



# Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery

SEPTEMBER 2011

**WELCOME BACK!** May we be renewed in the Spirit after our summer and may we be re-committed to our life of “grace building” as we continue to seek and deepen our love of God. As Benedictines, we have so many opportunities through our studies, the liturgy of the hours, our retreats and involvement and our Benedictine Oblate community. Let us be united in prayer!

**ASSIGNMENTS:** All assignments for the Chapter meetings are on our website and you can copy the meeting dates, times and assignments under each Chapter heading for the whole year. Put on your calendars for 2011-2012: <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.

**OUR TEXT:** The second half of The Oblate Life by Gervase Holdaway, OSB. **ABOUT THE QUESTIONS:** Again, we will have questions for each month. Hopefully the questions will stimulate your thinking in a particular area. Find the other aspects important to you. Here is the assignment and questions for the September Chapter meetings (except Steinauer):

The Oblate Life by Holdaway, Read Chapter 19, Moderation: The Key to Permanence & Chapter 20, Benedictine Hospitality.

- How do you understand “quasi-legal genre” and “qualitative moderation” pgs 180-181, Read RB 64
- How do you welcome “the stranger” today? Read RB 53

**LINCOLN CHAPTER:** Sheridan Rooms & North Commons Cafeteria on Sunday and Lancaster Room on Monday, Madonna Rehab Hosp: Sunday, September 11, 2011 and Monday, September 12, 2011: See assignment and questions above.

**HASTINGS CHAPTER:** St. Michael’s Church, Family Room, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Saturday, September 10 2011, See assignment and questions above.  
Reflection: Sr. Phyllis, Facilitator: Robin Stroot  
Companion: Sr. Phyllis, Prayer: Carol Barry

**OMAHA CHAPTER:** New Cassel Retirement Center, Lecture Hall, 900 N 90th Street, Omaha, NE, 7-9 pm, Tuesday, September 13, 2011. See assignment and questions above.  
Reflection: Sr. Phyllis, Facilitator: Paula Rood  
Companion: Sr. Phyllis

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

Monday, August 29, 2011: This will also be our introduction and orientation time for new members. You will begin using The Oblate Life by Gervase Holdaway, OSB. Read the Forward, Introduction and Chapter 1, “The Life of St. Benedict” and Chapter 2, “The Benedictine Heritage.”

- 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 “spiritual parenting given by these extraordinary individuals.” pg 15
- Are you able to find Sacred Heart Monastery’s heritage? (bottom of page 27)

Companion: Sister Phyllis, Facilitator: Marcia B., Prayers: Don Borchers

**PRAYER FOR NEW MEMBERS:** As we begin orientation sessions for new members, do keep them in your prayers so they can overcome all obstacles that may come into their lives.

**NEW BOOKS:** If anyone does not have a book, please see Sister Phyllis.

## INDIVIDUAL OBLATE ASSIGNMENTS FOR

**2011-2012:** Please do review your assignments on our website:

<http://sites.google.com/site/nebraskabenedictineoblates>. Go to the website - click on the side bar – Individual Oblate Assignments and search for your responsibility. You will see that many of you have assignments for the Chapter Reflections, Newsletter, Cell facilitators, Facebook reflection and responders, Friday morning prayer, Wednesday Newman Vespers and then the other many responsibilities you provide to make our Benedictine Oblates a vital community . Click on the Cell Groups and Assignments: you will see that we will be using the text: Be a Monastic and Not Leave Your Day Job by Br. Benet Tvedten. I have listed the assignments but you may adjust them for your convenience. Then put it on your calendar. It is so wonderful to have your involvement and conscientious effort in fulfilling these commitments. THANK YOU, THANK YOU for making last year such a memorable year by accepting the many responsibilities. If you see errors as you are reading through – please do email me with the problem.

## NEBRASKA OBLATE FACEBOOK

**REFLECTIONS:** Again, thank you for your reflections and responses on our Facebook page. They have been wonderful. We will continue to have a monthly reflection by one of our oblates and so all are welcome to respond. In addition, I have assigned one oblate to respond by the middle of the month. It is a great way to take some time for Lectio and share one's faith experience.

## RETREAT FOR OBLATES

A semi-quiet retreat with the topic of Living the Psalms, is scheduled Sept. 30th- Oct. 2nd. The retreat theme will focus on three kinds of psalms, as well as some psalms used throughout the Rule. It will invite you to pray the psalms with the events of your lives. The retreat begins the evening of Sept. 30th and ends the morning of Oct. 2nd. The cost for a single room, including meals, is \$90; a room with two people is \$140. Reservations can be made by contacting Sr. Joelle Bauer at 1005 W. 8th Street, Yankton, S.D. 57078, jbauer@mtmc.edu, 605-668-6009. If finances are difficult for you at this time there is a scholarship available. Please contact me if you are interested in this.

**OBLATE LIBRARY:** We have many good books in our oblate library. They are all listed on our website and they are all listed on the "sign-in and sign-out" sheet. I will be dividing them into four sections for the Lincoln Chapters and will bring one section per month. Always feel free to review the list when you would like a particular book.

**LISTENING TO GOD'S CHOICE FOR ME:** A Discernment Retreat for Catholic Women ages 18-35, November 18-20, 2011, Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, SD. This is a prayerful time to discern one's future. This reflective retreat includes: Helpful tools for discernment, Reflective talks, Silent time, One-to-one conference with a trained spiritual director, Facilitated dialogue with group, Monastic environment, Eucharist and Liturgy of the Hours with the monastic community and Emmaus walk. Suggested donation \$100. Registration is limited. To reserve space, mail \$10 non-refundable deposit to: Benedictine Peace Center, 1005 West 8th Street, Yankton, SD 57078, email joanne.dickinson@mtmc.edu or call 605-668-6292

**THE MCDONALD SYNDROM** By Oblate Vic Faesser, Steinauer Chapter

My wife and I were on an outing recently, in the Omaha area. On our way home, we stopped at McDonald's and placed an order utilizing the drive-through. A number of vehicles were ahead of us, and it took some minutes before we advanced to the first window to pay. I rolled down my window, as the young female clerk slid open her window, and announced the amount owed. From her demeanor and tone of voice, it was apparent that this person was weighed down, perhaps by the boredom of her job, or other concerns. She briskly took my offered bill, without making eye contact, returned my change, again without eye contact, and abruptly slid the window shut, without a further word.

Shortly, we advanced to the second window to receive our order. The young female clerk extended her arm through her window. I took the order, as she smiled at me, and made some friendly parting comment. The contact with this clerk was genuine. Her demeanor didn't appear to be a "put-on" job requirement. I felt refreshed by this brief encounter. She exemplified the porter who is directed to provide "a prompt answer with the warmth of love." RB 66.4.

As we drove towards the street, I commented to my wife about the difference between the two encounters. I should have said something encouraging to the first clerk, but the encounter was so brief, and she was so abrupt, it almost caught me by surprise. I could have said something, but didn't. (RB 4.18 "Go help the troubled")

It's easy to be nice, friendly to those who are so to us. It is harder to do so when the other isn't, yet it isn't for us to judge the reasons for the other's behavior. We have the opportunity to bring some light into their day! (RB 72.4-5 "They should each try to be the first to show respect to the other, supporting with the greatest patience one another's weaknesses of body or behavior.")

Do I sometimes react like the first clerk? Yes. I think we all do. When we are psychologically down, for whatever reason, it's hard to present an amiable front to others. Sometimes, we may react in abruptness, or in anger, especially if requests or demands are made upon us. RB 4.8-9 "You must honor everyone and never do to another what you do not want done to yourself")

A few years ago, I was browsing through a book, The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran, and focused upon his essay on "work." I copied the text and pasted it onto my business card, and placed a copy in my wallet, and one under my desk pad.

On the sanctification of work:  
Always you have been told  
That work is a curse and  
Labor a misfortune.  
But I say to you that when  
You work you fulfill a part  
Of earth's furthest dream,  
Assigned to you when that  
Dream was born.  
And in keeping yourself with  
Labor you are in truth  
Loving life.

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