



Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery

September 2009

ASSIGNMENTS:

Lincoln Chapter: Sheridan Rooms & North Commons Cafeteria, Madonna Rehab Hosp, **Sunday, September 13, 2009:** Desiring Life, Chapter 2, Benedict and Wisdom, pgs. 43-55, Questions for Reflection: #'s 4 & 5 page 168. SEE SPECIAL NOTICE BELOW – No Monday night Chapter meeting.

Steinauer Chapter: Banquet Room, across from St. Anthony's Church **Monday, August 31, 2009, 7-9p.m.**

NOTE: One week earlier because of Labor Day.
Desiring Life, Chapter 2, Benedict and Wisdom, pgs. 43-55, Questions for Reflection: #'s 4 & 5 page 168.
This will also be our introduction and orientation time for new members.

Hastings Chapter: St. Michael's Church, Family Room, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. **Saturday, September 12, 2009, 9:30 11:30 a.m.:** Desiring Life, Chapter 2, Benedict and Wisdom, pgs. 43-55, Questions for Reflection: #'s 4 & 5 page 168. SEE SPECIAL NOTICE BELOW.

Omaha Chapter: New Cassel Retirement Center , Lecture Hall, 900 N 90th Street, Omaha , NE, **Tuesday, September 8, 2009:** Desiring Life, Chapter 2, Benedict and Wisdom, pgs. 43-55, Questions for Reflection: #'s 4 & 5 page 168

SPECIAL NOTICE: THE YEAR OF THE

PSALMS: As we start another year, we might call it "The Year of the Psalms." For many of us, understanding the psalms has been difficult and so saying the Liturgy of the Hours has also been difficult or even unsaid. Those who love the psalms encourage us, saying "Don't give up!" This year we will be doing a number of special things to stretch us to a greater depth of spirituality. First of all, Sister Wilma Lyle, Theologian of Sacred Heart Monastery will come to our first fall Chapter meeting, Sunday, September 13, 7 p.m. to introduce us to "Praying the Psalms" using Lectio. She believes that we indeed, can come to understand a psalm with our own interior reflection - making practical application to our lives. **BRING THE SCRIPTURE YOU REGULARLY USE!** We will use the entire Chapter meeting ending with Vespers. There will be no Monday evening Chapter meeting as I do want all to come to the Sunday night presentation and I would like

our outlying Chapters to also consider coming. You can study your assignment as it is on the assignment sheet but there will be no small groups for discussion. This will be the first step. She will also provide us with a list of three psalms for each month that we will use in our Cell groups. She will also assist us in this process. This will be a wonderful opportunity to renew your efforts in attending your Cell. If you do not have a Cell, just contact me by phone or email. Later this year we will have other special events to help us with the psalms. May the Spirit be with you! Thank you to those who have already responded saying "this sounds very exciting." Sister Phyllis (*I just received word that Sr. Wilma will come a day early and will also give the presentation at our Hastings meeting, Saturday, Sept 12 at 9:30 a.m.*)

UNL VESPERS – from Paul Blotkamp,

Oblate: Once again it is that time of year to start organizing Vespers at UNL, Newman Center Chapel, 16th & Q St. Could each of you let me know if you are available to say Vespers on Wednesday evening at 5 p.m.? As you know we have made a great impact on UNL students. Many more are saying the Liturgy of the Hours – not always with us – while some do. If you would like to join us please send your name to me and I will contact you. I look forward to hearing from you. Contact me at 483-0480 or pblot@windstream.net.

FRIDAY MORNING PRAYER: Every Friday at 7:30 a.m. a group of Oblates say Morning Prayer in the Madonna Chapel. It has become a wonderful tradition and is another opportunity to build community and strong friendships with our Benedictine brothers and sisters. Some stay for a snack in the cafeteria after Morning Prayer.

OBLATES NOTES

- ♥ **Giap M. Nguyen**, a note: I am in the inquiring process with Fr. Hoelsing of the Archdiocese of Omaha. There is a possibility that I will pursue the priesthood there. Please pray for the success and peace to my vocation if it be pleasing to God's will.
- ♥ **NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE:** Please earmark this website in your "Favorites" for easy access:
<http://sites.google.com/site/nebraskabenedictineoblates/>. Then you can always use it for your meeting

dates and assignments and the newsletter. The newsletter and assignment sheets will be printed for those without email.

- ♥ New emails: This summer as I was updating an Oblate email listing, I found a number of you who had not given me your emails for the Directory. In addition, you will need to update your email in the Yahoo group to obtain your newsletter and prayers.

NO OBLATE CHOIR practice before our Sunday night Chapter meeting September 13.

MISSING BOOKS: Will you kindly check your book shelves to see if you might find these books: [A Monk in the World](#) by Wayne Teasdale, [Beginning to Pray](#) by Anthony Bloom, [Cherish Christ Above All](#) by Demetrius Dumm and [Meditations with Hildegarde of Bingen](#) by Gabriele Uhlein. You might also check to see if you have a book out for a rather long period of time.

ORDERED BOOK: Someone asked me to order the book [Lost in Wonder](#) by Esther de Waal and I am so sorry that I did not make a note of who that was and hence I do not remember. Can you help me? I now have the book!

FALL RETREAT DATES: Please notice the dates for our fall October retreat which is October 16 to 18. It is a week earlier than was reported this spring and summer.

‘LORD TEACH US TO PRAY!’

So spoke the disciples to Jesus. In making this request, they confessed that they were not able to pray on their own, that they had to learn to pray. The phrase “learning to pray” sounds strange to us. If the heart does not overflow and begin to pray by itself, we say, it will never “learn” to pray. But it is a dangerous error, surely very widespread among Christians, to think that the heart can pray by itself. For then we confuse wishes, hopes, sighs, laments, rejoicings – all of which the heart can do by itself – with prayer. Prayer does not mean simply to pour out one’s heart. It means rather to find the way to God and to speak with God, whether the heart is full or empty. No one can do that. We need Jesus Christ.

The disciples want to pray, but they do not know how to do it. That can be very painful, to want to speak to God and not be able to, to be speechless before God. In this need we seek out those who are able to help us, who know something about prayer. If one among us who is able to pray would only take the other along – if

we could pray along – then we could be helped. Jesus wants to pray with us and to have us pray with him, so that we may be confident and glad that God hears us. When our will wholeheartedly enters into the prayer of Christ, then we pray correctly. Only in Jesus Christ are we able to pray, and with him we also know that we shall be heard.

Now there is in the Holy Scriptures a book which is distinguished from all other books of the Bible by the fact that it contains only prayers. The book is the Psalms. It is at first very surprising that there is a prayer book in the Bible. We grasp it when we remember that we can learn true prayer only from Jesus Christ, from the word of the Son of God, who lives with us. Jesus Christ has brought every need, every joy, every gratitude, and every hope before God. If we want to read and pray the prayers of the Bible and especially the Psalms, we must not ask first what they have to do with us, but what they have to do with Jesus Christ. We must ask how we can understand the Psalms as God’s Word, and then we shall be able to pray them. It does not depend, therefore, on whether the Psalms express adequately that which we feel at a given moment in our heart. If we are to pray aright, perhaps it is quite necessary that we pray contrary to our own heart. Not what we want to pray is important, but what God wants us to pray. This is pure grace, that God tells us how we can speak and have fellowship in union with God. We can do it by praying in the name of Jesus Christ. The Psalms are given to us to this end that we may learn to pray them in the name of Jesus Christ. (excerpts taken from [PSALMS: The Prayer Book of the Bible](#) by Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

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