

Oblates of St. Francis de Sales

Salesianum Community
1801 North Broom Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19802-3891

July 29, 2017
St. Martha

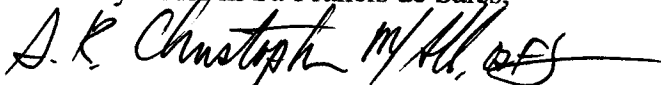
Brother Knights of Council 8509,

I am writing to express my gratitude for your generous donation of \$500. A lot has happened since I last wrote to you. I have completed the first year of my two year Apostolic Internship during which I serve on the faculty of the Social Studies Department of Salesianum School in Wilmington, Delaware. High school ministry is the reason why I chose to join the Oblates. Becoming a high school history teacher is literally my dream job and I am so fortunate to be able to interact with my students on a daily basis during the academic year.

This summer, I have been assigned to Salesianum for summer ministry. Here at Salesianum, gone are the days in which the school building lies dormant over the summer. Our building is used each day for summer camps, for theatre productions by recent graduates and current students, and for students taking summer classes not because they failed a course, but because they want to make room in their schedule for electives such as graphic design or another Advanced Placement course. Our service and school related trips do not come to an end with the school year: this summer I chaperoned our students to a week long leadership camp in Brooklyn, MI where student leaders from all Oblate High Schools gather to learn to be leaders in the tradition of Sts. Francis de Sales and Jane de Chantal. I spent another 7 days chaperoning a service trip to Toledo, OH where Salesianum students worked side-by-side with students from another Oblate high school on a joint service trip. I have also had the opportunity to attend a week-long professional development course held here at Salesianum, some time for lesson planning, and for my primary summer assignment at the High School: re-working our liturgical environments and helping make the liturgy transcend the chapel and flow into the school.

On Friday, July 28th, my classmate and I renewed our vows as Oblates. We are both currently in annual vows, which last for one year. Annual vows require us to re-examine our commitment to the Oblates each year and ask ourselves and our community if this is something which we should do again next year. On the last day of class, I told all of my students that I did not wake up every morning and jump for joy at the idea that I am an Oblate; many morning I wake up and wonder why I ever agreed to do this. Whenever this happens, I shared with my students, I walk over to school and inevitably one of the boys or my co-workers will either say or do something which will put everything into perspective for me and make me say "oh yeah, that's why I'm doing this." It is because of those interactions with the people to whom and with whom I minister that I was inspired to say "yes" to another year of Oblate life, to another year of "living Jesus!"

Gratefully Yours in St. Francis de Sales,



S.K. Christopher Allen, O.S.F.S.