



Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

December 2003

OBLATE ASSIGNMENTS

LINCOLN CHAPTER, Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital

Sunday, Dec 14, 2003, 7-9 p.m. North Commons

Monday, Dec 15, 2003, 7-9 p.m. Flanagan Room

Text: Preferring Christ, Chapters 43-49 plus Interlude VII, pages 116-127

ASHLAND/GREENWOOD CHAPTER, Ashland, CCD Center

Thursday, December 4, 2003, 7-9 p.m.

Preferring Christ, Chapters 59-62, pgs. 146-151

Thursday, December 18, 2003, 7-9 p.m.

Preferring Christ, Chapters 63-64, pgs. 152-157

HASTINGS CHAPTER, St. Michael's Church, Family Room

Saturday, December 13, 2003, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Preferring Christ, Interlude I, Chapter 1, Various Kinds of Monks & Chapter 2, What Kind of Man the Abbot Ought to Be, pages 14-25

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

Monday, December 1, 2003, 7-9 p.m.

Preferring Christ, Interlude VII, p.121 thru Chapter 52, p.129

Monday, Dec. 15, 2003, 7-9 p.m.

Seeking God, Read Chapter 5, review study questions, Leader: Marie

OMAHA CHAPTER, All Saints Episcopal Church, 9302 Blondo, Omaha,

Tuesday, December 9, 2003, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Handbook: Adopting a Personal Rule of Life. Each person will present their Personal Rule of Life.

ADVENT/COME LORD JESUS! As we move into Advent, "Come Lord Jesus" is our mantra! Each of the Sunday readings build on the next with the expectation of Jesus' coming. In the first Sunday readings, Jeremiah says, "The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made (33:14)" and Luke says, "Raise your heads because your redemption is at hand (21:28)."

Already in the second Sunday, Luke shows us the exhilaration of John the Baptist who quotes from Isaiah, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths....all flesh shall see the salvation of God (3:4-6)."

The third Sunday is "Rejoice" Sunday and Paul says in the Philippians, "Rejoice in the Lord always, I shall say again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near! (4:4-5)"

And as we close in on the last few days, Micah tells us in the fourth Sunday reading, "He shall stand firm and Shepard his flock by the strength of the Lord...for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace. (4:4-5)"

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS

CHRIST Even though our readings may differ somewhat, they all give us the anticipation of Christmas. And as we arrive on that day, Isaiah says, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. (9:1)" Titus says, "The grace of God has appeared. (2:11)" And finally, Luke gives us this jubilant moment: "And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.' (2:14)" My Advent and Christmas wish for you is that you take the time to enjoy the beauty of the scripture readings where Jesus Christ becomes real to us as the WORD becomes flesh. We are now the carriers of this good news and we proclaim our salvation! Blessings and PEACE! Sister Phyllis

NEW LITURGICAL CALENDARS: These will be available at our December meetings.

RENEWAL NOTICES: A Renewal of Oblation form is included with this newsletter. If you did not sign it at the Oblation Ceremony, please sign a copy and send to me. Thank you very much. Sister Phyllis

ANNUAL OBLATE RETREAT: Sister Ann Kessler has sent us the information and cordially invites us for our retreat at Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, Sat. and Sun. July 17-18, 2004. It is entitled, "Living the Benedictine Rule Outside the Monastery: Focus on RB4" and will be directed by Fr. Justin, OSB. Handouts will be available at our meetings and we can get it on our calendars. The two days format will be somewhat different but looks very inviting. The overall cost will be \$80 with an additional \$20 for those arriving Friday evening.

UNL STUDENT OBLATE GROUP: Under the direction of Oblates Chris Marvin, Jim O'Hanlon and Gretchen Naugle, we have been studying the possibility of starting an Oblate group on the UNL Campus. While we still have several groups that we will be contacting to seek further advice, we are tentatively scheduling Sunday, February 1, at 4 p.m. for our first session. We are planning to meet the first and third Sunday of each month. Students already contacted have responded positively and with interest to the idea. We are still exploring the meeting place which we will confirm later. Should you know of students who may have an interest, contact any one of the above Oblates or Sister Phyllis.

OBLATE BOOK CLUB TO MEET: The oblate book club will hold their next meeting on Saturday, January 17, 3:00 in the Madonna Commons Cafe. We will discuss the book "My Grandfather's Blessings, Stories of Strength, Refuge, and Belonging" by Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D. All are welcome to attend.

RELIGIOUS CATALOGUES: I receive a number of religious catalogues that I will put on display at our next meetings. These contain various books, cards, gifts, etc which you may wish to be aware of. If you have religious catalogues that you would like to also display, please feel free to bring them. Sister Phyllis

MONASTERY COOKBOOK SALES: After a mere five months, 95 Sisters, Oblates and friends, have sold all but 25 of the 3,000 cookbooks that went on sale June 9th. The \$36,000 that has been realized from the sale of these books will be used for the education of Benedictine Sisters from Korea and Africa at Mount Marty College, Yankton, SD. A very special thank you to all for your great assistance!

SPRING DAY RETREAT: LouAnn Green, Oblate is arranging to have Sister Teresa, OSB of St. Scholastica Monastery in Atchison, direct a one-day retreat (9-3 p.m.), Saturday, March 28, 2004 at Madonna. She will present on two mystics, Julian of Norwich and Thomas Merton. Julian is very Benedictine and was a favorite of Merton's. We will have more particulars at our meetings. In the meantime save the date. We will need a show of interest to confirm this event.

OBLATE NOTE:

- Please remember Oblate Mary Anna Fertig and her family who lost her father, Russell Daugherty. He was also grandfather to Oblate Colleen Lewin. May he rest in peace!

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AT SHM: The following will be available this summer at the monastery should you know of someone who may have an interest.

- **Monastic Experience: July 17 - 24, 2004:** A special time to live at the Monastery and follow the horarium/prayers of the Sisters. This experience might range from a weekend to a month in length (or at another scheduled time). Audience: Women who would like to examine religious life and would be eligible to pursue that consideration.
- **Learn & Earn: June 7 - July 30, 2004:** A special experience for those who would like to examine religious life that would include the opportunity to live with the Sisters for an extended time, 6-8 weeks, and be paid for their services during that time. Audience: College-age women or others who would have some options for time in the summer.
- **Come & See: July 25 - 28, 2004:** A short-term experience in monastic living for high school age girls who wish to know more about religious life. This experience will include praying, eating, and working with the Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery. Audience: High school women

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