

Oblate Update, January 2019

At their monthly meeting on January 8th, the Glastonbury Abbey Oblates started 2019 with a wonderful, informative presentation given on the "Oblates for the Future Symposium." Oblates Chris Freier and Peter Neagle attended the Symposium held at the Monastery of St. Gertrude in Cottonwood, Idaho last October and provided us with a thorough overview. The role of lay Benedictine Oblates going forward is a challenging one both at the Abbey and globally as Benedictine Monasteries now have fewer vowed Monks and Nuns than lay Oblates. Who will help bring the Benedictine message into the future to keep this ancient and time tested practice alive?

This topic has also been in discussion for the last year as "A Way Forward, The Benedictine Community in Movement" was the theme of the 4th International Oblate Congress in Rome, November 2017. Two of our Oblates attended this Congress and shared their experiences. These challenges and global discussions are being addressed as the Abbey Oblate Steering Committee plans yearly programs. Ongoing formation and spiritual growth of the Oblates is a very important piece to this overall discussion.