



# Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery

June 2012

**Greetings to all of you!** While we are looking at a significant transition with my departure to Sacred Heart Monastery, I can see God's Hand in all that we are doing to allow you, our Nebraska Oblates to continue your spiritual journey. We have just celebrated the feast of Pentecost where the disciples (us) are told to share the mission of Jesus to the world. That is the same message that is in our Guidelines for Oblates of St. Benedict: "being faithful witnesses of Christ by striving to bring the Gospel message and God's way of holiness to the world around us." Being an Oblate of St. Benedict is one of the most powerful "ways of life" that you could consider. These past years, while having the privilege of sharing the charisms of St. Benedict with you, have convinced me that his Rule gives us all the necessary elements to find the presence of God in our lives. Utilizing Lectio through scripture, inspirational texts and the world around us provides the on-going awareness and continued deep formation for union and relationship with God. The Liturgy of the Hours keeps us attuned to the life of Christ through the church year as we live and relive those faith-filled events. It is the prayer time where we talk with God through the daily psalms of our joys and sorrows. Through God's gift of grace and the power of the Spirit, we have each been called to this special way of life. You will continue to share all of this with our monastery as we keep you in our prayers (Oblates are formally mentioned frequently) and provide whatever support you may need. I leave with much joy, knowing of your commitment to holiness. Sister Phyllis

PS: I look forward to celebrating with you on Sunday, June 17 at the Pot Luck. Then I expect to be leaving Lincoln permanently after our July 11 Feast day/Dean Installation ceremony/celebration.

**DATE FOR YOUR CALENDAR** (From Pat Shafer – Social Chair): As you are aware by now, Sr. Phyllis will be returning to the Monastery permanently sometime this summer. As each and every one of us is an Oblate in large part because of the presence of Sr. Phyllis in our lives, we want to mark this transition in her life and in our lives with a special event. We have chosen to wrap our celebration and farewell into our annual pot luck dinner. **The Pot Luck Dinner will be held on Sunday, June 17 at 5 PM in the North Commons at Madonna.**

We are asking for two things:

1. Bring a dish to share. Plates, tableware and drinks will be provided. We know from experience that you are wonderful cooks and/or know wonderful places to buy prepared foods. Surprise us with your good food.
2. Families of Oblates are welcome to participate in the dinner and activities. **Please let us know how many will be attending in your party.** We need to be sure that we have set up to accommodate the size group that will be attending. RSVP's may be sent to [pshafer@neb.rr.com](mailto:pshafer@neb.rr.com) no later than June 10.

Finally, if you are responsible for notifying Oblates who do not have email of upcoming events, please give them a call or drop them a note to be sure they are included in this very special event. We are hoping for a large turnout. -- *Blessings and peace,*  
*Pat Shafer*

**ANOTHER IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR CALENDAR:** The feast of St Benedict: July 11 at 5 pm we will install our new Deans with Vespers in the Madonna Chapel.

- Lincoln Chapters: Steve Liechti, Carol Barry, Mary Schroer, Jim Rea & Carol Olson
- Hastings Chapter: Juliene Bryan
- Steinauer: Marcia Borchert
- Omaha: Rod Dolton

## **SOME LIBRARY BOOKS STILL**

**AVAILABLE:** I will be bringing the remaining books for you to choose a book. If you wish, you may give a small contribution for the Nebraska Oblate fund. If there are left over books, I will give them to St. Michael's Parish where they are selling books online to pay off their debt. If you have a book you may consider that as your book or return it.

## **THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** (Reflection by Oblate Collette Masek)

As the season of Easter has come to an end, we now celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. The Apostles and Mary were gathered in the Upper Room when the Holy Spirit descended upon them to fulfill the promise that Jesus had made to them "for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1.

As Christians, through Baptism and Confirmation, we are given the gifts of the Holy Spirit. As we are transformed by the power of the Spirit, we are called to be witnesses for Jesus and to carry on His mission in the world.

The prophet Isaiah, in Chapter 11, spoke of the gifts of the Spirit as virtues which we all should possess. It is our responsibility to receive and exercise these gifts in order to advance the Kingdom of God and glorify Christ. But how do we do that?

The Catholic Encyclopedia describes how the seven gifts mentioned in Isaiah can be expressed in our lives:

- The gift of WISDOM, by detaching us from the world, makes us relish and love only the things of heaven.
- The gift of UNDERSTANDING helps us to grasp the truths of religion as far as is necessary.
- The gift of COUNSEL springs from supernatural prudence, and enables us to see and choose correctly what will help most to the glory of God and our own salvation.

- By the gift of FORTITUDE, we receive courage to overcome the obstacles and difficulties that arise in the practice of our religious duties.
- The gift of KNOWLEDGE points out to us the path to follow and the dangers to avoid in order to reach heaven.
- The gift of PIETY, by inspiring us with a tender and filial confidence in God, makes us joyfully embrace all that pertains to His service.
- Lastly, the gift of FEAR OF THE LORD, fills us with a sovereign respect for God, and makes us dread, above all things, to offend Him.

Let us go in peace, glorifying the Lord with our lives.

*"Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love."*



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/>