

Oblate Update September-December 2019

The new 2019-2020 season for Oblates at Glastonbury Abbey is fully underway.

On September 3, at Compline, we joined in our annual renewal of Oblation, restating our commitment to the Benedictine way of life. We adjourned to the Morcone Center for a business meeting, introducing this year's Steering Committee members: John Hopkins, Joe O'Brien, Doreen McConaghy, Anne Engle, and Kathy Burbank. We shared a tentative schedule of programs supporting the theme of pursuing a deeper spiritual life. John encouraged us to consider the reflective exercise of composing a brief story of our individual journeys and our decision to become Oblates; these could be submitted to the website anonymously or under our Oblate name that we might encourage others.

We are welcome to share briefly and aloud each month what we find significant in our daily work with Lectio Divina.

On September 29 we hosted Sr. Mary-Ellen, a very engaging speaker who lives her life as a cloistered Cistercian nun at St. Mary's Abbey in Wrentham. She shared insights and examples on the topic of *Encountering God and Others in Our Daily Lives*. Our continental breakfast proved abundant. We were well fed in every sense.

Our next meeting was November 5 and Oblate John Hopkins guided us through an exercise applying the lectio method to poetry (in this case selected passages from Psalm 42). The sharing that followed was varied, rich and moving.

We look forward to gathering again on December 3 for traditional shared Lectio with Fr. Nick and our annual holiday social.

Welcome to our four new Oblate observers Janice, Jean, Kevin and Susie who will be studying this 2019-2020 year with Fr. Nick.