



Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Living by the Spirit of The Rule of St. Benedict + Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery
www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org + info@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org + February 2013

Greetings

GOD'S BLESSINGS AS WE PREPARE FOR LENT

From the *Rule* of our Holy Father Benedict:
"Listen readily to holy reading, and devote yourself to prayer" (RB 4:55).

Coming this Month

CHAPTER GATHERINGS

Hastings Chapter: Saturday, February 9, 2013, 9:30–11:30 a.m. Chapter 4 of *A Blessed Life* by Wil Derske: "A Benedictine View of Our Daily Work," pp. 51–64. The facilitator is Juliene Bryan; the companion leader is Sharon Connor; the reflection is by Jeanette Nordhues; and the prayer leader is Juliene Bryan. The meeting is held in the Family Room of St. Michael's Church.

Cell: February 23, 2013, 9:30 a.m. From *Cherish Christ Above All*, by Demetrius Dumm, O.S.B., Chapter 3, "A Journey of Faith," pp. 31–43. Cell facilitator will be Sharon Connor. The meeting is held in the Library of St. Michael's Church.

Lincoln Chapter: Sunday, February 10, 2013, and Monday, February 11, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. Chapter 3 of *A Blessed Life* by Wil Derske, pp. 30–50. Carol Barry will give a reflection on the theme "Humility". The Sunday meeting will be in the Sheridan Room at Madonna, while the Monday meeting will be in the Nemaha Room.

Cell meetings: From *Cherish Christ Above All* by Demetrius Dumm, O.S.B., Chapter 3, "A Journey of Faith," pp. 38–43.

Omaha Chapter: Tuesday, February 12, 2013, 7:00–9:00 p.m. General meeting

assignment is from *A Blessed Life* by Wil Derske, Chapter 4, pp. 51–64. The facilitator is Anne Rapczynski and the companion group leaders are Philip Kelley and Sr. Marlene.

Cell meeting is Tuesday, February 26, 7:00–9:00 p.m. *Cherish Christ Above All* by Demetrius Dumm, O.S.B., Chapter 3, pp. 31–38. The facilitator will be Paula Rood. Meetings are held at New Cassel Retirement Center, lecture hall (first floor).

Steinauer Chapter: Steinauer Chapter: *The Oblate Life*, Chapter 31, "Friendships and Relationships," Chapter 32, "Possessions," and Chapter 33, "Leisure and the Benedictine Oblate." The prayer is by Marjorie Wenzl and the reflection is by facilitator Don Borchert. Monday, February 25, 2013, at the banquet room at Convent B&B across from St. Michael's Church from 7:00–9:00 p.m.

The Feast of St. Scholastica

SISTER OF ST. BENEDICT

We celebrate the Feast of St. Scholastica on February 10. Scholastica was the twin sister of St. Benedict and was brought up with him until he left to continue his studies. Scholastica founded a religious community for women near her brother's monastery at Monte Cassino. It was their custom to visit each other once a year to discuss spiritual matters. Because Scholastica was not permitted inside the monastery, they met outside the walls.

During their last meeting, they spent the day in prayer and conversation. Sensing her death

CHAPTERS	DEANS	LOCATIONS
Hastings	Juliene Bryan, juliene.bryan@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Family Room, St. Michael's Church, Hastings
	Carol Barry, carol.barry@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital
	Steve Liechti, steve.liechti@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Sheridan Room (Sunday)
Lincoln	Carol Olson, carol.olson@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Lancaster Room (Monday)
	Jim Rea, jim.rea@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	5401 South St.
	Mary Schroer, mary.schroer@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Lincoln
Omaha	Rod Dolton, rod.dolton@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	New Cassel Retirement Ctr. Lecture Hall, Omaha
Steinauer	Marcia Borchert, marcia.borchert@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Banquet Room, Convent House B&B, Steinauer

was near, Scholastica did not want the visit to end, and she begged Benedict to stay with her until the next day.

His Rule prohibited him from spending the night outside of the monastery, so he refused her request. According to the *Dialogues of St. Gregory the Great*, Scholastica asked God to let her brother remain. A severe thunderstorm broke out, preventing Benedict and his monks from returning to the monastery that night.

Benedict said, "God forgive you, Sister. What have you done?" Scholastica replied, "I asked a favor of you and you refused. I asked it of God and he granted it."

They parted the next morning. Three days later, Benedict saw the soul of his sister rising heavenward in the form of a white dove, and he announced her death to the monks. He had her buried in the tomb he had prepared for himself.

Pope Gregory's *Dialogues* are available on the Web: www.osb.org/gen/greg/.

Mark Your Calendar

NEBRASKA CHAPTER POTLUCK

Mark Your Calendars for the June 9, 2013, potluck. In addition to our annual potluck, we will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Nebraska Oblates.

Lincoln Chapter News

WELCOME, NEW OBLATES

Kirk Newland and Kate Sirota made their Final Oblation on January 13, 2013, during Vespers at the January Chapter meeting. Congratulations Kirk and Kate on your Final Oblation!

The Divine Office

MORNING PRAYER IN LINCOLN

Every Friday at 7:30 a.m. a group of oblates say Morning Prayer in the Chapel at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, Lincoln. It has become a wonderful tradition and is another opportunity to build community and strong friendships with our Benedictine brothers and sisters. Some stay for a snack in the cafeteria after Morning Prayer. The coordinator of Friday morning prayer is Paul Blotkamp.

EVENING PRAYER IN LINCOLN

Several members have requested that we meet for Evening Prayer one day a week. Since January 10, oblates have been gathering every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. for Evening Prayer in the Chapel at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. This is another opportunity to join other oblates in prayer during the week.

Invitation

RETREAT FOR OBLATES AT THE SACRED HEART MONASTERY

Sr. Joelle Bauer has scheduled an Oblate Retreat for February 22–24, 2013, at the Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, South Dakota. The theme and content will be "Living the Psalms." The theme will focus on three kinds of psalms, as well as some psalms used throughout the Rule. You will be invited to pray the psalms with the events of your lives. The retreat begins the evening of February 22 and ends the morning of Feb. 24. The cost is \$120 for a single room, including meals and conferences, and \$170 for a room with two people. The number of participants is limited. You can make reservations by contacting:

Sr. Joelle Bauer
1005 W. 8th Street
Yankton, S.D. 57078
jbauer@mtmc.edu
605-668-6009.

There is voice mail for the telephone number. There is the possibility of a scholarship for a person who may have difficulty with the cost for the retreat.

PRIVATE RETREATS

If you're unable to go to the Oblate Retreat, remember that you can visit Sacred Heart Monastery for a private retreat. Go to www.yanktonbenedictines.org to the Peace Center for more information. Sacred Heart Monastery is a beautiful place of peace and spirituality. Take time to experience the monastery with which we are affiliated.

For those interested, there are four monasteries in our area that offer various retreats and programs. You don't need to be an oblate of these communities to partake of their offerings. For information you can contact:

Christ the King Priory, Schuyler, Nebraska: www.benedictinemissionhouse.com—Retreat Center/Programs and Retreats.

Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, Kansas: www.mountosb.org—Ministries/Sophia Spirituality Center.

Mt Michael's Abbey, Omaha, Nebraska: www.mountmichael.com—Abbey for Mass and Divine Office schedule.

Conception Abbey, Conception, Missouri: www.conceptionabbey.org—Abbey Guest Center.

Saturday Retreat **"EMBODIED PRAYER"**

Carol Olson, Spiritual Director, will present a retreat entitled "Embodied Prayer" from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on March 16, 2013, at Serenity House in Bennet, Nebraska.

Would you like to experience other forms of prayer besides sitting and folding your hands? Together we will explore the relationship between prayer expressions and movement. Wear comfortable clothing, as we will practice prayer in various movements and postures. All are welcome regardless of physical abilities.

Please RSVP by March 13 to:
carol.olson@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org.

Shorter Christian Prayer

PRAYING THE DIVINE OFFICE DURING LENT

Shorter Christian Prayer can be a bit confusing this time of year, so here are some instructions.

Beginning with the Monday after the Baptism of the Lord, January 14, 2013, we returned to Ordinary Time, Week 1, p. 54. We continue in Ordinary Time until the arrival of Ash Wednesday on February 13, 2013.

On Ash Wednesday, February 13, we will be on the prayers for Wednesday, Week II, p. 148. On Sunday, February 17, we will return to Week I, p. 37.

There are no special antiphons during the weekdays of Lent; the psalms and canticle are from the current day of the Psalter, up to the Reading. At the Reading we turn to pp. 405–428 and say the prayers for Sunday through Saturday of Lent.

Note that during the Sundays in Lent there are special Lenten antiphons and Canticles.

Important Events

NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF OBLATE DIRECTORS

This association will be meeting July 12–17, 2013, at Annunciation Monastery, Bismarck, North Dakota. This year the Nebraska Oblates may send two oblates to this meeting. The cost of registration is \$360 for single occupancy and \$285 for double occupancy. You will need to cover this cost as well as your travel expenses. If you are interested, please contact Sr. Phyllis, phyllis.hunhoff@mtmc.edu, 605.668.6000, to obtain a program and an application. You can see more at www.naabod.org.

WORLD CONGRESS OF OBLATES

The Congress will again be meeting in Rome October 4–10, 2013. Its last meeting was in 2009. Each member monastery is allowed to send one oblate. We do not have the cost of registration at this time. You will need to cover this cost as well as your travel expenses. This is an exceptional opportunity for an oblate, so if you are interested, please contact Sr. Phyllis, phyllis.hunhoff@mtmc.edu, 605.668.6000. To learn more, see Oblates Carol Olson and Marti Fritzen who attended the first Congress in Rome in 2005. Also see: www.benedictine-oblates.org.

Snow Policy

WHEN "THE WEATHER OUTSIDE IS FRIGHTFUL ...!"

It seems timely to restate our snow policy.

1. Should we have three to four inches of snow, we will cancel the meeting without notice. The meeting will not be rescheduled. The next month's meeting will occur as scheduled with that month's assignment.
2. Should we have a snowstorm that seems hard to judge, an e-mail will be sent. For those without e-mail, please call someone with e-mail. In all cases, use your best judgment: Be Safe!