

## PRAYER FOR A HOLY LIFE

Lord, Thou chose Saint Benedict to follow Thee and made him the founder of a great religious family in Thy church. Help me, through his intercession, to choose the vocation Thou hast destined for me and to follow it with generosity, steadfastness and courage all the days of my life. May the spirit of Saint Benedict inspire me to prefer nothing to Thee, to lead a life of prayer, to form myself on Thy word and to labor for the salvation of all people. I ask this of Thee, Lord Jesus, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

Lord Jesus, guide and protector of all those who serve in Thy holy church, inspire the hearts and minds of the young men of the faithful to service at thy altars. Bless and protect all acolytes and readers; granting to them a sense of Thy presence and a commitment to Holy Service.

Bless with spiritual vision all Priests, Deacons and Sub-Deacons as they stand in Thy service and in the midst of Thy people. Amen

**THE NEXT MONTHLY RETREAT IS JULY 13th  
BEGINNING 10:00AM**

**OFFICIANT  
CANTOR  
READER**

**DEACON STEPHEN  
SUB DEACON THOMAS  
SAMIA HABIB**

**MAIN COURSE  
DRINK  
SALAD  
DESERT  
SNACKS**

**BENEDICT GIRARD  
BISHOP ANTHONY  
JOSEPH BROWN  
SAMIA HABIB  
SUB DEACON LAZARUS**

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 ,Editor Publisher is Sub Deacon Michael Perkins. Address all mail to :

ORTHODOX OBLATES OF SAINT BENEDICT  
SAINT MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
3333 WORKMAN MILL ROAD  
WHITTIER, CA 90601  
[Stmichaelwhittier.org](http://Stmichaelwhittier.org)

ON THE COVER: THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST



**ORTHODOX OBLATES  
OF  
SAINT BENEDICT  
NEWSLETTER  
JUNE 2013**

Next month, July 13th, we will be receiving two new oblates, Joseph Brown and Benedict Girard. They will be stepping into the gap left by three of our most senior oblates, Deacon Stephen Holley and Mary Patty Holley and Sub Deacon Thomas Llizo. Sub Deacon Thomas, long the stabilizing cantor voice in our chanting of the offices, will be moving to another state to begin a new job.



And Deacon and Mary will be moving to Romania in October of this year to begin a new ministry. We will miss their presence and their service. They have been a part of the oblates work for many years. May God bless them in their new work.



## Service

No one is excused from rendering personal service to others. No one is exempted from performing the mundane tasks of daily life. Rendering service to others is necessary to our own fitness. Exempting someone from commonplace chores endangers them to vanity.

If one has special talents, they should be used for the benefit of the group or of other individuals. On no account should one's talents be cause for vanity. If egotism results from the exercise of a gift, the practice of that talent should cease until it no longer results in hubris.

The use of goods and talents primarily for oneself is incompatible with humility. Humility is the key that unlocks the universe. Living life as if the pursuit of goods and recognition is its purpose, destroys it.

Putting oneself at the center of existence isolates oneself from the real, which is beyond meanings. We are not the purpose of the cosmos. The great unknown and transcendent mystery is its own purpose.

We should share in labor and take turns in service. As a task is handed from one to another, approval and thanks should also be passed from one to another, so that good will and blessings are distributed with the work.

We must care for the sick and visit them. We should deal with them patiently, seeking, through our attention to their need, to practice the art of caring. We must recognize that attending the sick provides an opportunity for us to enter into a fuller dimension of fruitful life.

Those of us who are sick should consider that our experience is a part of incomprehensible reality, and that it is our task and opportunity to make the encounter with illness serve an exalted function. Those who lead must ensure that the sick are not neglected.

