
ORTHODOX OBLATES OF ST. BENEDICT



From the Holy Rule of St. Benedict (Chapter XIX)

We believe that God is present everywhere and that the eyes of the Lord behold the good and the bad in every place (cf Prov 15:3). Let us firmly believe this, especially when we take part in the Work of God. Let us, therefore, always be mindful of what the Prophet saith, "Serve ye the Lord with fear" (Ps 2:11). And again, "Sing ye wisely" (Ps 46[47]:8). And, "I will sing praise to Thee in the sight of the angels" (Ps 137[138]:1). Therefore, let us consider how it becometh us to behave in the sight of God and His angels, and let us so stand to sing, that our mind may be in harmony with our voice.

Luke 18: 1-14

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.



Orthodox Benedictine Saint Days for September

2: Ida of Herzfeld (German)	(+984)
13: Amatus (Italian)	(+626)
14: Edith of Wilton (English)	(+747)
18: Richardis (Alsatian)	(+704)
24: Gerard Sagredo (Italian)	(+1046)
30: Honorius of Canterbury (Italian)	(+ca.700)

Meditation

Divine Office Today

Benedictine Abbey of Christ in the Desert

Every community, however large or small, that prays the Divine Office should be aware of being a praying Church, which represents the Universal Church. For those in more contemplative and monastic communities the Opus Dei is a special charism, that is, gift of the Holy Spirit. It could be said that the Holy Spirit bestows the gift or charism of prayer, or a ministry of prayer, to the individual members and to the contemplative community as a whole. The monastic community is one that has received the call to "pray without ceasing." This does not mean a perpetual presence in church, but rather a call to "pray always," in whatever occupation is being undertaken. The prayer is for the Church and the good of all, outwardly directed, for "the growth of the Body of Christ," as Saint Paul calls it in Ephesians 4:15. This does not discount the charism of perpetual adoration of the Blessed

Sacrament, which some contemplative communities are devoted to. Many parishes today also maintain this venerable custom.

By a "ministry of prayer," the praying Church, the monastic choir, continues the work of salvation, through Christ being present in Word and in Sacrament, when the Eucharist is celebrated. The two modes of public liturgical prayer--the Divine Office and the Mass--are great testimonies to Christ-in-our-midst. Christ is present in the assembly that gathers and proclaims God's Word and it also receives Christ truly present in the bread and wine, his Body and Blood, at the Eucharist.

The monastic choir is also a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, who bestows the particular charism or ministry of prayer. The praying community should be attentive to the action of the Holy Spirit, who inspires a deeper longing for the living God. This is compared in the psalms to a "deer that yearns for living streams." We do this when we are attentive to God's living Word and his desire to bring us to good actions and words. This is the work of the Holy Spirit in the assembly of monks or whenever "two or three are gathered" in Christ's name.

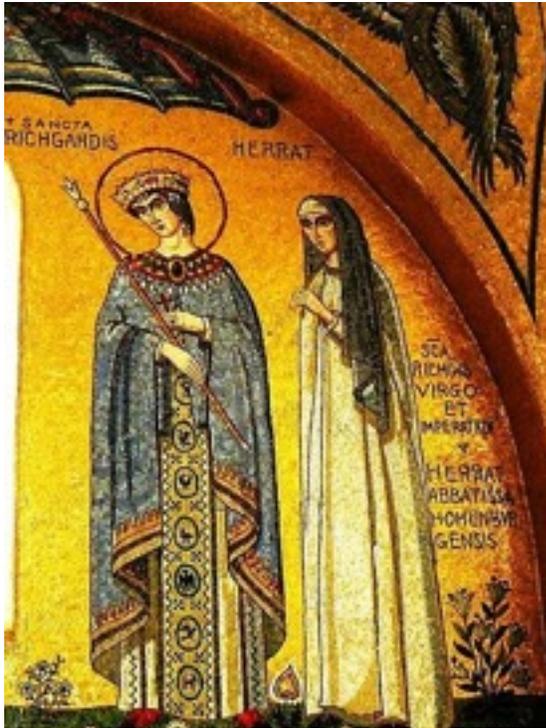
Christ is present in our liturgical prayer, uniting himself with the praying community in a relationship of Master and disciple, Head and member, Bridegroom and bride, Creator and creature. The members of the praying community--the monastic choir--are in communion with their Head, Christ, and participate in Christ's saving work. The ritual celebrations of the Divine Office are a strong means of entering into a dialogue of praise and contemplation of the God who saves us.

“The Opus Dei thus becomes a powerful part of every day and thus should not be neglected for other matters, however urgent.”



The Opus Dei thus becomes a powerful part of every day and thus should not be neglected for other matters, however urgent. So many monastic communities today have dropped Vigils, for example, because of the demands of the apostolate or other works or even the priority of getting more rest, are preferred to the Work of God. Those who have the leisure, so to speak, to spend more time with God, should diligently carry out the full round of Offices in the monastic tradition.

The Liturgy of the Hours is not the same as the Eucharistic Sacrifice, but the two are intimately connected in the one saving work of Christ, who comes to us in many forms. When we partake of the Office or the Mass we are invited to "taste and see how good the Lord is," who loved us and gave himself up for us, which we recall at every Mass and Office when we participate through Word and Sacrament in a sacrifice of praise. We bring the gifts of self and all we have, including bread and wine, to the Lord's altar, so that God may consecrate us and our gifts, and accomplish the two-fold purpose of all liturgical action: the sanctification of souls and the glorification of God.



St. Richardis

September 18

Richardis was the daughter of the Count of Alsace. At the age of twenty-two, she married Charles the Fat. Nineteen years later, in 881, she and Charles were crowned Empress and Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire by Pope John VIII in Rome.

Some years later, Charles accused Richardis of infidelity, suspecting her of being involved with the Bishop of Vermicelli. Richards denied the charge, and at her insistence she underwent trial by fire, which she passed.

Richardis then left Charles and became a nun at Hohenburg. Later, she founded the abbey of Andlau and stayed there until her death around 895.

PRAYER: O God, You are the light of the world, and all truth rests in You. Through the example and intercession of Your servant St. Richardis, teach us to courageously bear the cross of slander and injustice in our regard. This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

From: Lives of the Saints, Vol II. Catholic Book Publishing Corp.



The ORTHODOX OBLATES OF SAINT BENEDICT NEWSLETTER is published by the Orthodox Oblates of Saint Benedict of Saint Michael Orthodox Christian Church, Whittier, CA. Our Spiritual Director is Archpriest Father Stephen Herney; the Secretary is Subdeacon Michael Perkins; the Publisher is Wilfrid (Brondt) Kamffer. ICONS: Exaltation of the Holy Cross; The Archangels; St. Richardis and Herrat; Trial of St. Richardis.

ORTHODOX OBLATES OF SAINT BENEDICT
SAINT MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH
3333 WORKMAN MILL ROAD

THE NEXT MONTHLY RETREAT
September 12, 2015
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

OFFICIANT: Deacon Lazarus
CANTOR: Subdeacon Michael
READER: Wilfrid
MEDITATION: ???

LUNCHEON LIST

MAIN COURSE: Ben
DRINKS: Ross
BREAD: Patty
FRUIT: Linda
SALAD: David

**OBLATES INTERCESSION LIST
FOR HEALING**

SEPT 2015

X	RON
	BARBARA
X	UNCLE EDDIE
X	FR. GABRIEL
	PHIL
	PATRICIA
X	SAMIA
X	SDN. MICHAEL
X	ELA
X	CHRISTIAN
	NICKY

GENERAL

	JASON
X	BRONDT & GRACE
X	ST. GEORGE THE GREAT MARTYR ORTHODOX CHURCH (OCA)
X	BEN
X	READER MOSES
X	RICO
X	SDN. JOSEPH
X	MARY LUTZ
	NANCY FOSTER
	DOROTHY PORTER

X	METROPOLITAN JOSEPH
	ORTHODOX OBLATES OF ST. BENEDICT
	PAINTING THE INTERIOR OF THE CHURCH
	ALL BATTERED CHILDREN
	WOUNDED MILITARY
	ALL PRIESTS IN THE CHURCH
	ALL CLERGY WIVES
	ALL CHRISTIANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST
	SYRIAN ORPHANS
	THOSE CAUGHT IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING
	ALL WHO WORK IN SPACE

R.I.P.

X	METROPOLITAN PHILLIP
X	ARCHIMANDRITE MICHAEL
X	KH. NANCY LEE DOWNING
X	SDN. JOHN BORLAND
X	FR. BRENDON
	MICHAEL LUTZ
	CHESTER PERKINS
	MARION FOSTER