



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

## OMT – THE ANNUAL REPORT

### 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.  
SEE ARTICLE FOR  
REGISTRATION DETAILS.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE.

THE RULE OF THE ORDER OF MARY THEOTOKOS REQUIRES THAT EACH MEMBER "SUBMIT THE ANNUAL REPORT AND MAINTAIN AT LEAST SEMI-ANNUAL CONTACT WITH THE PASTORAL DIRECTOR OF THE OMT."

THAT DIRECTIVE IS A PRUDENT RECOGNITION OF TWO IMPORTANT REALITIES FOR OMT MEMBERS:

FIRST, THE RULE RECOGNIZES THAT EACH MEMBER IS ON HIS/HER OWN SPIRITUAL JOURNEY AND EACH IS ENTITLED TO UNIQUELY LIVE THEIR LIVES AS MEMBERS OF THE ORDER. WHEN THE ORDER WAS FOUNDED IN 2005, IT WAS A VERY DELIBERATE DECISION TO PROVIDE LITTLE OUTSIDE STRUCTURE TO THE DAILY LIFE OF THE OMT BROTHER AND SISTER. THIS IS SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT THAN TRADITIONAL RELIGIOUS ORDERS WHICH TYPICALLY HAVE CONTROLLED ALMOST EVERY MINUTE OF ITS

MEMBERSHIP: RISING TIME, PRAYERS TIMES, MEAL TIMES, RECREATION TIMES, AND RETIRING TIME AT THE END OF THE DAY. AS A RELIGIOUS ORDER OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD, THE OMT HAS STUDIOUSLY AVOIDED THAT LEVEL OF CONTROL.

SECOND, ON THE OTHER HAND, THE RULE RECOGNIZES THAT BEING A MEMBER OF AN ORDER DOES REQUIRE A CERTAIN LEVEL OF ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE ORDER SO THAT MEN AND WOMEN WHO CALL THEMSELVES OMT BROTHERS AND SISTERS ARE ACTUALLY TRYING TO LIVE THE LIFE OF SPECIAL DEDICATION TO MARY.

THE "ANNUAL REPORT" IS YOUR YEARLY DESCRIPTION SENT IN CONFIDENCE TO THE ORDER'S PASTORAL DIRECTOR (AKA, ABBOT, PRIOR) THAT DESCRIBES HONESTLY AND OPENLY HOW YOU ARE LIVING YOUR LIFE AS AN ORDER MEMBER.

## ANNUAL REPORT FORMAT

THERE IS NO FORMAL DOCUMENT THAT NEEDS TO BE USED FOR THE OMT ANNUAL REPORT. BASICALLY, THE REPORT IS A SIMPLE LETTER (EMAIL IS OK) TO THE ABBOT WHICH COVERS THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

**I. INFORMATION UPDATE:**  
NAME, ADDRESS, EMAIL ADDRESS.

**II. PRAYER LIFE:** WHAT DAILY PRAYERS DO YOU SAY? DO YOU HAVE AN ALTAR OR PRAYER SPACE? WHAT PRAYER BOOK DO YOU USE FOR THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS? HOW OFTEN DO YOU READ THE MASS PRAYERS? IS THE ROSARY A PART OF YOUR DAILY PRAYERS.

**III. COMMUNICATION:** HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU RESPONDED BACK TO POSTINGS ON THE OMT EGROUP? DO YOU RESPOND TO PRAYER REQUESTS BY GIVING A HEALING OR COMPASSIONATE WORD AND PROMISE OF PRAYERS TO THE REQUESTER?

HAVE YOU MADE POSTINGS OF HOLYDAY GREETINGS TO YOUR FELLOW OMT MEMBERS, FOR EXAMPLE, ON CHRISTMAS, EASTER, MARY'S FEAST DAYS?

**IV. OUTREACH:** HAVE YOU MADE A CHARITABLE OUTREACH TO YOUR COMMUNITY AS A OMT MEMBER?

**V. VALUE:** IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE OMT IMPORTANT IN YOUR LIFE? IS IT WORTHWHILE? HAS IT BEEN SPIRITUALLY REWARDING?

**VI. STATUS:** ARE YOU UP-TO-DATE IN YOUR PROFESSIONS: POSTULANT, FIRST PROFESSION, FINAL PROFESSION? IF NOT, DO YOU WISH TO SET A DATE FOR YOUR NEXT PROFESSION.

**VII. PROBLEMS & COMMENTS:**  
WHAT PROBLEMS ARE YOU HAVING (IF ANY) IN BEING AN OMT BROTHER OR SISTER?  
ADD ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO SAY TO THE ABBOT.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
CONTINUED..

YOUR OMT ANNUAL  
REPORT IS DUE MAY 13,  
2008 – THE FEASTDAY  
OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA.

SEE THE ARTICLES IN  
THIS NEWSLETTER  
ABOUT YOUR OMT  
ANNUAL REPORT.

#### MARY'S MONTHS

TRADITIONALLY, MAY AND  
OCTOBER ARE MONTHS IN  
THE CATHOLIC TRADITION  
WHICH ARE DEDICATED TO  
THE BLESSED VIRGIN  
MARY. AS PEOPLE  
DEDICATED TO MARY, WE  
AS OMT BROTHERS AND  
SISTERS SHOULD MAKE A  
SPECIAL PERSONAL  
DEDICATION OF PRAYER  
TIME TO MARY DURING  
THESE MONTHS. IF  
POSSIBLE, TRY TO  
INVOLVE FAMILY AND  
FRIENDS IN PRAYER TO  
MARY. MOTHERS DAY IS  
IN MAY AND WHAT A  
BEAUTIFUL MODEL OF  
MOTHERHOOD GOD GAVE  
US IN MARY.

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.

## MARY CHRIST'S MOTHER AND OURS

FROM THE RCC'S VATICAN COUNCIL II: LUMEN GENTIUM (1964)  
EXCERPT FROM CHAPTER VIII: OUR LADY – MARY'S ROLE IN THE CHURCH

Mary's function as mother of men in no way obscures or diminishes this unique mediation of Christ, but rather shows its power. But the Blessed Virgin's salutary influence on men originates not in any inner necessity but in the disposition of God. It flows forth from the superabundance of the merits of Christ, rests on his mediation, depends entirely on it and draws all its power from it. It does not hinder in any way the immediate union of the faithful with Christ but on the contrary fosters it.

The predestination of the Blessed Virgin as Mother of God was associated with the incarnation of the divine word: in the designs of divine Providence she was the gracious mother of the divine Redeemer here on earth, and above all others and in a singular way the generous associate and humble handmaid of the Lord. She conceived, brought forth, and nourished Christ, she presented him to the Father in the temple, shared her Son's sufferings as he died on the cross. Thus, in a wholly singular way she cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope and burning charity in the work of the Savior in restoring supernatural life to souls. For this reason she is a mother to us in the order of grace.

This motherhood of Mary in the order of grace continues uninterruptedly from the consent which she loyally gave at the Annunciation and which she sustained without wavering beneath the cross, until the eternal fulfillment of all the elect. Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation. By her maternal charity, she cares for the brethren of her Son, who still journey on earth surrounded by dangers and difficulties, until they are led into their blessed home. Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix. This, however, is so understood that it neither takes away anything from nor adds anything to the dignity and efficacy of Christ the one Mediator. ....

The Church does not hesitate to profess this subordinate role of Mary, which it constantly experiences and recommends to the heartfelt attention of the faithful, so that encouraged by this maternal help they may the more closely adhere to the Mediator and Redeemer.

### ECC+USA ANNUAL SYNOD & OMT CONCLAVE

FROM THE ABBOT....

*YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
ECC+USA'S ANNUAL SYNOD THAT WILL  
BE HELD IN ST. LOUIS ON OCTOBER 24-26,  
2008. IF WE HAVE AT LEAST FOUR (4)  
OMT BROTHERS AND SISTERS ATTENDING,  
WE WILL HAVE TWO SPECIAL "CONCLAVE"  
OMT MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS DURING THE  
SYNOD. OTHER SYNOD SESSIONS ARE  
ALWAYS OPEN TO EVERYONE ATTENDING.*

*THE COST OF THE SYNOD IS \$200 FOR  
A SINGLE ROOM AND \$170 EACH PERSON  
FOR A DOUBLE ROOM. THAT INCLUDES A  
BEDROOM, SIX MEALS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND  
MATERIALS. ANYONE WHO WISHES TO  
ATTEND SHOULD CONTACT ME AT  
DOMCARL@ECC-USA.ORG FOR A DEPOSIT  
REGISTRATION FORM. \$50 (\$25 EACH FOR  
A SHARED ROOM) IS DUE BY APRIL 30.*

### ON THE READING OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

BY  
THOMAS A' KEMPIS (+1513)  
IN THE  
IMITATION OF CHRIST

CLARITY AND NOT ELOQUENCE IS TO BE  
SOUGHT IN HOLY SCRIPTURE, AND IT  
SHOULD BE READ IN THE SAME SPIRIT  
WITH WHICH IT WAS FIRST MADE. WE  
OUGHT ALSO TO SEEK IN HOLY  
SCRIPTURE SPIRITUAL PROFIT RATHER  
THAN ELEGANCE OF STYLE, AND TO  
READ SIMPLE AND DEVOUT BOOKS AS  
GLADLY AS BOOKS OF HIGH LEARNING  
AND WISDOM. ....

ALMIGHTY GOD SPEAKS TO US IN HIS  
SCRIPTURES IN VARIOUS MANNERS,  
WITHOUT REGARD FOR PERSONS, BUT  
OUR CURIOSITY OFTEN HINDERS US IN  
READING SCRIPTURE WHEN WE REASON  
AND ARGUE THINGS WE SHOULD HUMBLY  
AND SIMPLY PASS OVER. IF YOU WILL  
PROFIT BY READING SCRIPTURE, READ  
HUMBLY, SIMPLY, AND FAITHFULLY, AND  
NEVER DESIRE TO GAIN BY YOUR  
READING THE TITLE OF LEARNED. ASK  
GLADLY AND HEED HUMBLY THE SAYINGS  
OF SAINTS, AND DO NOT DISDAIN THE  
PARABLES OF THE ANCIENT FATHERS,  
FOR THEY WERE NOT SPOKEN WITHOUT  
GREAT CAUSE.