

# BENEDICTINE OBLATES OF NEBRASKA

Volume 8, Issue 1

"Peace"

September 2002

## ASSIGNMENTS:

Lincoln Chapter: Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital  
Sunday, September 8, 2002, 7-9 p.m., North Commons  
Monday, September 9, 2002, 7-9 p.m., Flanagan Room  
Assignment: Preferring Christ, Interlude II, page 46 and  
Chapters 5-6, pages, 47-51. We will welcome new  
members. There will be a discussion and distribution of  
the new Formation Handbook.

Ashland/Greenwood Chapter: CCD Center, next to St.  
Mary's Church, Ashland  
Thursday, September 5, 2002, 7-9 p.m.  
Orientation of new members!  
Distribution and Introduction to the new Formation  
Handbook.

Steinauer Chapter: Banquet Room across the street from  
St. Anthony's Church  
Monday, September 16, 2002, 7-9 p.m.  
Orientation of new members!  
Distribution and Introduction to the new Formation  
Handbook.

Hastings Chapter: Family Room at St. Michael's Church  
Saturday, September 14, 2002, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
Assignment in Handbook, "Guiding Philosophy & Initial  
Formation," and lessons on Holiness & St. Benedict.  
Preferring Christ: Foreword, Introduction, & pages 5 &  
6. Orientation to the Divine Office/Liturgy of the Hours.

**WELCOME TO THE MEMBERS OF THE  
HASTINGS CHAPTER!** Seven members will initiate  
a new Chapter in Hastings meeting the second Saturday  
morning of each month. Appreciation to Dixie Tripe,  
Kathleen Schroeder, Oblate, and Carmen Mangers who  
assisted in getting the Chapter started. **WELCOME TO  
ALL NEW MEMBERS** of our other chapters. We will  
be publishing a new listing very soon.

**HISTORIC TIMES:** At our September meetings we will  
be introducing and distributing our new Handbook for  
Benedictine Oblates, a formation document which we  
hope will be of assistance, not only to new members, but  
also to all of the Oblates. I especially wish to  
acknowledge Anne Johnson, Oblate who took the first  
major steps in the process. Along with her, Shannon  
Anderson, Oblate, assisted in the design. We have had

many of our Oblates review and it has been approved by  
Sister Ann Kessler, Oblate Director, Sacred Heart  
Monastery.

I am personally very excited about it and although much  
of the material will not be totally new to you, it should  
give you greater understanding of the process for Initial  
Formation and On-Going Formation. Our spiritual  
formation is seeking God in the spirit of the Gospel and  
the Rule of Benedict according to one's gifts within the  
Oblate Community of Sacred Heart Monastery. The  
Handbook will be used with new members/inquirers in  
the Companion Groups and it will be used in the Cells  
for all Oblates. I will look forward to presenting to you,  
your first Handbook. Sister Phyllis

**COMPANION AND CELL LEADERS** have all been  
assigned. New members/inquirers will be receiving a  
call or email from Companion leaders inviting you to a  
Companion Group. Oblates will receive a call or email  
reaffirming your present Cell group or inviting you to a  
new Cell group. This should happen within the month  
of September. If you have not been contacted, please do  
give me a ring/email to let me know. Let us express  
appreciation to the many Oblates who are taking  
leadership for these functions.

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED:** We have been sorry to see  
Judy and Jim Dawson, Oblates, leave for Minneapolis  
but we are pleased that Jim has received a nice  
promotion. Now we need a volunteer to schedule our  
refreshments for this year. Judy has left us some very  
nice directions to follow so it should be a very easy  
transition. She has already scheduled September. If you  
can help, contact Sr. Phyllis. Thank you very much in  
advance.

**RETREAT 2003:** We have made arrangements for our  
2003 Oblate retreat at Conception Abbey, Conception,  
MO for the first weekend after Easter, on April 25, 26  
and 27. It begins Friday evening at 5:15 p.m. with a  
prayer and concludes Sunday (after a noon dinner). The  
suggested donation is \$85 for a single room and \$75 per  
person for a double. This donation includes all costs of  
meals and conferences. We will have a preliminary sign

up sheet at the September meetings. We need a general idea of how many wish to go so we can schedule available rooms. Retreat Centers are in demand today and so it is important that we schedule months in advance.

**UPDATED WEBSITE:** You will want to see the updated website of Sacred Heart Monastery and the Oblate section by going to [www.yanktonbenedictines.org](http://www.yanktonbenedictines.org). You will find the Daily Scripture Readings and Feastdays at this site, beautifully set up by Sister Ann Kessler. You will note that we can link to our Nebraska Oblate site, from there, by clicking on [www.geocities.com/lincoln\\_oblates](http://www.geocities.com/lincoln_oblates). I hope you have each received the mailing from the monastery Benedictine Peace Center. You can also reach those selections on this website. The Sisters have some wonderful offerings for us.

**PATRISTIC READING** (*An extract from Symeon the New Theologian on the Beatitudes*) presented by Sister Margaret Malone, OSB., SHM, June, 2002

The pledge of the kingdom of heaven is the comfort that springs from sorrow. According to the Apostle, "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for," and the comfort that comes to the souls that mourn from the enlightenment of the Spirit is a visitation of God. On them He bestows the reward of a humble mind, which is called "the seed" and "the talent," for when it grows and multiplies in the souls of those who struggle it bears fruit for God "thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold," the holy fruit of the gifts of the Spirit. Where there is unfeigned humiliation there is also the depth of humility, and where there is humility there is also the enlightenment of the Spirit. Where there is the enlightenment of the Spirit there is the outpouring of the light of God, there is God in the wisdom and knowledge of his mysteries. Where these mysteries are to be found, there is the kingdom of heaven and the experience of the kingdom and the hidden treasures of the knowledge of God, which include the manifestation of poverty of spirit. Where poverty of spirit is perceived, there is also the sorrow that is full of joy. There are the ever flowing tears that purify the soul that loves these things and cause it to be completely filled with light.

**PRAYING THE BIBLE: An Introduction to Lectio Divina** by a Benedictine Archbishop – Mariano Magrassi, published by Liturgical Press of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville MN 56321 (\$11.95) might be of interest to some of you. -- Sister Ann Kessler

**LIBRARY BOOKS:** I hope you have enjoyed reading this summer. Just a note to alert you to return books when you are finished! -- Sister Phyllis

#### OBLATE NOTES:

- Hello from Montana and the Champion-Garthe's: Hi, everyone. We hope all is well with each of you. The moving van came to load on Fri, May 17, but they said they would come back the next day because we were not ready!!! We are still unpacking and organizing. Here is moving tip from one of the parishioners, should you ever find yourself in this situation: You know those signs for the windows of cars stranded on the highway? Well, simply post in the front windows of your new home a sign saying, "Send Help!" Your new neighbors will get a chuckle and invitation at the same time. I love our neighborhood. We have met a few neighbors, who seem nice. Saw 3 owls in the trees behind our house last night. Hear lots of birds. We're in a valley surrounded by snow-capped mountains and can see them in all directions. If anyone would like to come for a visit, we'd love to have you. You can reach us at Phone: (406) 682-3676 Email: [trinity@3rivers.net](mailto:trinity@3rivers.net) Snailmail: P O Box 237, McAllister, MT 59740-0237. Well, I hear the boxes calling. Love to all, Marybeth and Maurice, Oblates
- Deb Miller and Jim Potter, Oblates: Sent a lovely message which I will have for a handout at the meeting.
- Marti Fritzen, Oblate: Wrote a marvelous description of one aspect of her Benedictine European Tour, entitled, "Green, Green, Green." It will also be a handout at the meeting. We hope to hear more from her and LuAnn Green, Oblate on this grand pilgrimage.
- Carla and Steve Jordan, Oblates/Cape Girardeau, MO: We welcomed Carla, Steve and Bo to our home at 5441 Glade as they visited in Lincoln in August. Greetings to all their friends!
- Catherine Nguyen, Oblate, Denver, CO spent a week with us at 5441 Glade Street as she studies and pursues her medical degree.
- Rhonda Brubacher/Dillsbury, PA: Thank you for printing the news about my trip to the Middle East. It was a challenging trip from the moment I arrived. I'm speaking at churches 2-3x a week, so that will keep me "hopping."

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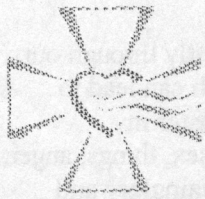
email: [phunhoff@ix.netcom.com](mailto:phunhoff@ix.netcom.com)

[http://www.geocities.com/lincoln\\_oblates](http://www.geocities.com/lincoln_oblates)

Affiliated with the Benedictine Sisters

Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton South Dakota





# BENEDICTINE OBLATES OF NEBRASKA

Volume 8, Issue 2

"Peace"

October 2002

## ASSIGNMENTS:

**Lincoln Chapter:** Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital  
Sunday, October 13, 2002, 7-9 p.m., North Commons  
Monday, October 14, 2002, 7-9 p.m., Flanagan Room  
Assignment: Preferring Christ, Chapter 7, Humility,  
Pages 25-57.

Special Session for Lincoln/New members: Saturday,  
October 26, 9-10:30 a.m. in the Flanagan Room for  
orientation to the Divine Office, confirmation of Initial  
Oblation and practice for ceremony.

**Ashland/Greenwood Chapter:** Greenwood, St. Joseph  
Church Hall

Thursday, October 3, 7-9 p.m., Lessons Conversion,  
Obedience and Prayer

Thursday, October 17, 7-9 p.m., Lessons Lectio and the  
Hours

**Steinauer Chapter:** Banquet Room across the street  
from St. Anthony's Church

Monday, October 7, 7-9 p.m. Lessons: Holiness, St.  
Benedict & Conversion

Monday, October 21, 7-9 p.m. Lessons: Obedience and  
Prayer

**Hastings Chapter:** Family Room at St. Michael's  
Church

Saturday, October 12, 2002, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Lessons: Conversion and Obedience, Preferring Christ,  
Prologue pages. 7-9

Explanation of Oblation and details of the Ceremony

**COMPANION AND CELL GROUPS:** All new  
members and Oblates should have or will be receiving a  
call in September about being in a particular group. If  
you have not been contacted, do contact me at 488-6731  
or 483-9524 or email me at [phunhoff@ix.netcom.com](mailto:phunhoff@ix.netcom.com).  
We do not want anyone missed. Sister Phyllis

**"FINDING HAPPINESS IN THE RULE OF  
BENEDICT"** will be presented by Sister Constance  
Kristolic, OSB., of Mount Saint Scholastic Monastery,  
Atchison, KS on Saturday, October 5, 2002, from 9 a.m.  
to 3 p.m., in the Agee Conference Room, Madonna  
Rehabilitation Hospital. Sister Constance led our Oblate  
Retreat in April at Atchison and was very well received.

This will be an opportunity to bring her inspirational  
message closer for more of you to hear her. She has an  
impressive background in Benedictine Spirituality.  
There is a \$20 fee and lunch will be on your own. We  
thank Lou Ann Green, Oblate, for arranging this event  
for us.

**FORMATION HANDBOOKS:** For those of you,  
who have not received your Handbook, please do feel  
free to call me so we can arrange to have you pick it up  
either at 5441 Glade Street or at the Madonna Reception  
desk. There is cost of \$5 per handbook. Call me at 488-  
6731/483-9524 or email me. Sister Phyllis

**THANK YOU!** Let us express our gratitude to Lou  
Ann Green who will continue organizing our Oblates for  
Hospitality and to Marti Fritzen for organizing our  
Oblates for Sunday night refreshments.

**EMAIL:** Almost 2/3 of our Oblates and new members  
have email. This is a tremendous cost savings for us.  
Should there be some of you who can convert from  
regular mail to email, we would most grateful. Email  
me at [phunhoff@ix.netcom.com](mailto:phunhoff@ix.netcom.com).

**PLAY PRAISE AND PRAYER,** Saturday, October  
12th: Once again Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 6001  
A St will host three Episcopal Nuns from the  
Community of the Holy Spirit in New York. Each Sister  
will be leading a workshop twice during the day.

- Sister Mary Martha: "Intelligent Praying."
- Sister Emmanuel: "Praying with Nature."
- Sister Leslie: "What do You Get From This  
Anyway?"

Registration is at 8:30 a.m. with concurrent workshops  
throughout the day. Evening Prayer at 3:15 and Gospel  
Sing at 7 p.m. A \$35 registration fee will cover cost of  
food and bringing Sisters to Lincoln.

**TAIZE EVENING SERVICE,** every first Sunday  
evening at 8 p.m. at First Plymouth Congregational  
Church, 200 D St: In 1940, a 25 year old man from  
Switzerland, Brother Roger, came to the small village of  
Taize' in the Burgundy Region of France with the dream