



ORDER OF MARY THEOTOKOS
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 PROFESSIONED, 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.