

Glastonbury Abbey: Oblate Steering Committee Minutes--July 13, 2011

Present: Fr. Nicholas, Carolyn Carpenter, Tom Gorman, Denise Patts, Sally Pineau, Kathleen Purcell, Joe Scanlan

Meeting was convened at 7:00 PM with opening prayer by Fr. Nicholas.

Oblate Steering Committee (OSC) meeting minutes of July 5, 2011 were accepted and will be forwarded to Br. Albrecht for inclusion on the website.

- 1) **Day of Recollection:** Good feedback from the Oblates: good length for the day's activities; worked well being outside of our usual meeting season; appeared to be a success attendance-wise; people appreciated the summer choice. Fr. Timothy's mention of Joan Chittister's book (Monastery of the Heart) sold out at the bookstore that day. There is a website to accompany. Kathleen has read and recommends it for study this year. Web has videos of Joan speaking, lots of information for this book. References the "virtual oblate group" that people are hungering for to supplement their participation in an oblate community.
- 2) **Membership List:** Novices did not receive the first letter for collecting the Oblate Community's contact information. Status of project: still receiving letters.
ACTION ITEM: Have the letter available at the September and October meetings to gather information from those who did not receive/return; also for any new Observers' contact information.
ACTION ITEM: Appears to be 4-5 people making their Oblations this September and a few becoming Novices. Need to be prepared for September for welcoming them after Compline and placing them in the correct section of the Membership List.
- 3) **Flocks:** Idea proposed and accepted to divide up the Oblate membership list among the OSC for better communication and interaction with the Oblates. The flocks will be decided at the September OSC meeting.
ACTION ITEM: break out the Oblate list into Oblates / Oblate Novices / Observers. Encourage people to send a brief email as a "signing in" to oblates@glastonburyabbey.org for the Abbey office that also retains this information for Email blasts.
ACTION ITEM: need to include in the September meeting's Business about the Flocks and their intention re: communication during the year.
- 4) **Prayer Basket:** Decision made to continue as last year. In addition, the decision was made to read the section of the Rule designated for the monthly Oblate meeting dates.
ACTION ITEM: have prayer basket and paper/pens available at each meeting.
ACTION ITEM: invite an Oblate/Novice to read the Rule at each meeting.
- 5) **OSC Meeting Dates:** Third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Abbey Center.
ACTION ITEM: Carolyn to contact Joan in the Abbey office to get the dates on the Master Calendar for the Abbey Center.

- 6) **Oblate Community Meeting Dates:** Dates selected.
ACTION ITEM: Carolyn to contact Joan in the Abbey office to confirm dates on the Master Calendar for the Abbey Center. Also to check for available dates for 2-3 Sunday Communion Breakfasts.
- 7) **2011-2012 Oblate Program:** A draft of the Program was laid out and will be confirmed as we send out invitations/receive confirmations for identified guests. It was decided that we may not have a “theme” this year unless one comes naturally from the Program we have set.
ACTION ITEM: Theme discussion tabled until the August 2 OSC meeting.
ACTION ITEM: Denise to invite Fr. Timothy to return in October as a follow-up to his Day of Recollection Presentation.
ACTION ITEM: Movie Night in November – Kathleen to research possibilities, including “Of Gods & Men” (trappists killed in Algeria; is also a book), .
ACTION ITEM: Decide who to invite for three (3) Witness Talks in January.
ACTION ITEM: Carolyn to invite, via Elke O’Donnell, the O’Donnell’s Pastor to deliver a talk on Icons at the April meeting.
ACTION ITEM: Joe to research the Museum of Russian Icons in Clinton, MA as a site for an Oblate Field Trip on a Saturday during the coming year. Perhaps one of the doyen/nes could provide a program during our visit.
ACTION ITEM: Flesh out the idea of “Sacred Music & Meditation” for our July 2012 Day of Recollection. Kathleen to approach either Kevin Healy and/or Brother David to present the program.
- 8) **Book:** It was decided to study two (2) books this year: Monastery of the Heart (Joan Chittister) and A Lever and A Place to Stand (Richard Rohr). Two (2) monthly meetings will be devoted to the books with a format of breaking into groups on opposite sides of the room based on what book each Oblate chooses to read, have a presentation that may include use of the Website available for each book, have discussion, come back together as one group and have someone present a summary as a “book review”.
ACTION ITEM: Kathleen, Sally, Joe, and Tom to organize the program for the Chittister book.
ACTION ITEM: Denise and Carolyn to organize the program for the Rohr book.
- 9) **Mentor List:** Discussion tabled until the August 2 OSC meeting.
- 10) **OSC Member Tenure:** Proposals of drawing straws to see which one (1) person will leave at the end of the 2011-2012 year. The person’s name could be placed back on the very next ballot. Discussion tabled until the August 2 OSC meeting.
ACTION ITEM: Need to amend the Oblate Handbook to address this change of the Oblate Steering Committee being six (6) members and this manner of having equal # of members stay on committee as equal #of members go off.
ACTION ITEM: Make final decision of how want to proceed.
- 11) **Email Burst:** This task will be delayed until we have more data from the Oblate database.
ACTION ITEM: At the September Oblate meeting we will recommend if an Oblate has not put their email forward for the Abbey’s Email Bursts to do so. The main item to be received is the Abbey’s monthly newsletter.

- 12) **Br. Albrecht:** Fr. Nicholas offered to invite Br. Albrecht to continue as an Associate with the Oblate Community if he so desires.
- 13) **Photographs of the Oblate Community:** We will continue to take photos of the Oblate Community and the OSC to add to the Website.
ACTION ITEM: The OSC needs to clarify and verify with the Oblate Community at the September meeting that they are comfortable with their photo potentially being posted on the Website.
- 14) **New Business** (OSC Welcoming Letter, New Oblates and Novices) was tabled until the August 2 OSC meeting.
- 15) **Oblate Handbook:** Mention was made to update the Handbook this year. Further discussion tabled until the OSC August 2 meeting.

The next OSC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 2, 2011 at 7:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn C. Carpenter, Obl. OSB