

The Community of the Resurrection consists of men who, freely accepting the call of God, have committed themselves to follow the gospel life. The pattern is recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, of whom it is said 'they continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers' and 'had all things in common.'

Oblates, who are both ordained and lay, have a close association with the Community. Unlike the brethren of the Community they do not live in community; some are lay, some clergy, some are retired and some are in secular employment. They are encouraged to stay at the House of the Resurrection, helping sometimes in works of the Community. This strengthens the links which bind them to the Community.

The word 'oblate' has at its heart the idea of offering – in this case the offering of one's life to God in a structured way. They place themselves under the same gift of the Spirit ('charism') which has been given to the Community; this finds expression in a rule of life which includes the traditional elements of chastity, poverty and obedience.

Chastity, which for the Oblates includes celibacy, is a gift from God. Every aspect of life is touched by it –self-control, not only with respect to food, drink and sexual activity but also in relation to kinds of pleasure which are harmful to others and to oneself. What matters most is the desire to put God first, and in consequence to look to the greatest good of other human beings. Poverty is marked by aiming to live simply at all times and involves a 'dying to live'. We are accountable for all that God has given us. To follow Christ is to be obedient to our Father and one another, something which spreads through our life. Oblates desire to love the will of God and so to uphold His honour and proclaim the dominion of Christ.

The pattern of an oblate's life includes the two rhythms of office and eucharist (everyday when possible), time daily in prayer with intercession for the needs of the Church, the world and Community, time annually for a retreat and seeking for opportunities in the everyday for stillness, as well as the penitence and study which deepens our love of God. The end of all this is the dedication to the Resurrection, shewn in the fruit of the Spirit, proclaiming a world made new in Christ.

Is this life for you?

To find out more contact Fr Thomas CR at tseville@mirfield.org.uk or 01924 483315 or 494318.