



Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery

September 2010

ASSIGNMENTS: All assignments for the Chapter meetings are on our website and you can copy them there for your calendars for 2010-2011:

<http://sites.google.com/site/nebraskabenedictineoblates>

I will bring copies for those without email. The Cell assignments for Hastings and Omaha are also on our website.

Lincoln Chapter: Sheridan Rooms & North Commons Cafeteria on Sunday and Lancaster Room on Monday, Madonna Rehab Hosp:
Sunday, September 12, 2010 or Monday, September 13, 2010: The Oblate Life by Holdaway, Read the Forward, Introduction and Chapter 1, "The Life of St. Benedict" and Chapter 2, "The Benedictine Heritage." See questions above.

Steinauer Chapter: Banquet Room, across from St. Anthony's Church:
Monday, August 30, 2010: This will also be our introduction and orientation time for new members. Psalm 63:1-12. Love Song. Beautiful images; emotions expressed; confession. Psalm 77:1-21. Has God changed? In what way? What promises? Who is in charge? (We will plan for our 10th Anniversary.)

Hastings Chapter: St. Michael's Church, Family Room, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Saturday, September 11, 2010: The Oblate Life by Holdaway, Read the Forward, Introduction and Chapter 1, "The Life of St. Benedict" and Chapter 2, "The Benedictine Heritage." See questions above.

Omaha Chapter: New Cassel Retirement Center, Lecture Hall, 900 N 90th Street, Omaha, NE, 7-9 pm, Tuesday, September 14, 2010: The Oblate Life by Holdaway, Read the Forward, Introduction and Chapter 1, "The Life of St. Benedict" and Chapter 2, "The Benedictine Heritage." See questions above.

OUR NEW TEXT: The Oblate Life by Gervase Holdaway, OSB. Welcome to this new text! I hope it will bring new meaning to your Benedictine Spirituality and the love of God in your life. Each chapter has many valuable lessons. If anyone does not have a book, please see Sister Phyllis to order one.

ABOUT THE QUESTIONS: The questions for each month to ponder will only stimulate your thinking in a particular area. Find the other aspects important to you. Let all the answers include one word: Christ. Find Christ in your answers. Never stop asking: how is my kingdom on earth doing? Here are the questions for the September readings:

- What does it mean for you to read, "Your way of acting should be different from the world's way?" (pg 3) Read RB 4: 20-28
- Can you live with, "there is really no thing as absolute ownership?" pg 5, Read RB 33
- Discuss some of the "spiritual parenting given by these extraordinary individuals." pg 15
- Are you able to find Sacred Heart Monastery's heritage? (bottom of page 27)

FAITH SHARING OUR SPIRITUAL

LANGUAGE (our discussions at Chapter): Studying your lesson with lectio (quiet communion with God) will help you become aware of what God may be saying and then sharing within our Faith Sharing groups how you have found God in those words. As I said in our December newsletter, we should all want a special language for God which maximizes all we want to say to God or about God. It is a part of our spiritual journey and our conversion of heart that should bring us joy, love and peace. We choose to speak to Christ Jesus knowing the enormous mystery that envelops us. Come to the sessions prepared with your notes or highlights.

ORA ET LABORA (work and pray): "Nebraska Oblate responsibilities for 2010-2011." Thank you for your positive feedback regarding the document sent to all of you on email a few weeks ago. This document will be available to those without email at our September meeting. Let me tell you again how wonderful it is to have your involvement and conscientious effort in fulfilling these commitments. I will look forward to hearing from you as the year goes on and please do give me further advice and suggestions.

SHARING OUR BENEDICTINE SPIRITUALITY VIA FACEBOOK GROUP:

You will soon be learning more about our Facebook Group. You do not have to be a Facebook friend to each one in the group. We can go to the group without adding all as friends. We will be announcing our training session soon. In the meantime, if you are on Facebook, you can bring up the Nebraska Oblates page – go to “discussions.” There is one Oblate assigned each month to give us an inspirational message. It will be exciting to see what they will suggest for us and then we can add our own response to it. If you are not on Facebook, you might try googling Facebook and follow the directions to be a member. You might surprise yourself!

AFRICAN SISTERS RESPONSE: At our September Chapter meetings, I am planning to give you a response from the African Benedictine Sisters in Tanzania about your gifts to them. I will have some ebony art pieces on display along with some pictures of Sister Bonita’s recent trip to Tanzania. Hope to see you there.

“BENEDICTINE SPIRITUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE,” a Leadership Conference for working women will be held Saturday, September 25, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Monastery. Keynote speaker, Norvene Vest, will deliver two sessions: *Work as the Soul’s Friend: Insights from the Rule of St. Benedict for the Modern World of Work* and *Tender Competence: Benedictine Qualities of Leadership for the Contemporary Workplace*. The \$35 includes conference fee and noon lunch. Check payable to Sacred Heart Monastery. Send to Sister Bonita Gacnik, 1005 W. 8th Street, Yankton, SD 57078. See online registration form for more information and lodging http://www.yanktonbenedictines.org/NewsEvents_VestFlyer.html.

FATHER JOE NASSAL TO SPEAK AT ST. BENEDICT CENTER in Schuyler: If you are planning to attend, please let Sister Phyllis know as several Oblates are already planning to attend and they have room in their vehicle for others.

FIRST BOOK REPORT: Please welcome and enjoy our inaugural book report for the year by Oblate Lu Ann Green.

Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality
By Richard Rohr OFM

If you are looking for a book on systematic theology this book is not for you. On the other hand, if you are

searching for the significance of the Scripture in your relationship with God this may be a book that will interest you.

Rohr submits that the bible is a living document and he encourages us to relate it to our everyday life. He feels that we can accomplish this by looking at the Bible in a different way, “This marvelous anthology of books and letters called the Bible is all for the sake of astonishment! It’s for divine transformation (theosis), not intellectual or ‘small-self’ coziness.” He discusses how our relationship with God depends on our giving up our ego and stresses the importance of faith and hope. Rohr believes that one of the major problems that we have in our spiritual search is that of dualism. Saying, “we have created a terrible kind of dualism between the spiritual and the so-called non-spiritual.”

If we remember that God is all loving and merciful and forgiving and accept that we humans were made in God’s image and blessed then we will be more able to see the Bible is not about accomplishing. It is more about truly seeing these gifts. He explains this: “Only prayerful, contemplative (not either/or thinking) can draw forth those deeper meanings. Thus, I think prayer and suffering are the two primary paths of transformation.”

There are many ways to approach spirituality and many times we set up goals to achieve an end. Father Rohr thinks this individualism is one of our problems. “Our goal is not personal or private wholeness, which is clearly impossible, anyway and yet has been offered as an achievable goal for Western individualists for some centuries now. This is the heart of our problem and in my opinion, has fostered massive withdrawal from Christianity.”

I think the following quote will give you reason for looking at this book.

“Where the text finally points, leads and calls is to the total mystery of divine union – and nothing less.”

Sister Phyllis Hunhoff, OSB, Associate Director ♦
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