



Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery

April 2011

“The Father realized that just at that time Jesus had said to him, ‘Your son will live’ and he and his whole household came to believe.” (John 4:53)

QUESTIONS FOR APRIL CHAPTER

MEETING (The Oblate Life):

- Consider the things O'Donnell gives us to watch over “self.” Chap 15, pgs 142-143.
- How do transparency and accountability enter into peacemaking? Chap 16

LINCOLN CHAPTER: Sheridan Rooms & North Commons on Sunday and Lancaster Room on Monday, Madonna Rehab Hosp: Sunday, April 10, 2011 and Monday April 11, 2011: The Oblate Life by Gervase Holdaway, OSB, Chapters 15 & 16. Note questions and comments above. We will hear Steve Liechti give the reflection on Sunday evening and Tim Fisher on Monday evening. Paul Blotkamp will lead prayer on Monday night.

CHOIR PRACTICE: 6:15 pm, prior to Sunday Chapter meeting, April 10.

STEINAUER CHAPTER: Banquet Room, across from St. Anthony's Church:

Monday, March 28, 2011: (Lent) Four Servant Poems from II Isaiah, a) 40:1-7: b) 42:1-7: c) 50:4-9; d) 52:13-53:12 Early Church used these pictures of great holiness of God's servant as a means to interpret Jesus' suffering and death. Study the Passion account in Mark (chapters 14 and 15) to understand how Mark used these poems as a way to describe Jesus' suffering.

Reflection/Facilitator: Paul Duryea Lead Prayer: Alan Companion: Joyce

Monday, April 25, 2011: Psalm 24:1-10. Lord's Entry Into Zion. Palm Sunday; importance of processions; image of God. Psalm 31:1-25. My Hope Is In You. Strong verbs; note reflections in Gospel; word pictures. We will hear Kristi Meyer give the reflection. Leading Prayer is Joyce and the Companion is Vic.

HASTINGS CHAPTER: St. Michael's Church, Family Room, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 9, 2011: The Oblate Life by Gervase Holdaway, OSB, Chapters 15 & 16. See questions and comments above.

Refection/Facilitator: Margaret Kepford. Companion: Bob P. Prayer Leader: Gay D.
Cell meeting: Saturday, April 30, Psalm 24:1-10 Lord's Entry Into Zion, Palm Sunday; Importance of Procession; image of God. Psalm 31:1-25 My Hope is in You, Strong verbs; note reflections in Gospel; word pictures. Cell Leader: Cathy Mohnike

OMAHA CHAPTER: New Cassel Retirement Center, Lecture Hall, 900 N 90th Street, Omaha, NE, 7-9 pm, Tuesday, April 12, 2011: The Oblate Life by Gervase Holdaway, OSB, Chapters 15 & 16. See questions and comments above. Reflection and facilitator: John Dolton, Companion Leader: Sister Phyllis, 6th meeting/session
Cell meeting: Tuesday, 26, 2011

THE GLORY OF UKRAINE – you should

see it: A group of Oblates and I took advantage of the outstanding sacred icons and artifacts that are on display at the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha. They are rarely seen collections of icons of Eastern Europe from old famous churches, underground caverns and monasteries – ancient civilizations which are no longer in existence. Joslyn is the only museum in the USA which is displaying them. They will be on display through May 8. Museum hours are Saturdays 10 – 4 and Sundays, noon to 4. *Sister Phyllis*

SOLEMN VESPERS AT OUR LADY OF

GUADALUPE SEMINARY, Denton, NE, 20 west of Lincoln on the Denton road. Put on your calendar for May 22, 2011 at 5 pm. We will share cars and meet at Madonna at 4:15 pm. The particular charism and mission of this seminary is to offer the Sacred Liturgy, including the Holy Mass and the Divine Office, in all of their traditional solemnity, according to the Latin liturgical books of 1962. We expect this to be a most beautiful experience. Let me know if you would like to go. *Sister Phyllis*

WATCH FOR: We are planning another journey to the Spring Creek Prairie after Easter. Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center is an 808-acre tallgrass prairie nature preserve located 20 minutes west of Lincoln and south of Denton. Visitors enjoy miles of walking trails, nearly 650 acres of native (never plowed) tallgrass prairie, ponds and wetlands, wildflowers and grasses, a diverse assortment of birds and other wildlife, historic nineteenth-century wagon ruts, peaceful surroundings, and beautiful scenic vistas. You can see more at: www.springcreekprairie.org.

KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS: The Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery will all be in quiet retreat from March 31 through April 3 as we ask for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to enlighten us as we elect our next prioress, to choose the one among our Sisters most able to lead us in accord with God's will. **THANK YOU!**

FOR YOUR SUMMER CALENDAR: July 22-24, 2011, Oblate Darla Weisbeck along with Brother Damian Cayetano, OSB will guide the retreat, "Are you Hastening toward Your Heavenly Home" (Rule of St. Benedict 73:8), at St. Benedict Retreat Center in Schuyler, NE. St. Benedict's Ladder of Humility has inspired seekers through the centuries to journey from compulsion and fear to the perfect love which casts out fear (RB 7:67). They will explore the timeless wisdom found in the 12 steps of this ladder and discover how we, too, can live genuinely and grow in our love for God and neighbor. Email: www.stbenedictcenter.com or Telephone (402) 352-8819 ext 360

REFLECTION by Oblate Mara Fritts

(Mara is the wife of Oblate Thomas Fritts and mother of 4 children ages 9, 6, 3, and 11 months.)

My three year old reminds me of myself. As I sat down to write this, I asked my three year old son for inspiration. He said NO! I asked him for inspiration on Easter, and again he said NO! How many times does God ask simple things from us, only to be told NO!

But it's Springtime, I thought, there is tons of inspiration out there. It's a time of growth and for many of us a time that brings the thought of spring cleaning into our minds. Not just a cleaning of our homes, but a cleaning of our souls.

My family and I are in the middle of Lent and Easter is almost upon us. I like to see Lent as a time to shake all the dust off my faith. Revisit devotions I no longer

perform and seek new ones that might fit me better in my station in life right now.

I know that sometimes it's difficult to step out and change directions. I know that I have been trying to do the same things over and over again that just don't work. I realize this is probably because I am doing what looks like the answer, but not what really works for me. I have found that The Rule helps me to get a sense of who I am and how I can best spring clean my soul.

So while I am looking to dive into a good strong devotion, I find myself drawn into a busy life and one thing comes to my mind – doing a "Lectio of Life." I am constantly being reminded by God of what I need to do for myself everyday through others.

In this instance, it is my children. As I am busy chasing kids, key parts of The Rule repeat themselves in my brain. They need leisure, work and prayer everyday to become well rounded, just like I do.

I know that not everyone has small reminders on two legs in their own homes. But this can be done with anyone's situation. When it just seems like there is too much to add something new at the moment, take a look at what you are doing and see what you can "spring clean." Wipe the dust off the things that you haven't used in a while and discard the things that no longer work for you.

*Thank You and God Bless
Mara Fritts
Oblate Lincoln NE Chapter*

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