



Saskatoons were plentiful, this year, in St. Peter's Abbey Saskatoon Orchard.

Oblate Fund Donations

Donations are being accepted for the Oblate fund to help meet our Oblate expenses: Oblate newsletters, meetings and supplies. Donations can be made to: St. Peter's Abbey Oblate Fund. Our address is: St. Peter's Abbey, Box 10, Muenster, SK, S0K-2Y0. Please let us know if you wish to receive a tax receipt for your donation.

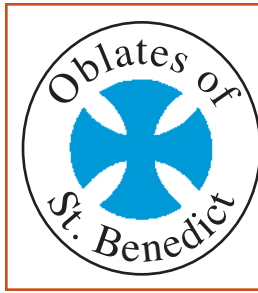
Oblate Day Agenda — October 24, 2015



- 7:30 a.m. Lauds
- 10:40 a.m. Noon Hour Prayer
- 11:00 a.m. Eucharist
- Noon Lunch with the Monks
- Meeting in Jerome Assembly Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Welcome and Prayer by Oblate Director Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB
- 1:05 p.m. Praying with "Give Us This Day" prayer book, by Pol Zwart
- 2:00 p.m. Break — Coffee — Discussions
- 3:00 p.m. Vespers

Next 2016 Meetings: March 19, July 9, October 29

The articles and photos of the Oblate news have been submitted by Paul Paproski, OSB, Oblate director.



Priesthood is a gift of Christ

What are some of the essential qualities of the priesthood? This question was addressed by Deacon Cosmas Epifano, OSB to 40 attending the July 11 meeting of the Oblates of St. Peter's Abbey. The question of the essence of the priesthood was discussed by the seminary class of Deacon Cosmas at the end of the final year of studies, he said.

"At the core we placed unconditional Christ-like

love," he remarked. "Stemming from this core we placed the two theological virtues of faith and hope as also central and being a servant to those we administer to. We also valued that ability to truly listen and be patient when engaging with others," he remarked.

Since priestly leadership differs from leadership in the business world it is important for priests to cherish the most vulnerable, the ostracized and poor. The priestly witness, in many ways, is a counter-witness to the secularization of much of modern society which emphasizes individualism and a morality based on personal preferences rather than revelation. Building communities centred in the Catholic faith is not easy in a world that often values the individual, sometimes at the expense of community, he remarked.

"The priesthood is an incredible gift given by Christ to this church. The indelible seal or mark of priesthood is a very real, but mysterious reality. Something of our being changes, yet with the gift of ordination comes the necessary graces to conform to the truth of Christ's priesthood. Christ alone is the true priest and we participate in his priesthood as ministerial priests and all of us as the priesthood of the faithful," he said.

A crucial aspect of the priesthood is spoken of by St. Paul (Phil 2:6-8) where he describes the kenosis or self-emptying of Christ. Only when a priest

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ADDRESSES OBLATES – Deacon Cosmas Epifano, OSB discusses the priesthood and his experiences in Rome during the past four years while attending seminary.

"Listen carefully to the master's instructions and attend to them with the ear of your heart." (Beginning of the Rule of St. Benedict)

**"Ut In Omnibus Glorificetur Deus."**  
**"That in all things may God be glorified." (1 Peter 4:11)**



## Priesthood is a gift . . . continued

empties himself can he get out of the way to allow Christ to be manifested and shine forth. In this emptying, the priest finds himself in Christ. St. Paul speaks of this where he says, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." (Gal 2:20)

Christ works through priests and uses priests to touch people in ways unknown even to them. The priests may never know how Christ has worked through them, because of the great mystery of Jesus.

"We needn't necessarily know this. Our duty is to

make ourselves totally available to Christ to make use of us, in the ways he wishes. Christ will provide the means for us to do so, if we are receptive to his grace in us," he commented.

The priest who truly prays and values prayer, and lives a sacramental life will surely be pastoral and compassionate to his sheep and help them to discover how God is working in their lives. The congregation will, in return, share its gifts, support and encouragement.

## Deceased Oblates since 2000

### 2000

Rose Mary Dierker  
 Mary Wasserman

### 2001

Robert Langen

### 2003

Mary Bantle  
 Gail Friesen  
 Alex Kondorosi  
 Peggy Mahon  
 Loretta Leuschen  
 Elizabeth Saretsky  
 James Grant Maxwell  
 Agnes Saretsky

### 2006

Sadie Novecosky  
 Mary Zimmerman

### 2007

David Hoffman  
 Alphonse Gerwing  
 Marie Schofield  
 Laura Bunz  
 Pauline Langen

### 2008

Agnes Rauw

### 2010

Norbert Niebrugge

### 2011

Catherine Thurmeier  
 Frank Thurmeier  
 Anne Daeger  
 Frank Boser  
 Veronica Bergerman  
 Mathilda Saretsky

### 2012

George Perron  
 Mary Watson  
 Clara Dust  
 Theodore Bergerman  
 Hildegard Bernhard

### 2013

Bernard Merkosky  
 Robert Lemke  
 Anne E. Blechinger  
 Leo Collin  
 Joe Daeger

### 2014

Peter Froess  
 Elvira Niebrugge  
 Leonard Novecosky  
 Agnes Zintel

### 2015

Eleanor Engele  
 Rachel Rompre

*The next newsletter will have a list of deceased Oblates from 1974 to 2000. Please inform us of any errors or omissions.*

**"Ora et Labora"**  
**"Prayer and Work" (Benedictine Motto)**



## Larsons operate farm grounded in Benedictine tradition

Inspired by the Rule of Benedict and the Catholic Worker Movement, Oblates Craig and Carol Larson operate The Parkland Worker at their home in Swan River, Manitoba. The Parkland Worker is a Catholic Worker Farm grounded in the Benedictine tradition, Craig Larson said to 40 at the July 11 Oblate meeting. The farm grows organic apples, hay and haskap (a nutritious fruit) for both their own use and for giving away to those in need. The Larsons process and weave wool blankets and rugs that they both sell and give away. The weaving makes use of wool that might otherwise be thrown away and it provides them with joyful work, he said.

"We follow a structured regimen on prayer and spiritual reading promoted by the Rule of St. Benedict, one of the oldest guides to Christian discipleship still in use

in Christianity today," Craig said. The Benedictine tradition strives to fill the human need for inner and outer harmony through a life centred in prayer and work. The Larsons, for the past 37 years, have been growing food for others in need. They practice voluntary poverty to help serve the needs of others living in greater poverty.

The Catholic Worker movement was born on May 1, 1933 when journalist Dorothy Day, a Benedictine Oblate,

and philosopher Peter Maurin, began publishing The Catholic Worker. The newspaper emphasized justice and mercy, and the dignity of every person who is created by God. The Catholic Worker Movement promotes non-violence, voluntary poverty and works of mercy. There are hundreds of Catholic Worker Communities throughout the globe.

The Larsons embrace the precepts of the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5:1-12) and pay special attention to the social encyclicals issued by the church. They were very encouraged by the recent encyclical of Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*. The Larsons welcome people of good will to join in their prayers and labour as they compassionately provide for the needs of others.



**PARKLAND WORKER** – Oblate Craig Larson of Swan River, Manitoba discusses The Parkland Worker that he and his wife, Carol, manage. The Parkland Worker is a farm grounded in the Benedictine tradition and is inspired by the Catholic Worker Movement.



**OBLATIONS** – Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB presided at Mass for Oblate Day, July 11, where Kyla Brietta of Saskatoon, left, and Pat Lyster of Abernethy made their Final Oblations. Carol Larson of Swan River, Manitoba, right, made her First Oblation.