



# Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

February 2003

Peace

## ASSIGNMENTS

**LINCOLN CHAPTER**, Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital  
**Sunday, February 9, 2003**, 7-9 p.m. North Commons  
**Monday, February 10, 2003**, 7-9 p.m. Flanagan Room  
Text: Preferring Christ, Divine Office, Chapters 8 through 14, pages 71-79.

**ASHLAND/GREENWOOD CHAPTER**, St. Joseph Church Hall

- **Thursday, February 6:** 7-9 p.m., Lectio: Living in Community. Write down how you can apply Living in Community in your Life over the next year.
- **Thursday, February 20:** 7-9 p.m., Lectio: Simplification of Life. Write down how you can apply Simplification of Life into your life over the next year. Complete Suggestion A or B.

**STEINAUER CHAPTER**, Banquet Room across from St. Anthony's Church

- **Monday, February 3:** 7-9 p.m., Review the section of the Handbook on Living in Community. Write down how you can apply Living in Community in your Life over the next year.
- **Monday, February 17:** 7-9 p.m., Review the Simplification of Life section in the Handbook and write down how you can apply Simplification of Life into your life over the next year. Complete Suggestion A or B.

**HASTINGS CHAPTER**, Family Room, St. Michael's Church  
**Saturday, February 8**, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Lessons: Work and Hospitality, Respond in writing after careful thought and prayer to the question "How will I get there?" Lectio from Handbook: Monastic Tradition through to Family Tree.

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS (for those without email):

- Please pray for Sister Lorraine Weirs of SHM who has advanced cancer of the lung. You will remember that she gave us the Saturday retreat on "Discipline" this past year. She is one of our three spiritual directors of our new Benedictine Peace Center.
- Cathy Mueller's (Ashland Oblate) father who died.
- Marcia Borcher's (Steinauer Oblate) mother who died.
- All the other intentions of the month.

**RETREAT SIGN-UP AND PAYMENT:** Many of you have already signed up and paid. Thank you. You may continue to sign-up and make payment. If you should be unable to go after paying, I will reimburse you the full amount. Maps are now available and I should be receiving a full schedule of the retreat soon. The retreat is at Conception Abbey, the weekend after Easter April 25, 26 & 27. It begins Friday at 5:15 p.m., concluding Sunday after 11:30 dinner. Single rooms are \$85 and double rooms for each are \$75. (This donation includes all costs for meals and conferences.) The check can be made to the Benedictine Oblates. Father Adam Ryan, OSB, monk of Conception Abbey, will present the retreat, entitled, "The Labor of Obedience in the Rule of St. Benedict and the New Testament."

If you are unable to attend our retreat, you may join the Conception Abbey Oblates on the weekend of March 7-9, 2003. Father Adam will also be giving the retreat with the same topic. You will need to make application directly to Conception Abbey, 660-944-2823 or [www.conceptionabbey.org](http://www.conceptionabbey.org).

## WEBSITE OF INTEREST

You may find additional readings at this site:  
[www.benedictine.edu/abbey](http://www.benedictine.edu/abbey)

**OBLATE INITIALS:** A number of you have asked me if you can use Oblate after your name. When you are a full Oblate you have the privilege of using the initials Obl. OSB after your name. If you have further questions, feel free to ask me. Sister Phyllis

**CENTERING PRAYER RETREAT:** Retired United Methodist pastor Donald Bredthauer will facilitate a retreat on Centering Prayer on Saturday, March 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Saint Paul United Methodist Church, 1144 M St., Lincoln, NE. Registration for the retreat, including lunch, is \$15. Rev. Bredthauer has led several such retreats and is certified as a Spiritual Director through Creighton University's Christian Spirituality Program. *Centering Prayer is based on the conviction that God is present and active in every moment of our lives and that there is an irresistible attraction between God, the source of our lives, and each one of us. Centering Prayer is a spiritual practice that helps us consent to God's presence and action within us as we learn how to let thoughts*

come and go and allow ourselves to simply rest with God in silence. The regular daily practice of Centering Prayer opens us to receive the gifts of God's healing and renewal and will have a profound effect on how we feel about ourselves and how we relate to others. For more information or to register, please contact Sherry Melecki at 477-6951 or [smelecki@saintpaulumc.org](mailto:smelecki@saintpaulumc.org). You may also visit with Jim Potter or Deb Miller, Oblates

## OBLATE NOTE

Diviner than the dolphin is nothing yet created; for indeed they were aforesaid men... but by the devising of Dionysius they exchanged the land for the sea and put on the form of fishes. Our Benedictine daily prayer service readings during Christmas included a Canticle from Daniel with praises of the Lord including:

*Seas and rivers, bless the Lord.*

*You dolphins and all water creatures, bless the Lord.*

*All the birds of the air, bless the Lord.*

The many blessings of Ono Island on the Gulf Coast include sailing and close encounters with great blue herons, pelicans, snowy egrets with golden slippers dancing upon the waters, and dolphins. On a beautiful day right before Christmas, during a sail in Perdido Bay, we were surrounded by many dolphins on three occasions - on our starboard and port bow, amidships, and in the wake of our stern - diving under our 27ft sloop the "Lucy," then surfacing on the other side, an entrancing experience. I sang to them at length with gusto and we both thought that encouraged them to stay with us. Happy New Year. Love, Lucy and Ebb Munden, Oblates

## SILENT HOPE, "Living with the Mystery of God," by

John Kirvan

In his introduction to this book, Kirvan says, "I listened one afternoon to Isaac Stern talking about his hero, Pablo Casals. The genius of the great cellist, he said was his ability to open wide a door into gardens of extraordinary beauty, of unimaginable color, of scents beyond comparison. Casals, he said, was generous with his invitations. But it was always up to his guests to accept his invitation and to decide how far into the garden they would go.

"That's what the great mystics do.

"They describe spiritual beauty and spiritual pain they have known and paths they have followed into worlds of extraordinary beauty—and of equally threatening darkness. They open doors. They offer their hand. They offer to come with us.

"But each of us still has to choose how far into the garden, how deep into the mystery we will go, how far our hope will carry us. For the garden that is opened to us is planted in silence and nourished in solitude.

"It is a demanding journey, not of the mind but of the soul. Our ideas will have to surrender to wonder. Our words will have to become a pathway into silence. What little light we have will end in the darkness and silence of a God who escapes our every effort at definition.

"...Meditations are meant for praying, for unwrapping the mystery, for pulling back one veil at a time,

knowing with each hope-filled tentative gesture that the veils are without number, the mystery beyond plumbing.

"What we seek on our journey is not a solution to a problem, not the answer to a question, but an encounter with the mystery of hope that will by very definition far exceed the best efforts of our mind, the utmost limits of our imagination. We are not asked to abandon our intelligence or surrender our sanity, but to rely on the tools of the Spirit.

"... We must not forget as we explore the experience of those/mystics who have gone before, as we exercise our own souls in this pursuit of mystery, that our personal quest for a living hope is at its depth a unique moment in history. Millions have preceded us. But this is the first time God and we have met. There has never been anyone quite like us. There has never a spiritual moment quite like this. One of the great theologians of this century, Karl Rahner, puts it this way: 'Each individual man or woman is a unique and unrepeatable term of God's creative love. Each must find their path to God in a way that is proper to themselves.'

"Be prepared, in any case, to be surprised, because no one is more surprising than God. We may in the end, as the Kabbalah (Jewish mysticism) says, despite our most careful planning and the most demanding discipline, "stumble" onto God."

## DAILY LITURGY OF THE HOURS:

On the [osb.org](http://osb.org) website they have a Christian calendar that is easy to follow. If you look a month at a time you can see when "1st week in Ordinary Time," etc is.

(<http://www.easterbrooks.com/personal/calendar/select.html>)

As of Sunday, January 26, 2003, we are in Week III of the Psalter and the Third Sunday In Ordinary Time. We will continue in this sequence until Ash Wednesday, March 5.

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