



# Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery

February 2012

## IMPORTANT DATES:

- ⤴ ASH WEDNESDAY: February 22
- ⤴ FEASTDAY OF ST. SCHOLASTICA (Twin sister of St. Benedict) February 10. We will celebrate this feast at Newman Chapel, Wed Vespers (2-8-12) and at Madonna Morning Prayer, Fri (2-10-12).

**OBLATE ASSIGNMENT FOR LINCOLN, HASTINGS AND OMAHA:** The Oblate Life by Gervase Holdaway, OSB, Chapter 31, Friendships and Relationships, Chapter 32, Possessions and Chapter 33, Leisure and the Benedictine Oblate

**Lincoln:** Sunday, February 12, 2012 and Monday, February 13, 2012: : Sheridan Rooms & North Commons on Sunday and Sheridan Room C on Monday, Madonna Rehab Hosp: See assignment above. We will look forward to hear Oblate Catherine Hornig give the reflection on Sunday and Oblate Julie Warrington on Monday. Choir Practice at 6:15 pm prior to Sunday meeting.

**Steinauer:** Monday, February 27, 2012, The Oblate Life by Gervase Holdaway, OSB, Monday, February 27, 2012: The Oblate Life by Gervase Holdaway, OSB, Chapter 12: Lectio Divina transforms our spiritual inner selves. Are you doing it? If not, why not. Take thoughtful time with this chapter. Choose at least one scripture passage and experience the loving embrace of God. Reflection and facilitator: Don Borchers, Prayer: Kristi Meyer, Refreshments: Don Borchers and Kristi Meyer

**Hastings:** St. Michael's Church, Family Room, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Saturday, February 11, 2012: See assignment above. Reflection and facilitator: Leland Ostdiek, Companion: Sister Phyllis, Prayer: Dixie Tripe

Cell Meeting: Saturday, Feb 25: Be a Monastic and Not Leave Your Day Job, Peace and Justice & Hospitality

**Omaha:** New Cassel Retirement Center, Lecture Hall, 900 N 90th Street, Omaha, NE, 7-9 pm, Tuesday, February 14, 2012. See assignment above. Chapter 31, Friendships and Relationships, Chapter 32, Possessions and Chapter 33, Leisure and the Benedictine Oblate. We will welcome Ida Mary Leistner for the reflection and facilitator.

Cell Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2012, Be a Monastic and Not Leave Your Day Job, Part Three: Being an Oblate and Origins of Oblates, Facilitator: Phil Kelley

## IMPORTANT RETREAT CHANGES FROM

**SR JOELLE:** Because of Sr. Joelle's continuing recovery from open heart surgery, the retreat format has been changed. Sr Joelle will not be giving the conferences; however the Peace Center will be reserved for any Oblates who would still like to come for retreat, using the facilities on the weekend of Feb. 24th-26th. Sometimes we need to "come away for a while and rest" as Jesus often did when he went up to the mountain to pray and reflect. Time apart from daily demands can refresh us, enriching and revitalizing the ordinary. If anyone wants to come they can fashion their own day or request the guidance of an experienced retreat director. There will be sisters available for this if anyone wants.

There are also a three retreats available throughout the year that anyone is welcome to attend:

- ⤴ On Feb. 17-19, 2012 there is a weekend retreat on "Praying the Scriptures:" The ancient Art of Lectio Divina. "Experience praying the Sacred Scriptures in silent solitude with time for reflective conferences and faith-sharing. Find ways to deepen your prayer life after the retreat."
- ⤴ June 8-10, 2012, Spiritual Discernment: Recognizing God in My Life.
- ⤴ Sept. 21-23, 2012 Prayer: Exploring Ways of Communing with God.

For additional information or a brochure please contact joanne.dickinson@mtmc.edu or call (605) 668-6292. The above retreats will be funded by a free-will offering – whatever you want to pay and a gift from a generous donor. Please also let Sister Phyllis know at phunhoff74@windstream.net or 402-488-6731. (I am planning to go and will be happy to share/coordinate rides.)

**DATE CHANGES** (necessitated by new monastery events)

- ⤴ **June Pot Luck** is now scheduled for Sunday, June 17 at 5 pm at Madonna. You will receive more information from the Oblate Social Committee

- ▲ **Forgiveness/Healing with St. Benedict** conference is now scheduled for Saturday morning, March 31 from 9 – 12 noon at Madonna.

## **NEW BOOK FOR APRIL AND MAY**

**CHAPTERS:** Since we are finishing our text, *The Oblate Life*, in March, we will use a small book for April and May. *The Practice of the Presence of God: Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection*, Edited and Paraphrased by Donald E. Demaray (be sure it is this edition). This is a classic spiritual book. Brother Lawrence's spiritual doctrine stems directly from his own lived faith. We will read the first section: "Conversations" in April and "Letters" in May. If any one would like me to buy this book or the books for September just let me know.

## **NEW BOOKS FOR SEPTEMBER**

**CHAPTERS:** *A Blessed Life, Benedictine Guidelines for Those Who Long for Good Days* by Wil Derkse. *Cells – Cherish Christ Above All, The Bible in the Rule of St. Benedict* by Demetrius Dumm, OSB.

1. **GREAT NEWS:** Pope Benedict XVI is set to canonize and appoint Hildegard of Bingen as a Doctor of the Church in October of 2012. She was a German Benedictine nun and was known for her visions and prophecies. Hildegard of Bingen lived in the twelfth century. In addition to being a nun, she was a composer, philosopher, physicist and ecologist. A multi-talented woman, and a pioneer for many of these fields during the Middle Ages. She came from a wealthy family and when she was only eight years old was sent to study in a monastery. She eventually decided to become a nun and later became an abbess. Her visions and prophecies were recognized by the pope during that time, allowing her to speak about them publicly. Pope Benedict XVI dedicated several of his general audiences to this German nun, saying that she "served the Church in an age in which it was wounded by the sins of priests and laity".

**TRAVEL TOUR** from the Lincoln Hildegard Center for the Arts: As Hildegard von Bingen is the namesake for our Center; everyone involved at Hildegard Center for the Arts couldn't be more thrilled! Work has begun to possibly sponsor a trip to Rome in order to share in this once-in-a-lifetime event. Anyone interested should contact Kim Einspahr at [www.info@hildegardcenter.org](http://www.info@hildegardcenter.org).

**THE SEASON OF LENT:** We may be surprised to hear that the Church's liturgy reminds us that Lent is

meant to be a "joyful season." The season of Lent finds its meaning and origin in Easter, the annual celebration of our Lord's resurrection and our salvation. With the whole Church we re-examine our priorities, leaving sin and self behind and intensifying our love and service of God and our neighbor. The joy of this time of preparation is all about the surprise of new life coming from what may have appeared dead—just as fresh buds break through each spring on trees that seemed dead during the long winter. Let us be united in our readiness to celebrate the great feast with our Risen Lord.

**OBLATE LIFE PERSONAL EVALUATION:** as a Lenten exercise! To see how well you are fulfilling your vocation as an oblate, reflect on and ask yourself the following questions. These questions are for your personal consideration and evaluation, so that you may see how you are growing as an oblate. If you sincerely reflect on these questions, you can only deepen your relationship with God. And in doing so, you are truly growing in Benedictine spirituality as an oblate.

1. What have I done during the past year to continue ongoing formation as an oblate?
2. What do I plan to do during the coming year?
3. How well do I see myself living the oblate promises? *Rate yourself on a scale of 1–5, with 1 as "needing improvement" and 5 as "doing well."*
  - Stability of heart?
  - Fidelity to the spirit of the monastic life?
  - Obedience to the will of God?
4. How well do I see myself fulfilling the oblate duties?
  - Praying the Liturgy of the Hours
  - Reading from the Rule of St. Benedict?
  - Daily practice of Lectio Divina
  - Participating in the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation in my own faith tradition of church and prayer?
  - Attentiveness to God's presence in my ordinary, daily life?
5. If I need to improve in any of these areas, what do I plan to do?

**GETTING ACQUAINTED:** with the Liturgy of the Hours: As there are a number of you who are interested in getting better acquainted with how to use the Shorter Christian Prayer book, I will be setting up a time to do this. Just let me know by Feb 22 (Ash Wednesday) and we will find a date for you! Email me at [phunhoff74@windstream.net](mailto:phunhoff74@windstream.net) or call 402-488-6731. Sister Phyllis

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