

## **Oblate Update, February 2019**

The February Oblate meeting focused on The Rule: Chapter 48: On the Daily Manual Labor. Our own Br. Daniel Walters, OSB, and Fr. Albrecht Nyce, OSB, were presenters and engaged us in a lively discussion!

We talked about the committed life and structured regimen of the Monks living the rule in residence at the Monastery. What is their schedule? How many hours do they work in a day? How do they fit it all the in? Many questions were asked by Oblates as we seek and discern how to have some structure and routine in our prayer lives combined with whatever our daily manual labor is out in the world. How do we stop what we are doing and pray without a monastery bell ringing to call us to mandatory prayer? This is a challenge for Oblates and the balance can be different for everyone. We have commitments in our lay lives and vocations that more than likely do not lend themselves to the total regimen of a monastery.

The beauty of all this is that we can in our Oblate lay lives desire to have a deep commitment to seeking God, yet knowing that balancing work and prayer, "Ora et Labora," is a work in progress and every day we begin again. We can spend quiet time with God, study the Rule, read countless books available as resources and share with each other our challenges and insights as we travel the journey together.