



Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery

May 2009

ASSIGNMENTS:

Lincoln Chapter: Sheridan Rooms & North Commons Cafeteria, Madonna Rehab Hosp, **Sunday, May 17 or Monday May 18, 2009, 7 p.m. (One week later because of Mother's Day.)** Desiring Life by Norvene Vest, Chapter 1. pgs. 29-42, Question for Reflection: # 3, Page 168 back of text.

Steinauer Chapter: *Banquet Room, across from St. Anthony's Church* **Monday, May 4, 2009, 7-9p.m:** Desiring Life by Norvene Vest, Chapter 1. pgs. 29-42, Question for Reflection: # 3 page 168 back of text.

Hastings Chapter: St. Michael's Church, Family Room, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. **Saturday, May 16, 2009: (one week later because of Mother's Day)** Desiring Life by Norvene Vest, Chapter 1, pgs. 29-42, Question for Reflection: # 3 page 168 back of text.

Omaha Chapter: New Cassel Retirement Center , Lecture Hall, 900 N 90th Street, East Entrance, Omaha , NE, **Tuesday, May 12, 2009, 7 p.m. General Assembly:** Desiring Life by Norvene Vest, Chapter 1. pgs 29-42, Question for Reflection: # 3 page 168 back of text.

EXPERIENCES FROM A BENEDICTINE OBLATE PILGRIMAGE TO GERMANY AND AUSTRIA:

On July 11th, St. Benedict's Feastday, Carol Olson, Oblate plans to share her experiences from the Benedictine Oblate Pilgrimage to Germany and Austria from 2008. This will include the history of the different branches of the Benedictines that are in Germany and Austria, as well as the history of the individual churches and/or monasteries that were visited. Photos will be presented via PowerPoint, and souvenirs from the trip will also be available for viewing. She will highlight some of the difficulties of the monasteries over the years and how many emerged to become renewed in their vigor to do the Lord's work according to the Rule of St. Benedict. This will be held from 9-11 a.m. in the Sheridan Rooms at Madonna. Following the presentation, we will plan to have lunch at a designated restaurant (each will pay) and visit the Holy Family Shrine at Gretna for Vespers. Do join

us for another summer Oblate gathering. We will share rides.

PILRIMAGE TO CONCEPTION ABBEY AND CLYDE MONASTERIES:

Saturday, August 8, 2009, we have the opportunity to visit these two monasteries. We will leave from the Madonna front entrance (car pooling) at 7:00 a.m. arriving at Conception Abbey at 10 a.m. We will have a tour (1 hour), Mass in the Abbey Basilica with the Benedictine monks and lunch (tour and lunch - \$10). Then we will drive the short distance to the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Clyde MO for a tour. After that we will return home. You will need to SIGN-UP for this and we will do this at the next meeting as they will need an exact count for lunch. Those leaving from Omaha, Hastings and Steinauer can let me know your arrangements.

OBLATE CHOIR: Meeting, Sunday, May 17 at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to come.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION PRACTICUM: Oblate Steve Liechti, Mary Stilwell and I have been in the Spiritual Direction course at SHMonastery, since last fall. We are now ready to each have two or more directees for Spiritual Direction. This would mean a commitment of one hour per month for the next year (through May 2010). If you would like to talk with someone about your prayer life and/or relationship with God, you are welcome to contact any one of us and visit about it. There is no cost. Contact Steve at 483-7555 or ecostoressliechti@windstream.net. Contact Mary at 402-828-3355 or mstilwell@windstream.net. Contact Sister Phyllis at 488-6731 or phunhoff74@windstream.net.

OBLATE NOTES:

- **From Ebb Munden, Oblate:** We are back in Lincoln. I have decided to retire from my position at Nebraska Wesleyan at the end of this semester (July 1) and Lucy and I have decided to move to the Dallas area where our son and his family live. We hope to be able to attend some of the Oblate meetings between now and then to personally say goodbye and to thank you for the leadership you give to this wonderful program. We hope you will have a blessed and joyous Easter.

RESURRECTION HOSPITALITY by Deacon John Long (oblate): When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time, he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.” John, 21:15-17.

The incident recorded in the Gospel according to John occurs after our Lord’s sacred Passion and his victorious resurrection. Through these acts of holy grace, our Lord had smashed the power of sin and death and bought for us life everlasting. In doing so, Jesus Christ our Lord perfectly obeyed the will of the Father; and the Father in turn has given all things over to Christ. He is now Lord of all. He has assumed control. The rift between God and humankind has been repaired; indeed, it is really more than repaired. Jesus Christ has wrought a whole new creation. He has brought us into a new relationship with God, a whole and complete way of relating to the Almighty. He has also established a new way for us to relate to each other. Among the various features of the new relationship is what could be called resurrection hospitality. It is characterized in expression of care and loving kindness towards all others as an extension of our Lord’s care and loving kindness towards us.

In the passage, our Lord asks Peter if he loves Him. He asks this three times. Each time Peter answers yes, seeming to get a little frustrated by the third time. Jesus makes a clear link each time Peter answers him. He tells Peter, “Feed my lambs,” then “tend my sheep,” and “feed my sheep.” He is telling Peter to direct the love he has for the Lord to those around him. To be sure, this particular passage is often contemplated by church leaders. This is particularly true of clergy members and those in holy orders. However, the broader implication is that we all are to take care of each other as response of our love for the Lord. It is as if we are now made hosts of the new creation. And of course, one of the chief jobs of a host is hospitality. That is, making sure all feel welcome and safe, that their needs are met and they are given rest. As hosts of the new creation the idea of hospitality takes on a new meaning. It is not just hospitality but resurrection hospitality, a participation in the Kingdom of God as made manifest by the messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. It is not just centered in love. It is centered about the person of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a

response to and an extension of His perfect holy love, a charge and responsibility He given us as we spread the Gospel of his victory.

It’s important to understand how resurrection hospitality is different from other types of hospitality. One of the characteristics that sets resurrection hospitality apart from other types of hospitality is the motivation. Hospitality can be driven by many motivations. For example, one may provide hospitality as a way to impress others. One might seek to show off how much more wealthy, skillful or generous one is compared to others. This is not resurrection hospitality. Resurrection hospitality does not seek to impress or glorify one’s self, but to glorify Christ. Hospitality may also be offered out of a sense of honor of one’s self, one’s family, or one’s organization. It’s done merely out of obligation or to avoid embarrassment. It’s a self serving “hospitality”.

Resurrection hospitality is not self serving, it serves Christ. Even hospitality out of personal emotional love, genuine as it may be, is not resurrection hospitality. Personal emotional love is ultimately imperfect compared to the love of Christ. It is generally directed towards relatives, friends and those we know. With resurrection hospitality, it’s the love and kindness of Jesus our Lord we offer to others, not merely our own love. It is a hospitality that is offered regardless of our own personal emotional feeling. It includes strangers, enemies, and even those who hate us or perhaps towards whom we have negative emotional feelings.

Resurrection hospitality is an ongoing conscious mental decision and spiritual effort that the practical acts of loving kindness we provide to others are offered for the sake of our Lord, not out of some personal motivation or personal love or feeling, however genuine or seemingly justified.

As hosts in the Kingdom it’s our job to provide resurrection hospitality. It’s important to remember we will not always be perfect at this. There are times when we will fail. Remember that we need to draw on the strength of Christ to effectively put forth this kind of effort. Also, there will be times we will need to take rest ourselves and let the ultimate host of the new creation, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, give us rest and refreshment with hospitality that never ends.

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