



ORDER OF MARY THEOTOKOS  
[WWW.ECC-USA.ORG/OMT.HTML](http://WWW.ECC-USA.ORG/OMT.HTML)

## OMT – CONTEMPLATIVE ORDER

MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORDER OF MARY THEOTOKOS IS INTENDED TO BE A UNIQUE DEDICATION OF PRAYER AND DAILY LIVING FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD (THE THEOTOKOS).

THE ORDER IS PRIMARILY CONTEMPLATIVE, THAT IS, AN ORDER WITH PRAYER AS ITS MAIN FOCUS. MEMBERS PRAY EACH DAY IN ADORATION OF ALMIGHTY GOD AND JESUS CHRIST AND THEY VENERATE MARY FOR HER KEY ROLE IN GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION. ALTHOUGH THE PREFERRED DAILY PRAYER FOR THE OMT BROTHER AND SISTER IS THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS (IN THE ABBREVIATED FORM PRESENTED IN THE *MAGNIFICAT* BOOKLET), OTHER SYSTEMS OF PRAYER AND MEDITATION ARE ACCEPTABLE.

THE OMT HAS NO MONASTERY AND THUS HAS NO TRADITIONAL MONASTIC COMMUNITY. BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF THE ORDER ARE UNITED IN THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER AND THROUGH THE VIRTUAL PRESENCE OF OUR INTERNET E-GROUP.

OMT BROTHERS AND SISTERS LIVE IN THE WORLD IN THEIR OWN HOMES AND WITH THEIR OWN JOBS AND FAMILIES. WITHIN THIS CONTEXT THEY DEVOTE TIME EACH DAY TO COME TO THEIR PRAYER ALTAR AND TURN OVER THEIR LIVES IN IMITATION OF MARY'S WORSHIP AND PRAYER AS SHE BROUGHT JESUS INTO OUR WORLD.

### Mark your Calendar

#### IMPORTANT OMT DATES

#### YOUR PROFESSION DATES

YOU MUST REMEMBER TO REQUEST FIRST & FINAL PROFESSION DOCUMENTS FROM THE ABBOT.

#### ECC+USA 2008 SYNOD

THE 2008 ECUMENICAL CATHOLIC CHURCH +USA SYNOD WILL BE HELD IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI ON FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24-26, 2008. ALL OMT MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. SPECIAL OMT PROGRAMS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE SYNOD IF AT LEAST FOUR OMT BROTHERS AND SISTERS ATTEND. ADDITIONAL DETAILS LATER.

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## OMT - SECULAR ORDER

JUST AS MARY BROUGHT HER SON, JESUS, INTO HER DAILY LIFE, SO THE OMT BROTHER AND SISTER SHOULD STRIVE TO BRING JESUS AND HIS MESSAGE OF LOVING GOD AND NEIGHBOR INTO HIS/HER DAILY LIFE.

IN AS MUCH AS LOVE ALWAYS FLOWS FROM THE HEART TO ACTION, SO THE OMT BROTHER AND SISTER'S LOVE OF MARY SHOULD FLOW INTO THE OPPORTUNITIES OF MAKING GOD'S CREATION INTO A MORE LOVE CENTERED WORLD. THE GOAL OF THE OMT IS TO BRING "ALL THINGS TOGETHER IN CHRIST" AND

WITH CHRIST TO BUILD THIS WORLD, BRICK BY BRICK, UNTIL CHRIST TAKES WHAT WE TOGETHER HAVE BUILT AND RAISES IT UP TO THE ALMIGHTY FATHER AS THE BEST FRUITS OF OUR LABOR.

THE CONTEMPLATIVE MARY IS OUR EXAMPLE. HER LIFE WAS DEDICATED TO PRAYER AND SHE WORKED TO BUILD GOD'S KINGDOM ON EARTH. HOW WE DO THAT IS FOR EACH OF US TO DETERMINE AS OUR AUTHENTIC RESPONSE TO OPPORTUNITIES OF LOVE WHICH COME OUR WAY EACH DAY..



MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
CONTINUED..

ON THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL FEAST DAYS OF MARY, OMT BROTHERS AND SISTERS ARE ASKED TO OFFER THEIR PRAYER ESPECIALLY FOR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ORDER, THEIR SPECIAL SPIRITUAL NEEDS, AND FOR WORLD PEACE.

JAN 1 –  
MARY, MOTHER OF GOD.  
MAR 25 –  
THE ANNUNCIATION  
MAY 31 –  
THE VISITATION  
AUG 15 –  
THE ASSUMPTION  
SEPT 8 –  
BIRTH OF MARY  
SEPT 15 –  
OUR LADY OF SORROWS  
NOV 21 –  
THE PRESENTATION  
DEC 8 –  
CONCEPTION OF MARY

THE OFFICIAL FEAST DAYS OF THE ECUMENICAL CATHOLIC CHURCH+USA ARE POSTED EACH DAY ON THE FIRST PAGE OF THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE ([WWW.ECC-USA.ORG](http://WWW.ECC-USA.ORG)). THE CHURCH CALENDAR COMBINES FEASTS FROM SEVERAL CATHOLIC FAITH TRADITIONS.

THE ORDER OF MARY THEOTOKOS IS A MINISTRY OF THE ECUMENICAL CATHOLIC CHURCH+USA. PROFESSED MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL MEN AND WOMEN OF FAITH, MARRIED OR SINGLE, REGARDLESS OF THEIR DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION.

## BUILDING THE VIRTUAL COMMUNITY

SOME OMT BROTHERS AND SISTERS MAY WANT TO GO BEYOND THE BASIC OMT CONTEMPLATIVE AND SECULAR MODEL AND WORK TO BUILD COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS. HERE ARE SOME IDEAS THAT WERE PASSED ON TO THE ABBOT.

- ❖ FINDING A PRAYER PARTNER TO SHARE AND PRAY WITH ON A REGULAR BASIS EITHER BY PHONE OR CHAT VIA THE INTERNET.

- ❖ FORMING A TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL GROUP TO PRAY AND DISCUSS SPIRITUAL TOPICS AND PERHAPS TO DEVELOP A COMMUNITY ACTIVITY.

ANYONE INTERESTED IN ASSUMING A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN SUCH EFFORTS TOWARD COMMUNITY, SHOULD CONTACT THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS THROUGH THE E-GROUP TO DETERMINE INTEREST.

## LOOKING AHEAD

FROM THE ABBOT....

*WHEN IN 2005 I ASKED THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE VILATTE INSTITUTE IF THEY WOULD SUPPORT THE FORMATION OF THE OMT, I RECEIVED THEIR POSITIVE INTEREST AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT ... WITH ONLY ONE EXPRESSED CONCERN. THAT CONCERN WAS WHO WILL PROVIDE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP AFTER YOU?*

*HAVING JUST CELEBRATED MY 70<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, I AM BEGINNING TO FEEL THE RELEVANCE OF THAT QUESTION. WHO WILL TAKE OVER?*

*SO, I AM HOPING BY THE END OF 2008 TO TURN THE OMT*

*OVER TO OUR FIRST PRIOR OR PRIORESS. AFTER THAT I WOULD CONTINUE AS ABBOT FOR ANOTHER YEAR OR SO AND FINALLY BLESS AND INSTALL OUR NEW ABBOT OR ABBESS.*

*(BY THE WAY, I AM MOVING TO HAND OVER ALL MY MINISTRIES BY MY RETIREMENT FROM A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN MINISTRY BEFORE MY 75<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY IN 2012. PROVIDING, OF COURSE, THAT THE LORD LETS ME WORK THAT LONG.)*

*I HOPE THAT EACH OMT MEMBER WILL OPEN HIS/HER HEART TO THE PROMPTINGS OF THE SPIRIT. ARE YOU WILLING TO SERVE? LET ME KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS. +CARL*

## GIFTS TO THE ORDER

*FROM THE ABBOT.... WHEN I WAS IN THE SEMINARY, BACK IN 1955-63, I BELONGED TO THE LEGION OF MARY. WE HAD A CUSTOM AT THE END OF EACH MEETING TO PASS AROUND A BLACK BAG AND EVERYONE PUT HIS HAND IN THE BAG AND, IF HE COULD, HE WOULD DROP IN A FEW COINS TO HELP PAY THE EXPENSES OF THE ORGANIZATION. NO ONE KNEW WHO GAVE OR NOT.*

*AN OMT SISTER ASKED ME RECENTLY IF WE HAD DUES. NO, WE DON'T. MEMBERSHIP IS TOTALLY FREE. BUT, BECAUSE WE DO HAVE SOME EXPENSES INCLUDING POSTAGE, PRINTING, AND WEBSITE COSTS, IF WE WERE ALL IN THE SAME ROOM, WE WOULD PASS THE BLACK BAG AND ASK EVERYONE TO PUT THEIR HAND IN AND IF THEY COULD, DROP A FEW COINS OR DOLLARS.*

*SO, HERE COMES THE BLACK BAG. IF YOU WISH TO HELP DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF YOUR ORDER, YOU CAN SEND AN ANONYMOUS BILL OR UNSIGNED MONEY ORDER OR, IF YOU WISH A TAX DEDUCTION, A CHECK TO: OMT, 1110 WHISPERING PINES DRIVE, OFALLON MO 63368. THANK YOU. +CARL*