

## Oblate Meetings and Retreats

Over the years, oblate programs have fallen into a fairly stable pattern. However, the pattern is not unchangeable, and suggestions for changes or for meeting new needs are welcome. At the time of writing (September, 2002) the following schedule was in effect. Meetings dates are published in both the Link and in the Desert Chronicle.

Meetings:

Boise/Treasure Valley.

Meetings have long been held in Boise on Friday evenings at about six-week intervals from September through June. The meeting usually is structured somewhat as follows:

6:30 Vespers

6:45-7:45 Potluck Supper

7:45-8:45 Talk or discussion

8:45 Compline

The meetings are held at St. Paul's Student Center. One of the Boise oblates sends out notices for the meeting and, when necessary, coordinates the potluck. Once a year, usually in January, there is a day of recollection at St. Paul's on a Saturday from 10:00 am - 2:30 pm, which includes a potluck lunch.

Idaho Falls.

Meetings are held in Idaho Falls five or six times from September to June, usually on Saturday mornings from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm, at Freddie Nikoloff's house: 3315 Southwick Lane, Idaho Falls. The meetings usually follow this format: talk-discussion, noon prayer, potluck lunch, talk-discussion.

Magic Valley.

Meetings are held at the monastery on a number of Friday evenings. The usual schedule is

5:30 Vespers with the monks

6:00 Potluck supper

7:00 Talk-discussion

8:00 Night Prayer with the monks

Unity, OR.

When Fr. Hugh stays at Unity, he gives some talks for the oblates there.

Annual Picnic at the Monastery

In mid-July there is a Sunday afternoon potluck picnic for oblates and those interested. The afternoon includes the picnic, a talk, music and Vespers

## Retreats

There are about four retreats a year: one at the end of the first week of Lent, two in August and one in early November. Oblate retreats begin with night prayer on Friday evening at 8:00 pm, followed by a conference. Those who wish to come earlier for dinner should let the oblate director know. On Saturday there are usually three conferences, an opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation, as well as liturgy of the hours with the monks. On Sunday morning there is Eucharist, a final talk, before the retreat ends with lunch. Those interested in becoming oblates are encouraged to attend the August retreats, where there are special introductory presentations about the oblates. Non-oblates are welcome to attend any of these retreats.