



Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

March 2004

OBLATE ASSIGNMENTS

LINCOLN CHAPTER, Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital
Sunday, Mar. 14, 2004 7-9 p.m. North Commons
Monday, Feb 15, 2004, 7-9 p.m. Flanagan Room
Text: Preferring Christ, Chapters 59-63, pages 146-154

ASHLAND/GREENWOOD CHAPTER, Ashland, CCD Center
Thursday, Mar. 4, 2004, 7-9 p.m.
Seeking God, Chapter 4, Stability,
Thursday, Mar. 18, 2004, 7-9 p.m.
Seeking God, Chapter 5, Change

HASTINGS CHAPTER, St. Michael's Church, Family Room
Saturday, Mar. 13, 2004, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Preferring Christ, Chapter 5, Obedience and Chapter 6, Restraint of Speech, pages 47-51

STEINAUER CHAPTER, Banquet Hall, across from St. Anthony's Church
Monday, Mar. 1, 2004 7-9 p.m.
Preferring Christ, Chapter 61, p. 148 thru Chapter 64, verse 1-6, p. 155
Monday, Mar 15, 2004 7-9 p.m.
Seeking God, Read Chapters 8 & 9, review questions

OMAHA CHAPTER, All Saints Episcopal Church, 9302 Blondo, Omaha,
Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2004, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Preferring Christ, Prologue, pages 9-13
Tuesday, Mar 23, 2004, 7:30-9-30 p.m.
Preferring Christ, Interlude I, Chapter 1, The Various Kinds of Monks, pages 15-18

UNL CHAPTER, Newman Center, 320 North 16th St., Lincoln
Sunday, March 7, 2004, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Seeking God, Chapter 2, Invitation and Lesson: Conversion
Sunday, March 21, 2004, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Lesson to be announced!

LENT 2004

"Let us take on some addition to the demands of our accustomed service of the Lord, such as special prayers and some sacrifice of food and drink...to offer freely to the Lord with the JOY of the Holy Spirit....so as to increase the JOY of spiritual longing with which we should look forward to the holy time of Easter."

[Chapter 49 of the Rule] I have capitalized JOY because I think we need it more than ever during this time of national concern about war, the economy, and the future leadership of our country. Oblates are called to be signs of God's presence in the world, and as Leon Bloy (and many following him) said, "Joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God." And Br. David Steindl-Rast, OSB, reminds us, "Ordinary happiness depends on happenstance. Joy is that extraordinary happiness that is independent of what happens to us.... it is gratitude that makes us joyful." While we certainly need to take life seriously, there is always a danger of taking ourselves too seriously. Since the Chapter on Lent is the only one in the Rule that mentions joy, it is certainly appropriate to approach Lent seriously, but also with a sense of humor about ourselves and our sometimes too lofty goals. Don't forget that humor and humility are both related to "humus"—to earth. (Sister Lenora Black, OSB, Tucson)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Therese Vogel, Novice Oblate has joined the Monday Lincoln Chapter. She joined the Oblate Chapter of Mount Marty College and now is working in Lincoln. Marie Fuchtmann, Novice Oblate also joined the Oblate Chapter at MMC, is working in Omaha and is now attending the Omaha Chapter. Dan Deffenbaugh of Kenesaw has joined the Hastings Chapter. He is a religion professor at Hastings College. We have 8 college students who expressed interest in becoming Oblates. They will be meeting at the Newman Center. Please keep all of them in prayer.

MYSTICS RETREAT Saturday, March 28, 2004:
Sister Teresa, OSB of St. Scholastica Monastery in Atchison will direct a one-day retreat from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., in the Agee Conference Room (Research and Education entrance) at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, 5401 South Street, Lincoln. She will present on Julian of Norwich and Thomas Merton. Please send your \$20

checks to Lou Ann Green, Oblate by March 1st - to 5020 Claire, Lincoln, NE 68516. Check can be made to Benedictine Oblates.

WRITING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Poetry lends itself to one's inner spiritual being--wishing for expression. Poets (and those who endeavor to write poetry) are invited to join other Oblates in the Lancaster Room, Madonna Rehab Hosp. on Saturday, March 13th from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Bring a few poems to share and some thoughts on creative inspiration. We have a tentative name, it is "The Sacred Poets Society". If there is an interest, we may meet 3 or 4 times a year to support our spiritual writing practices. Contact Marta Wheeler (423-7619 - garden3330@aol.com) or Nancy Ludden (420-7369 - bluepearl@alltel.net) for more information.

LIBRARY BOOK REVIEWS: To help you get acquainted with our Library Books, I am inviting you to write a review after you have read a book that is particularly meaningful to you. Then I will include the review in our newsletter. Thanks to Wilma White, Oblate for submitting this idea. (Sister Phyllis)

GIFT OF LOVE – "HE IS THE LIFE": I was recently given the CD "Gift of Love" which are the words of Mother Teresa of Calcutta put to music by Bradley James. Bradley James is the only person given permission by Mother Teresa to use her words for music. He first got permission from her when she was in Los Angelus. He said, "When I asked her she got this radiant smile and said, 'That would be something very beautiful for God'." This is the first song he wrote to Mother's words. (Sister Phyllis)

*He is the life that I want to live
He is the light that I want to radiate
He is the way to the Father
He is the love with which I want to love
He is the joy that I want to share
He is the peace that I want to sow
Jesus is everything to me
Without Him I can do nothing.*

(Direct inquiries: Bradley James, P. O. Box 2835,
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270)

OBLATE NEWS:

- Marybeth Champion-Garthe, Oblate/Montana: Hi! Just wanted to let you know that I went to the doctor in Billings and was diagnosed with MS. While it's not something I would wish for,

it explains a lot of what I have experienced since childhood, and it gives me direction and focus for treatment. So, life is still good, and now I have a name for my symptoms. Hope all is well with all of you. Love!

LECTIO DIVINA: Our Native Language: The 19th Annual Monastic Institute, June 26-30, 2004 at St. John's, Collegetown, MN., presented by Sister Irene Nowell, OSB, a Benedictine of Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, KS, a scripture scholar and formation director of her monastery. Contact: Linda Schreiber, 320-363-3154 or lschreiber@csbsju.edu.

RETREAT AND CONCERT: Mount Marty College, Yankton, SD by Lynn Cooper, Christian Songwriter, April 24, 2004. Lynn Cooper's music has consistently been in the Top Ten at the New Christian Music Network. Retreat will be from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with the concert at 7 P.M. For more information contact Luanna Johnson, keahi99@iw.net or (605)260-6643.

CATHOLIC YOUTH CAMP: "Travel the Road" at Mount Marty College, Yankton, SD, June 27-30, 2004 for Junior & Senior High School students on the banks of the beautiful Missouri River. Experience God, Scripture, Nature and Prayer presented by MMC staff and the Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery.

FEASTDAYS IN MARCH:

- 9. St. Frances of Rome (1384-1440), patroness of the Benedictine Oblates.
- 17. St. Patrick (493), Bishop and Patron of Ireland
- 19. St. Joseph (29), spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Patron of the Universal Church
- 21. Passing of St. Benedict (543), Father of the Western Monks and sister of St. Scholastica

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