

Douai Oblate

May 2008 No 30

SECOND INTERNATIONAL OBLATES CONGRESS 2009

The second world Congress of Benedictine Oblates will take place in Rome from Friday October 2 to Saturday October 10, 2009. Only thirteen places have been allocated to Great Britain and Ireland: we have been allotted ONE place. If you would like to go please let Fr Gervase know before **May 31**, this year, then we shall hold a ballot to decide who gets the place. That person will then be sent a booking form.

The total cost will be 800 euros, excluding travel costs. A non-refundable deposit of 150 euros will be required before August 1 this year. In addition there will be a charge of approximately £7 for international bank transfers and administration.

The cost covers full board from supper on October 2 until breakfast on October 10, accommodation in twin rooms, meals, transport and all activities foreseen in the programme. A limited number of single rooms will be available at a supplementary cost of 15 euros per day. If you would like a single room please indicate this on your booking form, and also any special dietary requirements.

Participants will be responsible for making their own travel arrangements, but they will be met at the airport in Rome.

As the exchange rate between sterling and euro is fluctuating wildly, it is not possible to give the cost in sterling at present.

As an extra, at additional cost, payable in Rome, a tour to Subiaco will be organised. ◇

‘The religious challenges of today – The Benedictine answer’.

This is the theme of the second World Congress of Oblates which will take place in Rome from the October 2 - 10, 2009. The congress will be held at the Salesianum (www.salesianum.it) which is about 20 kms from Rome’s Leonardo da Vinci airport at Fiumicino.

The Congress will have five main elements. The primary emphasis will be on the celebration of the liturgy and prayer, an emphasis which was much appreciated at the first Congress. In order to intensify the encounter with the Word of God, two prayer-vigils are being planned, one ecumenical and another of an inter-religious character.

To help us articulate and address the pressing religious challenges of today, three conferences will provide material for reflection, approaching the subject from the points of view of contemplation, communion and mission. An important contribution will also be made by the testimony of three lay oblates.

Given the theme of the Congress, a central role will be played by the panel-discussion to which participants from the Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist traditions will be invited. An expert on the current kaleidoscope of ‘emerging religions’ will also be invited.

Discussion-groups, organized according to language, will give the opportunity to respond to and deepen the impulses and suggestions arising from these interventions.

We have asked and are earnestly hoping for an audience with Pope Benedict XVI.

The Congress would not be complete without a visit the Abbey of Montecassino, cradle of Benedictine monasticism and it is foreseen that all will join in this. In contrast, a visit to the monastery of Subiaco with the Sacro Speco will be voluntary and confined to those who reserve a place at the beginning of the Congress. This visit will be billed separately from the rest of the Congress, the cost being determined by the number of participants registering.

Much consideration has been given to the matter of free time, in order to provide opportunities to visit the Eternal City. It is our hope that all will join in the visit to the Primate Abbey of Sant’Anselmo where we will celebrate Vespers and have the chance to listen to a flute-recital given by the Abbot Primate, Dom Notker Wolf, OSB.

To emphasize and create a continuity with the first Congress there will be a screening of the film, ‘The First World Congress of Benedictine Oblates’, which was commissioned by the National Coordinating Council of Italian Benedictine Oblates. This will give an opportunity to experience the most important events of the first Congress.

The organising committee

This page has been downloaded from the website: www.benedictine-oblates.org ◇

National Retreats for Oblates

As you know, at a meeting of oblate directors last year, it was decided to hold two retreats at Douai which would be open to oblates from all the communities, so that there would be opportunity for oblates from different communities to meet each other. So our retreats which had previously been scheduled for December this year were cancelled, and replaced by two, to be given by Mgr Richard Moth, an oblate of Pluscarden Abbey, Scotland, on the theme "The Oblate Vocation - Response to a Call". They will provide an opportunity for participants to explore the nature of the Oblate Vocation, including the place of Obedience, Stability and *Conversatio Morum* in their lives. The dates are: Monday December 1 to Wednesday 3 or Friday December 12 - Sunday 14, 2008. There is a recommended cost for the waged of £70.

So that each community has a fair representation we are inviting oblates to apply before September 1 and then we can decide how many from each community will be able to attend. There is the possibility of being day participants, but there will be a maximum of thirty for each retreat.

If you would like to attend please fill in the form on the next page and mail it or apply by email to douaiabbey@aol.com

Other News

The Oblates Handbook which is being published jointly by Canterbury Press and Liturgical Press is making good progress. All the articles, except one, which is being written this week, have arrived, and copy editing has begun. The book should be published at the end of September and we hope to have a launch at Douai. You will be kept informed about this.

Recently there have been an extraordinary number of enquiries from people interested in becoming oblates, four separate ones last weekend, so we can look forward to seeing new faces at our retreats and chapter meetings in the coming months. ◇

Dates for forthcoming retreats

This year:

Mon 16 - Wed 18 June
Fri 11 - Sun 13 July (fully booked)
Fri 26 - Sun 28 September
Mon 27 - Wed 29 October

Next year 2009

Fri 20 - Sun 22 March 2009
Mon 11 - Wed 13 May 2009
Fri 17 - Sun 19 July 2009
Mon 21 - Wed 23 September 2009
Fri 30 October - Sun 1 November 2009
Mon 7 - Wed 9 December 2009

If you are booked for a retreat and are unable to come, please let us know as early as possible, as someone else might be waiting for a place. ◇

Douai Oblate is the Newsletter for the Oblates of Douai Abbey. It is published at Douai Abbey, Upper Woolhampton, Reading, Berks, RG7 5TQ. *phone* 0118 971 5333 *e-mail* douaioblate@aol.com
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“The Oblate Vocation—Response to a Call”

This retreat, guided by Mgr Richard Moth, oblate of Pluscarden Abbey is open to oblates from any Benedictine or Cistercian Monastery in the British Isles and will provide an opportunity for participants to explore the nature of the Oblate Vocation, including the place of Obedience, Stability and *Conversatio Morum* in the life of the Oblate

Monday December 1 - Wednesday 3
or Friday December 12 to Sunday 14,

The recommended cost for the waged residential retreatants is £70. It is also possible to take part in the retreat by coming in each day, for which the recommended cost is £30.

BOOKING FORM

Name

Address

..... Postcode

Phone Email

I would like to take part Dec 1 - 3 residential commuter

I would like to take part Dec 12 - 14 residential commuter

If there are insufficient places remaining on my preferred dates I would like to take part on the alternative date

Special dietary requirements

Please send this information to Fr Gervase at Douai by September 1. by post or by email to douaiabbey@aol.com