

From the Heights: Monastic Musings from the Mountains

Candlemas, 2017

Volume IV, Issue 1

Clothed in Priesthood and Prophecy

Accordingly, the Son came to the servant; not that the Son might be presented by the servant, but that by the Son the servant might present to His Lord Priesthood and Prophecy, to be laid up with Him. For prophecy and priesthood, which were given through Moses, were handed down, both of them, and reached to Simeon. For he was a pure vessel, who sanctified himself that he might be like Moses, capable for both of them. There are small vessels which are capable for great gifts. There are gifts for which one is capable, by reason of their grace; yet many are not capable for them, by reason of their greatness.

Thus, then, Simeon presented our Lord, and in Him offered both these things; so that that which was given to Moses in the wilderness, was received from Simeon in the Temple. But seeing that our Lord is the vessel wherein all fulness dwells, when Simeon was offering Him before God, he poured over Him as a drink-offering those two gifts, priesthood from His

hands and prophecy from His lips. Priesthood continued to oil the hands of Simeon, because of his purifications; and prophecy dwelt in operation upon his lips, because of revelations. When then these two powers saw Him who was Lord of both, they two united together and poured themselves into the vessel that was capable of both; that could contain priesthood and kingdom and prophecy.

That Infant then, who was wrapped in swaddling clothes, because of His graciousness, clothed Himself in priesthood and prophecy because of His Majesty. For Simeon clothed Him in these, and gave Him to her who had wrapped Him in swaddling clothes. For when he gave Him to His mother, he gave along with Him the priesthood; and when he prophesied to her concerning Him, This Child is set for the fall and rising again, he gave prophecy also with Him.

— *St Ephrem the Syrian*
(d. 373 A.D.),
“*Homily on Our Lord.*”

In this Issue:

<i>A Light to Lighten the Gentiles</i>	1
<i>Art... for God's Sake</i>	1
<i>Our Times are in Thy Hand</i>	2
<i>Book Now — Book Early!</i>	3
<i>News and Events</i>	3
<i>Oblate Corner</i>	4
<i>How to Help</i>	4



Almighty and everliving God, we humbly beseech thy majesty: that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in substance of our flesh; so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts. Through the same Jesus Christ thy Son, Our Lord: Who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

— *Collect of Candlemas Day, Rite of St. Tikhon*



Our times are in thy hand (Ps 31:17)

What do monks and nuns do all day? On one level, this familiar question could be answered differently from one monastery to another. But, at a deeper level, the answer is the same no matter what the particular schedule or work of a given monastery might be: To seek and to serve God in all we do, in each other, and in all who come to visit us for reflection and renewal.

St. Benedict provides for a balance of corporate and personal prayer, work, reading, and rest throughout each day. Although at Our Lady & Saint Laurence we have, for good reason, modified the specific schedule laid out in the Holy *Rule*, we nonetheless strive to live according to the spirit of what our Holy Father wrote.

Here is our basic schedule from the beginning of Advent through the beginning of Lent.

Sundays & Solemnities <i>When on campus.</i>		Monday: Desert Day	Tuesday		Wednesday -- Saturday	
Matins	7:00 am	<i>Reading, prayer, recreation; Offices and meals in private; only necessary work required.</i>	Matins	6:00 am	Matins	6:00 am
<i>Lectio Divina</i>	7:45 am		Liturgy	6:50 am	Liturgy	6:50 am
Chapter	8:30 am		<i>Lectio Divina</i>	7:30 am	<i>Lectio Divina</i>	7:30 am
Liturgy	9:00 am		Chapter	8:30 am	Chapter	8:30 am
Brunch	11:00 am		Work or Shopping	9:00 am	Work	9:00 am
Sext	12:00 pm		Sext	12:00 pm	Sext	12:00 pm
Free Time	12:15 pm		Dinner	12:30 pm	Dinner	12:30 pm
			Rest	1:15 pm	Rest	1:15 pm
			Work	2:15 pm	Work	2:15 pm
Afternoon Tea	4:15 pm		Afternoon Tea	4:15 pm	Afternoon Tea	4:15 pm
Vespers	5:00 pm	Vespers	5:00 pm	Vespers	5:00 pm	
Free Time	5:45 pm	Supper & Work or Free Time	5:45 pm	Supper & Work or Free Time	5:45 pm	
Compline <i>(In Private)</i>		6:30 pm: Compline	Compline	6:30 pm	Compline	6:30 pm



News and Events



*St Laurence Center
Fremont County,
Colorado*

Dec. 27—Jan. 10: The Monastery welcomed Stavrophore Nun Olga, of St. Barbara Monastery (OCA), Santa Paula, CA, for a visit. Mother Olga is currently residing in Wichita Falls, TX, and assisting at St. Benedict Parish (Antiochian Western-rite), her home congregation. She hopes to return for another visit in the springtime.

Feb. 6-11: At the request of BFSL Executive Director, Fr. John C. Connely, Prior Theodore will attend the annual DOWAMA Clergy Symposium in order to assist with driving and staffing the Lancelot Andrewes Press booth.

March 1: ASH WEDNESDAY, the beginning of Western Orthodox Lent. The Retreat Center will be closed to short-term guests from today through Monday, March 6th.

March 17-20: Prior Theodore will be in Omaha, NE, leading a Lenten Retreat at St. Vincent of Lerins Orthodox Church. While there he will be spending time with the group of oblates who are parishioners at St. Vincent's.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SUMMER 2017: The Fourth Annual Oblate Retreat will be held from July 8 — 12th; the Fifth Annual St. Laurence Pilgrimage will be held from August 11th — 13th. Both will take place at the St. Laurence Center.

Book Now — Book Early!

Now is the time to make reservations for the 2017 group retreat season!

The St. Laurence Center is an ideal place for gatherings such as parish councils, youth groups, adult education seminars, clergy-staff planning meetings, and more.

Our rates are very reasonable and there are several available options for lowering costs. For more information, please check out our web site or contact us at:

Guestmaster@saintlaruenceosb.org



Visit us on the Web:

www.saintlaurenceosb.org

The Oblate Corner: Reflections on Benedictine Life in the World



Oblate life calls us to continually seek God and to open ourselves to radical change (“ongoing conversion”), as we strive to turn to God in all things. When thinking of the word *radical*, think of the word *radix*. They both come from the Latin word *radix*, “root.” Oblates are to be radical Christians, rooted in Christ, his Orthodox Catholic Church, and in our Monastery, watered and nourished by the Scriptures as interpreted in the *Rule* of St Benedict.

By making our oblation we bind (promise) ourselves to God in relationship with a specific Monastery. We pray that we may live in patient stability of heart, being rooted in one place in stable dedication to our Monastery. This promise of stability is our anchor. Held fast by this anchor, through faithful participation in the Work of God (*Opus Dei*) and prayerful reading (*lectio divina*), we open ourselves to continual conversion according to the covenant to which we were originally called in Holy Baptism and for which we were anointed by Holy Chrismation .

Therefore, let us listen for the voice of God and respond with a willing heart, placing His will over selfish impulses. Let us seek more of Christ in our lives, “preferring nothing to Christ,” as St. Benedict insists. And let us lift up our eyes to Christ, seeking his image in all, and holding our hearts forever in the presence of God. *Sr. Stephania, Obl.SB, Director of Oblates*

How you can help!

- Pray for the Monastery’s well being, growth in holiness, and vocations.
- Schedule individual or group retreats at St. Laurence Center or to invite Prior Theodore as a speaker or guest preacher.
- Register with **Amazon Smile** for your online purchases, and designate the Benedictine Fellowship of St Laurence as the beneficiary of their support for non-profits.
- Give [Lancelot Andrewes Press](#) icons or books as gifts.
- Donate towards the support of the St. Laurence Center and/or the Monastery.
- Consider purchasing a plot in the St. Laurence Cemetery.

Contact: priory@saintlaurenceosb.org

Special Needs:

- We are hoping to purchase a high-quality, programmable digital bell system for the Monastery. The anticipated cost, depending on which system were to be purchased, would be between \$4,000 and \$5,000 dollars: *we have so far received one pledge towards this goal*. We welcome the participation of both individuals and groups in this effort, and welcome suggestions for raising the necessary funds.

The **Benedictine Fellowship of Saint Laurence** is a non-profit corporation established for religious and charitable purposes. All donations are tax deductible. It was founded to promote monastic life, spiritual renewal, and worship according to the traditions of Orthodox Catholic Christianity, under the inspiration of the *Rule of Saint Benedict*. The Fellowship operates a retreat center where people can seek renewal through combining worship, contemplation, and work.

The **Monastery of Our Lady and Saint Laurence** is a canonical monastery of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, Western Rite Vicariate. The monks and nuns live according to the ancient *Rule of St. Benedict* on the Fellowship’s 600-acre campus in the Rocky Mountains.

4076 Cabin Creek Road
Cañon City, CO 81212
719-371-6345
priory@saintlaurenceosb.org



Active in Prayer and Prayerful in Action