



Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

April 2003

A JOYOUS EASTER: *"The splendor of Christ risen from the dead has shone on the people redeemed by his blood."* (Ant.Lauds)

CONCEPTION ABBEY RETREAT: Friday, April 25 through Sunday, April 27. Please plan to arrive at 5:15 p.m. for Vespers in the Basilica. I do not have a schedule but check-in is at the Marian Hall which is to the south of St. Benedict's. You should all have a map by now. If not, do let me know. May you all have a blessed retreat and let us remember in prayer those who are unable to attend. Sister Phyllis

CHAPTER ASSIGNMENTS:

Lincoln, Greenwood/Ashland & Hastings: No meeting in April

Steinauer: Banquet Hall, across from St. Anthony's Church Monday, April 7, 2003, 7-9 p.m.

Review the two articles on Lectio. Be prepared to do Group Lectio.

CELL GROUP CORRECTION: Pat Shafer's Cell meets at the Aldergate United Methodist Church at 80th and South Street the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- **18TH ANNUAL MONASTIC INSTITUTE** entitled "Distinctive Character of Monastic Prayer" will be held June 28-July 2, 2003 at Saint John's Abbey, Collegeville, MN. Columba Stewart OSB, Professor of Theology is the presenter. For more information contact Linda Schreiber at lschreiber@csbsju.edu or call 320-363-3154. For other summer courses contact Patty Weishaar at pweishaar@csbsju.edu or call 320-363-2113.
- **TRINITY INSTITUTE 34th National Conference** entitled "Shaping Holy Lives, Benedictine Spirituality in the Contemporary World" being held April 28-29 at Parish of Trinity Church in New York City with internationally known speakers. The on-site presentation has been sold out, however if you wish to participate, it will be webcast at All Saints Episcopal Church in Omaha on Monday, April 28 with opening Eucharist at 11 a.m. and conferences at 1:45 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. and on Tuesday, April 29 with conferences at 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. For more information email/call Sister Phyllis
- **DEGREE IN PASTORAL THEOLOGY:** This is offered by Ave Maria College from Michigan and is

conducted at St. Mary's College in Omaha. The classes meet one weekend a month from Friday evening through Sunday afternoon. Their website is www.avemaria.edu and you can click on Pastoral Theology.

- **LECTIO DIVINA RETREAT:** This is being offered at St. Paul United Methodist Church, 1144 M St., Lincoln on Saturday, May 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Steve Griffith, Associate Pastor at St. Paul UMC, will lead this retreat. The cost is \$15 which includes lunch. For more information contact Sherry Melecki at smelecki@saintpaulumc.org or call 477-6951.
- **SUMMER RETREAT:** "Honoring My Gifts - The People, Places & Poetry In My Life" will be a one-day retreat using scripture, reflection and creative expression, presented by Sister Kathleen Courtney, OSB of Sacred Heart Monastery on Saturday, July 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.. It will be held at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in the North Commons/Sheridan Rooms. It will cost \$20 per person. Lunch will be available in the Madonna Cafeteria. Sister Kathleen has been very well received at the monastery retreats and also at the Schuyler Retreat Center. Please let LouAnn Green, Obl. OSB know if you are interested by calling 489-5083 or email (with RETREAT in the subject line) LAGowan@aol.com.

BENEDICTINE APPAREL: If you are interested in Benedictine apparel and items, go to www.cafeshops.com/osb.

MISSING BOOKS: Would you check to see if you would have one of these books. If you are using it, that is fine. I do not have a record of it. Thank you! Sister Phyllis
A Monastic Year by Brother Victor-Antoine
Benedict-Stories of the Great Saint by Norvene Vest
Friend of the Soul by Norvene Vest
Mystic Grail by John Matthews
Seven Storey Mountain by Thomas Merton
Thoughts in Solitude by Thomas Merton
View from the Monastery by Br. Benet Tvedten
Vision: The Life & Music of Hildegard of Bingen by Jane Bobko

OBLATE NOTES:

- Annamaria (and Paul) Guidos of Cedar Rapids, IA: I hope all is well with you. Angeline is 14, Joey is 12 and Tony is 9. I have been able to keep up with spiritual reading over the years. The book I am currently reading is The Blessed Surgeon: the Life of St. Luke. Although we no

longer live in Lincoln, we frequently think of the wonderful people we met and the good times we had. Thank you for keeping us informed with the newsletters and the Oblation Renewal papers. In Christ.

- Maurice and Marybeth Champion-Garthe of McAllister, MT: We had a Spirituality Fair at our parish the Sunday before Lent started. Suffice it to say that Benedictine spirituality was well represented. Two people in our parish now have Preferring Christ. Our best to all the Lincoln Oblates! Peace in Christ.
- Nancy Donovan of Silver City, SD/Rio Grande/Texas, etc.: 'tis about time I do a little correspondence. I appreciate getting the newsletter and continuing to be a part of the program there. We are traveling in Texas now & have enclosed some information about a favorite special spiritual, as well as cultural outing when we are in the Rio Grande Valley (Basilica of the National Shrine of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle). We stay in a large RV park in the area and I was privileged to serve at the altar of an Episcopal Church that we have been attending. Back home, when in the Black Hills, because serving at the Episcopal Church in Rapid, we have caught up on the Lakota culture, Mission Church, in NE Rapid, a busy interesting life. Many of the Episcopal clergy, now are Oblates of Blue Cloud Monastery, SD diocese. They have a retreat there annually which I miss since it is in Feb. In His service!

"How I Can Apply Simplification of Life in My Life Over The Next Year" *A personal*

reflection by Vic Faesser, Obl. OSB., Steinauer Chapter

Oblate Commitment: Reformation of my life - how can I deepen my awareness of and responsiveness to GOD?

Specific Practice: Simplification of Life

Dedication to GOD.

Where is GOD?

GOD is in my spouse;

GOD is in my child;

GOD is in my grandchild

GOD is in my father;

GOD is in my mother;

GOD is in my brother;

GOD is in my friend;

GOD is in my foe;

GOD is in the next person I will encounter today;

GOD is in me.

GOD is in my work;

GOD is in my rest;

GOD is in my waking;

GOD is in my weariness;

GOD is in my joy;

GOD is in my sorrow;

GOD is in my apathy;

GOD is in my restlessness;

GOD is in my routine;

GOD is in my heart;

GOD is in my soul.

What is necessary to meet GOD in my day?

How can I remember to remember that GOD is with me in every moment and in every encounter? How can I keep my FOCUS on GOD?

The Response of Simplicity: Lord, help me to order my life. Help me to remember that the Holy Spirit dwells within me. Help me to remember that I am a TEMPLE. Uncluttered. Spacious. Filled with your LIGHT. Steeped in your SILENCE. Even in the darkness of despair, and in the noise of the DAY, and in the unending assaults of EVIL. Lord, help me to remember to remember this.

Lord, you have given to me this day of 24 hours. How will I use, or mis-use it? How will I remember to remember that my focus is YOU? I begin in the early hours, when the darkness of night is nearing the completion of its cycle; when my spouse sleeps. I begin with this routine, to help me to remember to remember . . . Lord, open my lips . . . Come, let us sing to the Lord . . . Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel. I say the words. I listen to my saying of the words. I let them filter into my heart. I allow your silence and your peace to envelope me. I ask your blessing upon those whose lives bless and enrich me, and upon those in pain, and upon those burdened with great responsibilities.

Lord, help me:

To remember to remember

To walk with a song of praise in my heart

To fear not the wind or the rain

or the vicissitudes of the day

To smile at the next person I encounter

To listen . . . to be silent

To not feel a need to compete

To not feel a need to respond in kind

to insult, or injury, or slight

To remember to remember

Twenty-four hours. Time. Your gift. Let me be mindful in its use. Let me select the people with whom I share it. Let me not be haphazard about it, or blasé, or lazy, or forgetting to remember.

Let me use this 24 hours

To do good work;;

To be attentive to your will;

To be present to you;

To bask in the light of your day;

To rest in the quiet of your night;

To call someone;

To write someone;

To encourage someone;

To listen;

To guard the gate of my lips;

To be present in the moment;

To remember to remember.

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