



Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery

November 2007

OBLATION CEREMONY: Sunday, November 11, 2007, 2 p.m. in the Madonna Chapel. Reception following in the Madonna North Commons. Family and Friends are invited to attend.

It is with great joy that we the Benedictine Sisters and all of our Oblates welcome those of you who will be making their Initial and Final Oblations. This is a very special time in your lives. St. Benedict says, "he/she comes before the whole community in the oratory...in the presence of God and his saints...writes out his/her document...and lays it on the altar." And finally says, "Receive me O Lord as you have promised and I shall live; do not disappoint me in my hope." RB58:21

And we look forward to seeing many of our Oblates making their Renewal of Oblation.

The following will become Oblate Novices:

INITIAL OBLATION

LINCOLN:

Tim Adams	Jim Goodman
Chase Becker	Charlene Gondring
Mary Costello	Sheri Lynne Hansen
Shelley Freeman	Carol Niemann
Mara Fritts	Barbara Revers

STEINAUER:

Delores Lewis	Allan W. Tramp
Robert L. Lewis	

HASTINGS:

Larry L. Anderson	Cathy Mohnike
John Fertig	Bob Phillips
Leland Ostdiek	Myron A. Wendland
Joyce Ostdiek	Maria Wendland
Stan Mangers	

The following will become Oblates:

FINAL OBLATION

LINCOLN CHAPTER:

LINCOLN CHAPTER:

Paul J. Blotkamp	Peter J. Pallard
John Hansen	Judy Smith
Catherine M. Hornig	Marva Wasser
Steve Liechti	Darla Weisbeck
Susan Kehri Moore	

STEINAUER CHAPTER:

Jackie Lueders	Kris Meyer
Jerry Meyer	

OMAHA CHAPTER:

Joyce Kinsey

Please let Sister Phyllis know if I have forgotten anyone or I have misspelled your name. See contact information at the end of the newsletter.

OBLATION PREPARATION AND ORIENTATION TO THE DIVINE OFFICE:

A special session is being held Saturday, November 3, 2007, 9-10:30 a.m. in the Flanagan Room at Madonna for orientation to the Divine Office and Oblate preparation. Whereas it is generally for the new members, all are welcome who wish a refresher course.

CONTEMPLATIVE RETREAT: June 22—27, 2008: This retreat at the Sacred Heart Monastery Peace Center is a silent, guided experience of Christian contemplative practice and includes multiple periods of silent sitting meditation, instructive conferences and opportunities to consult individually with the director: Sister Corin Kraus, OSB. Sister Corin is an experienced formator in the contemplative way. She currently resides at Haus der Stille in southern Germany and is a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration affiliated with the priory in Tucson, AZ. Space is limited. To inquire, contact: Administrative Assistant / (605) 668-6024

REV. ANSELM GRUEN, OSB, TO SPEAK AT ST. BENEDICT CENTER:

The Rev. Anselm Gruen, OSB, Ph.D., one of the most frequently read spiritual authors of our time, will present a one-day retreat at St. Benedict Center, four miles north of Schuyler on Saturday, June 14, 2008. His retreat will be titled, Benedict of Nursia: His Message for Today. Father Anselm is a Benedictine monk of the Abbey of Muensterschwarzach in Germany. From the Rule of St. Benedict, Fr. Anselm learned how to guide people. Already in the 1970s, he rediscovered the tradition of the early desert monks, whose importance he sees especially in conjunction with modern psychology. He is widely respected for his ability to present classic Christian spirituality in a modern context. In his numerous retreats and talks around the world, Fr. Anselm, a counselor and advisor, sought-after speaker and retreat master, responds to the needs and questions of the people. His books, among them Benedict of Nursia: His Message for Today (Liturgical Press 2006) and Angels of Grace (Crossroad; Continuum), are international bestsellers (300 titles available and 14 Mill. copies sold worldwide). He will come to us from Germany for this special event. The retreat runs from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; registration begins at

8:30 a.m. The program fee is \$30. Please bring your own sack lunch. HOWEVER, lunch is available at the Center for \$ 8.18 (includes tax), if you pay for it BEFORE the program starts. Contact: St. Benedict Center 402-352-8819 or www.StBenedictCenter.com.

NAABO NEWSLETTER: North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors: To view the quarterly newsletter, go to: <http://www.naabod.org/naabod-news.html>.

PRAYER REQUESTS: It may be more comfortable for us if we were a little less explicit in our prayer requests. We want to know who is in the hospital recovering from surgery or some one who is struggling with family issues. Making it a little more generic will make sure that we are not crossing someone's boundary.

OBLATE MEMORIAL SERVICE (at the time of death): I realized that I have not shared this service with you and we have been using it for a number of years. It has always been so appreciated by the loved ones. I consider it a little service thanking God for the person's life and recognizing the person's commitment to her/his spiritual life. As I was visiting about it recently, there was a request to see it and to have it available so it could become a part of one's preparation for death and final service. When an Oblate dies, I visit with the family or loved ones about it and if they wish, we will plan when it will be said, for instance prior to a wake service, privately or even during the funeral service. Traditionally, Oblates were allowed to be buried in the garb of their particular monastery. Since today, there is no garb, a black Benedict/Scholastica scapular is used in its place. Last week, when Oblate Anne Johnson died in Washington, D.C., her family asked if one of the monks of St. Anselm Abbey, there in Washington, would come to say the prayers, which one did. I thought that was very special.

OBLATE MEMORIAL PRAYER SERVICE
Sacred Heart Monastery
Nebraska Chapters

"You broke the Reign of Death, O Lord"

Body and Coffin or remains are sprinkled with Holy Water. A scapular of St. Benedict & St. Scholastica is placed on left shoulder or around remains. Copy of the final Oblation is placed on/in the coffin or given to family.

Leader: From the Rule of St. Benedict (Chapter 7)
"The fourth degree of humility is that when obedience to God's will becomes difficult...one's heart quietly embraces suffering and endures it without weakening or seeking escape." For scripture says: "Anyone who perseveres to the end will be saved (Matt 10:22)", and again, "Be brave of heart and rely on the Lord (Ps 26:14)".

Antiphon: (All)
Lord, your love is eternal: do not forsake the work of your hands,

PSALM 138 (All)

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
You have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
Which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called you answered;
You increased the strength of my soul.

All rulers on earth shall thank you
When they hear the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the ways of the Lord:
"How great is the glory of the Lord."

The Lord is high, yet looks on the lowly
And knows the haughty from afar.
Though I walk in the midst of affliction
You give me life and frustrate my foes.

You stretch out your hand and save me,
Your hand will do all things for me.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
Discard not the work of your hands.

All honor to God, the Giver of Life,
To Christ, the Risen One,
And to the Spirit, Bond of Love,
Glory and praise forever. Amen

Antiphon: (All)
Lord, your love is eternal: do not forsake the work
of your hands.

LEADER: _____, An Oblate of St. Benedict, a devoted Christian (woman/man), was admitted into spiritual union and affiliation with the Benedictine community of Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, SD, so she/he might share in the spiritual life, prayers and good works of this community.

Oblates proclaim and practice the Christian virtues of faith, hope and divine love, by believing, hoping and trusting in God and loving God and others in thought, word and deed.

On behalf of Sacred Heart Monastery, and all of our Oblates, we commend _____ into the hands of God.

ALL: May her/his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed
rest in peace! AMEN

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