



Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery

February 2006

ASSIGNMENTS

LINCOLN CHAPTER:

Sun., Feb 12, 2006 7-9 p.m. North Commons
Mon., Feb 13, 2006, 7-9 p.m. Flanagan Room
Text: Path of Life, Ch 11, Humility, pgs. 154-167

HASTINGS CHAPTER: St. Michael's Church, Family Room
Sat., Feb. 11, 2006, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Preferring Christ, Chapters 54-57(pp 1134-139)
New members: Formation Handbook (3rd meeting assignment)

STEINAUER CHAPTER: Banquet Hall, across from St. Anthony's Church
Monday, Feb 6, 2006, Text: Path of Life, Ch. 10, Private Prayer, pgs 137-153

OMAHA CHAPTER: All Saints Episcopal Church, 9302 Blondo
Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2006, 7-9 p.m.
Text: Preferring Christ, Chapters 52-57, pgs., 129-138
New members: Formation Handbook assignment

ANNUAL RETREAT: You all should have received the information about our Oblate Retreat at Sacred Heart Monastery, Friday through Sunday, February 24-26, entitled "Listen with the Ear of Your Heart," with Sister Joelle Bauer, our SHM Oblate Director, as the retreat director. Contact Sister Joelle directly and I urge you to do it soon, as space is limited. Let me know if you need further information. Sister Phyllis

IILLUMINATING THE WORD: The St. John's Bible will be on display through April 16, 2006. You really do not want to miss this awesome work. Twenty-four Oblates and Sisters went to the exhibition at Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha on Sunday. It is the first handwritten, illuminated Bible since the advent of the printing press more than 500 years ago. It was commissioned in 1996 by the Benedictine monks of St. John's Abbey to ignite spiritual imagination of believers throughout the world and to illumine the Word of God for a new millennium. It is being created by a team of scribes, artists and craftspeople in a Scriptorium in Wales under the direction of Donald Jackson, one of the world's foremost calligraphers and the Scribe to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Crown Office at the House of Lords.

During February there are Sacred Subjects-a Sunday Afternoon Series at 2 p.m. (see www.joslyn.org) for \$20 for non-members. Dick Palazzolo is planning to attend on 2-5-06 and 2-12-06 leaving for a morning Mass, brunch, visit Bible display at Joslyn and attend the lecture. If anyone is interested in going with him call 796-2447 or email: dpal@alltel.net.

INTERNATIONAL PRAYER FOR PEACE DAY

2006: from Oblate Elizabeth Jones, Chair of the Committee. She is an author, journalist, mother and grandmother who is an Oblate of Queen of Angels Monastery, Mount Angel, OR. She lives in Washington, DC where she attends oblate meetings at St. Anselm's Abbey. She says: "We invite you to join us Sunday, March 19, 2006, for out International Prayer for Peace Day, on Sunday closest to the anniversary of St. Benedict's death. The prayer was written in ancient 6th century traditions; Benedictines, their Oblates and lay associates of many religious orders, chaplains, families and friends prayed in churches, living rooms and military bases. It was our first year and despite many challenges, it was heard in 13 of 24 time zones. Dom John Hayden, OSB, explained it this way: "People are hungry for peace."

She says, this year we are inviting all religious sects and divisions to join our prayer so that we will be divided no longer – if only for a day."

Note from Sr. Phyllis: I would like to have 3-5 Oblate Volunteers to come together soon to assist in finding initiatives to promote saying this prayer on Sunday, March 19. Call me at 488-6731 or email me: phunhoff@ix.netcom.com -- Sister Phyllis

MOZART REQUIEM: (submitted by Karla Carter)
The UNL University Singers, Collegiate Chorus, and Concert Choir along with the University Symphony Orchestra will perform the Requiem, K 626 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Dr. Peter Eklund will conduct. Featured soloists will be UNL graduate students and recent alums. This is a program you won't want to miss. It is 2/17/2006, 7:30pm at Kimball Recital Hall. Call the Lied Center box office at 402/427-4747 or 800/432-3231.

MONASTIC INSTITUTE AT ST. JOHN'S

UNIVERSITY: As part of the 150th anniversary celebration of Benedictines in Central Minnesota (St. John's Abbey and St. Benedict's Monastery) the 2006 Monastic Institute titled "One Heart, One Soul: Many Communities" will be held July 1-7, 2006. The Institute will examine this phenomenon by convening a conversation among members and scholars of various forms of community life. "We guarantee the conversations and presentations will be thought provoking and stimulating." Some of the featured speakers include Abbot Primate Notker Wolf OSB; Abbess Máire Hickey OSB, Moderator of *Communio Internationalis Benedictinarum*; Columba Stewart OSB, Director of Hill Museum and Manuscript Library; Kevin Seasoltz OSB, editor of *Worship*; Meg Funk OSB, author of *Thoughts Matter* and Christine Pohl. If you are interested in attending, or want further information: Call: 320-363-3154 or Email: lschreiber@csbsju.edu (I do believe that some of you should seriously think about attending this Institute. It is one that we Sisters have attended for a number of years and is one of the most outstanding conferences available. Sister Phyllis)

"DEJECTION CAN LEAD TO SIN": According to Thomas Merton (taken from *Humility Matters* by Sister Margaret Mary Funk, OSB.)

There is a sin of sadness. Sometimes instead of trying to react against sadness, we submit passively to it saying, "It is a cross—God wants us to feel that way." No, God does not want us to submit to the sadness that eats the heart out of our virtues and of our interior life. It is a great self-deception to submit to this sadness and feel virtuous over our self-pity....Sadness in the spiritual life comes from preferring what is destructive and negative, and refusing to take positive steps to be constructively good. It is...a cult of "dolorism" or suffering for its own sake, etc., etc. Above all, then, we must avoid a false and destructive spirituality. Just as moths make a garment totally useless, so sadness ruins our spiritual life. If we are to build a spiritual temple for the Holy Ghost, we must not use worm-eaten beams and timbers."

A POINT TO PONDER FROM THE RULE: "What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testament is not the truest guide for human life?" RB 73-3

(Taken from Benedictine Oblate, St. Meinrad Archabbey) A piece of advice from an old farmer's perspective is: "Words that really soak into your ears are whispered, not yelled." Though we try to listen to the whisper of God in the Bible, we do, at times, find different passages of the Bible hard to understand and appreciate. In the early Church, the people worked hard to read and listen to the least understandable parts of the Bible. They wanted to see Jesus Christ in those passages.

St. Benedict does not hold up his Rule as greater than the sacred Scripture. But he wants his monks and oblates to know that the Old and New Testaments are the first guides for their spiritual lives. That is why the Rule is so centered in the Bible. The main purpose of the Rule is to interpret the Scriptures so that we can read and listen to God's gentle whispering and thus change our hearts and our way of life.

OBLATE NOTES:

- Our sympathy to: Oblates Deb Clark and Carmen Mangers of Hastings Chapter and Oblates Ruth Ford and Marti Fritzen of Lincoln who have lost their mothers in the last months.
- Please remember these Oblates in prayer who have been or are ill: Patricia Anderson, Dorthy Conrardt, Sandi Danskin, Hollee Dendee, Martha Hunzeker, Jane Johnson, Frances Knosp and Paula Rood.
- Death Notice: Please remember Sister Lorraine Weirs of Sacred Heart Monastery in your prayers who died 1-24-06. She will be buried 1-26-06 (her birthday).
- Is there anyone else who would like to join us (on occasion) at UNL Vespers – Monday through Friday at 5 p.m. at the Newman Center Chapel? It is going very well. Prayer is powerful!

INSPIRATIONAL



God chooses us....
God constantly searches for us.....
God who made you without your cooperation....
Cannot save you without your cooperation....
Without God I can't....
Without me God won't....
Because you are members of His Mystical Body,
He wants you to be His saints and joined to Him.
Be a vessel of love and sanctify the soil where you are planted.
God loves the world through us.
God has given all of us abilities
And if we put them to use for His purpose,
He will bless us.

Mother Teresa