



# Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery

June 2009

**A FUN NIGHT: POT LUCK: SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 5 P.M.:** Join our Oblate community in sharing an evening together. Sister Marietta, OSB, of Omaha and her cohort, Sister Clarise, OSB will lead us again in "Playing with the Rule." It will not be difficult and it is most enjoyable. **Bring your family, your favorite dish and your office books.** Coffee, tea, water and paper products will be furnished. **PLAN FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 14 AT 5 P.M. AT MADONNA (Sheridan Rooms).**

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU!** For those of you who do not know, Sister Gladys, my loving sister in Christ, died peacefully 5-7-09 at Sacred Heart Monastery. I was able to be with her the last three weeks and it was a very special time. She was 90 and lived a long wonderful life as a dedicated Benedictine religious. I want to thank all of you for your many beautiful cards, remembrances and Masses. Sister Phyllis

## **GET OUT YOUR CALANDERS FOR MANY WONDERFUL SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Anticipatory Vespers for the Feast of St. Benedict -- Friday evening, July 10, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Madonna Chapel.
- The Feast of St. Benedict – Saturday, July 11, 2009

**EXPERIENCES FROM A BENEDICTINE OBLATE PILGRIMAGE TO GERMANY AND AUSTRIA:** On July 11<sup>th</sup>, St. Benedict's Feastday, from 9-11 a.m., 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 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 Community gathering. We will plan shared rides after the presentation.

**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 **CONTACT ME FOR THIS** (if you have not signed up) as they will need an exact count for lunch. Those leaving from Omaha, Hastings and Steinauer can let me know your arrangements.

On Tuesday, June 2, 2009. Esther de Waal, one of the most popular writers on Benedictine and Celtic spirituality is making a rare American tour. She will be at Sophia Center in Atchison, KS, introducing her latest book: Seeking Life: The Baptismal Invitation of the Rule of St. Benedict. From 2-4 pm: conversation and 7-9 pm: presentation and book signing. Reserve your space by contacting: [sophia@mountosb.org](mailto:sophia@mountosb.org) or (913) 360-6173.

On Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>- July 19, The Sophia Center at Mount St. Scholastica in Atchison, KS is offering a monastic institute entitled "Lectio Divina with art, with clay, with

images/icons, with mandalas and with poetry.” Jerome Kodell, OSB, the principal speaker, is abbot of Subiaco Abbey in Arkansas. For more information, contact: Sister Micaela Randolph, OSB, 913-360-6160, [micaela@mountosb.org](mailto:micaela@mountosb.org)

“The Gentle Art of Blessing” will be held Friday, July 31, 7:30 p.m. through Sunday after lunch at St. Benedict’s Retreat Center in Schuyler presented by Oblate Darla Weisbeck. The name “Benedict” means “Blessed One.” We are Blessed Ones and are meant to be a blessings for others. Join in practicing and experiencing this gentle art. Contact: 402-352-8819

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTION PRACTICUM:** Mary Stilwell has been in the Spiritual Direction course at Sacred Heart Monastery, since last fall. She is now ready to 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 her and visit about it. There is no cost. Contact Mary: 402-828-3355 or [mstilwell@windstream.net](mailto:mstilwell@windstream.net).

### **Kathleen Norris, Oblates and me**

Many times, during my adult life  
I’ve wondered if God called me or  
If my heart and mind and soul  
Were not good enough, unworthy  
“Please, hear me sweet Jesus,” I whispered

And over the years my life shattered  
Again and again and again  
The baby I lost, before I knew her  
My parents, brother, and loved ones gone  
“Please, hear me sweet Jesus,” I prayed

My husband was kind and good to me  
He loved his God, his life, his family  
I accepted his love, expected his love  
And then he was gone in an instant  
“Please, hear me sweet Jesus,” I cried

Learning to teach was my answer  
Family, work, and prayers not enough  
I studied and worked full time until  
My degree in hand, I moved, I taught  
“Please, help me, sweet Jesus,” I whispered

Teaching was a wonderful life  
My students learned, I learned, life was good  
And then, one day God decided to teach  
The teacher a lesson, a lesson in humility  
“Please, hear us, sweet Jesus,” my friends and  
family prayed

Jesus listened and gave me grace, time,  
Skilled doctors, strong friends, loving family  
Living, I struggled and found my way  
Back to a new life, life without teaching  
“Please, hear me, sweet Jesus,” I prayed

Listening, as always, Jesus again showered  
Grace upon me, my family, my friends, my life  
New friends, new tasks, new challenges abound  
Some doubt, much fear, and joy new found  
“Thank you, Lord Jesus, Thank you,” I pray

Now I’ve found the oblate way

by Maureen Worden  
Oblate Novice  
February 2009

Sister Phyllis Hunhoff, OSB, Associate Director ♦  
Associated with the Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart  
Monastery, Yankton South Dakota ♦ 5441 Glade Street  
♦ Lincoln, NE 68506 ♦ 402-488-6731 ♦ email:  
[phunhoff74@windstream.net](mailto:phunhoff74@windstream.net)  
website: [http://www.geocities.com/lincoln\\_oblates](http://www.geocities.com/lincoln_oblates)  
Blog: <http://www.sacredheartyanthonoblates.blogspot.com>