

Oblate Update May 2019

On Tuesday May 7th we had our monthly meeting and in keeping with this year's "sharing our stories" theme, the focus was, "Pick a Chapter from the *Rule*".

In advance of the meeting, Oblates and Novices were asked to:

"Pick a Chapter from the *Rule*, any chapter. Then read the chapter carefully, prayerfully, perhaps several times -- sort of like lectio. After that, write down any thoughts or insights that came to you. You need not comment on the whole chapter (although you can if you want). You may decide to comment, for instance, on just a single part of the chapter, a line or so."

We worked in small groups and each Oblate shared thoughts and inspirations on chapters we chose. So many chapters, so many insights and creativity!

On Chapter 31, "Qualifications of the Monastery Cellarer, Oblate Anne Engel expressed her thoughts in a clever Haiku poem:

Behold, greetings, peace
May I have your blessing please?
...follow me...tip toe

Another Oblate spoke on Chapter 6, "Restraint of Speech". St. Benedict says, "*In a flood of words you will not avoid sin*" (*Prov 10:19*). We discussed that perhaps before speaking we think about...is what I am about to say, "Comforting, Affirming or Enlightening"? If not, maybe it's not worth saying...

As lay monastics, each time we meet, we share and encourage each other as we seek God's will and peace. Through St. Benedict's Rule and Benedictine prayer practices, Oblates strive to clarify our roles in serving others while navigating the many challenging contradictions of this world.

Oblates meet the first Tuesday every month August-June with a Day of Recollection in July. For more information go to:

<https://www.glastonburyabbey.org/index.php/abbey/oblates/oblate-news/>

Or go to Abbey Home page www.glastonburyabbey.org and click on the "Oblates" logo.