



THE BENEDICTINE OBLATE NEWSLETTER

Westminster Abbey

P.O. Box 3310, Mission, B. C., Canada V2V 4J5 November 2022

Dear Oblates and Friends of the Abbey,

The Fall has been filled with numerous events but the highlight of the season was the celebration of the Abbatial Blessing of Father Alban Riley on September 14th, the Triumph of the Holy Cross. The Oblates ensured the sweetness of the day by supplying cakes for the monks and baked goods for the reception; many thanks to all those who contributed. Other festivities included the Solemn Profession of Brothers Isidore McDonald and John Bruneau on September 4th, followed on September 8th by the temporary profession of our Novice, Frater Isaac Mack, who took the name Charles de Foucauld. Novice Agostino Pizzolato also began his novitiate.

We were encouraged to receive a number of postulants in August, and we currently have five: Jonathan Ulanicki, Charles Testa, Daniel Kim, Michael Savritski and Dominic Cummings. Please continue to pray for our community, for vocations and for fidelity to the Christ in this School of the Lord's Service.

New faces in choir will not be the only changes that people notice when they visit the Abbey Church. On September 15th, the day after the Abbatial Blessing, the choir stalls were removed from the Church so that a new installation of 45 stalls could commence. The previous choir stalls were built fifty years ago; in fact, looking back at the June 1972 edition of the *Oblate Newsletter* we read:

"Work has been going on during the past month in the abbey church. The 41 choir stalls will replace the stalls and benches which were built in Burnaby and have done some 30 years of service. They are equipped with permanent kneelers and have ample shelf space for choir books, meditation books, etc. They also have rubber bumpers to prevent the seats from making noise when put up and down."

Reporting on the Seminary: both Minor and Major Seminaries opened on schedule in September with 35 boys in the Minor Seminary and 8 young men in the Major Seminary, which includes College and Theology. We are able to fill all the teaching duties with the help of ten highly qualified and generous volunteer teachers in various disciplines. We are always on the lookout for volunteer teachers that the Lord might be inviting to assist us in our work for the Church.

While there have been a steady stream of people seeking to become Lay Oblates, the following Oblates have passed away and we ask your prayers for them and for the consolation of their families:

† Don Render (August 12, 2020) & Nancy Render (November 14, 2020)

† Michaela Vetter (July 17, 2022)

† Mark Ruelle (September 8, 2022)

† Arthur Walton (October 3, 2022)

The guesthouse reopened earlier this year and the weekends are now providing opportunities for Benedictine hospitality to groups. The lay oblate group is also meeting in person again on the third Sunday of the month beginning at 3PM. The group continues to work its way through the Study Guide written by the Abbess emerita of St. Walburga's Abbey in Colorado. The next Oblate Sundays will be November 20th (topic: Hospitality), December 16th (topic: Sleeping Arrangements), January 15th (Meals in the Rule of St. Benedict).

Our parting word to our Oblates and friends is attached in our Oblate Newsletter Supplement. It is a selection from Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter "*Desiderio desideravi*" and reminds us that liturgy is primarily about creating space for the Other, opening ourselves to formation and allowing ourselves to be formed by it.

Yours in Christ,
The Oblate Directors