PHOENIX CENTRAL: The Phoenix group meets in the St. John Paul II room at the Mount Claret Retreat Center, 4633 N. 54th Street. For information call Patty Williams [602-957-1464](tel:602-957-1464).

WEST PHOENIX: Meeting in Glendale for a morning of prayer, community, and fellowship on the third Saturday of the month from 9:00 a.m. -noon. Next meeting: November 18th. For information call Lisa at [623-374-2382](tel:623-374-2382).

EAST VALLEY OLBATES: Meetings for November and December will be moved to the third Saturdays of the month to avoid the holidays. Discussion will continue of the Study Guide for the Rule of St. Benedict at the November 18th meeting from 9:30 a.m. -noon. For information call Nancy Kaib [480-883-8025](tel:480-883-8025) or Frank Young [480-219-1505](tel:480-219-1505).

May all the saints intercede for us on our journey in this life, especially our loved ones in the Heart of God.

May we know the true spirit of gratitude this Thanksgiving.

Sr. Kathleen Clare

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