



# Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska



## OBLATE ASSIGNMENTS

### LINCOLN CHAPTER

**Sun., Sept 11, 2005** 7-9 p.m. North Commons  
**Mon., March 12, 2005,** 7-9 p.m. Flanagan Room  
Path of Life, Chapter 7, Prayer, pgs 88-10. This Chapter is being repeated as our faith-sharing was very short. We had the Spirituality Type Test.

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

**Sat., Sept. 10, 2005** 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
This will also be our Orientation for new members. If there are no new members, I will plan to have Lectio.

**STEINAUER CHAPTER,** Banquet Hall, across from St. Anthony's Church  
**Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2005, 7-9 p.m.** Since Sept. 5 is Labor Day, we will move the first day to Tuesday. This will also be our orientation time. If we have no new members, I will plan a night of Lectio.

**OMAHA CHAPTER:** All Saints Episcopal Church, 9302 Blondo  
**Tuesday, September 13, 2005,** 7-9 p.m.  
Orientation of new members.

**ORIENTATION FOR INQUIRERS IN LINCOLN:**  
Sunday and Monday, August 28 and 29 from 7-9 at Madonna, we will have an orientation session for all inquirers at Madonna. They may come either night. If you know of someone who may wish to have more information, this is a nice time to come.



*A special welcome to Sister Joelle Bauer, our new Oblate Director! She has plans to be with us at our Annual Oblation Ceremony, November 13 along with*

*our new Prioress, Sister Jennifer Kehrwald. Sister Joelle tells us that she is planning to have our retreats at the Peace Center at Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, SD, providing more than one so we have optional dates. We will watch for further announcements (all accessible).*

**TEXT FOR CELLS:** I am pleased to announce that the book we will be using for our Cells this year in Lincoln, Hastings and Steinauer is Crises of Faith, Crises of Love by Thomas Keating, a Cistercian. Working from the experiences of the later mystics Keating offers the spiritual sense of scripture elaborated by the Fathers and Mothers of the Church, which has been used repeatedly to illustrate insights useful to the various stages of spiritual development. This rich storytelling tradition traces a spiritual journey, outlining a way of listening to God by sharpening the habit of contemporary prayer.

Fr. Thomas has written articles and books that deal with contemplative prayer, especially Centering Prayer. He says, we are a Cistercian (Trappist) community founded in 1956. Our 900-year-old Cistercian tradition has its roots in the Rule of St. Benedict, which dates back 1500 years.

**A THEME FOR 2005-2006:** As we "begin again" this fall, there is one area of emphasis where I would like to encourage you - as there is nothing that will bring you into the realm of God's grace as a thoughtful, persistent practice of Lectio Divina. In the monastic way of doing Lectio Divina we listen to how God is addressing us in a particular text or scripture. We open ourselves to a receptive disposition to enable the Holy Spirit to speak to us. We use the slow, contemplative reading to allow ourselves to break into the veil of our own ways of thinking. Hence, our attentiveness to God expands into the awareness of the divine presence.

Both in preparation for our General Assembly Chapter faith sharing groups and for the Cells, Lectio is a dedicated daily event in our lives as we use our prescribed text, rather than an hour of quick reading just prior to the session.

**THE NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF BENEDICTINE OBLATE DIRECTORS** met at Sacred Heart Monastery and Mount Marty College from July 29 to August 3. This found eight of our Lincoln Oblates, Lou Ann Green, Wilma White, Scott Dolton, Carol Barry, Teresa Harms, Ginger Goomis, Richard Palazzolo and Sarah Weaver along with Vic Faesser and his wife, Irene, from Steinauer all volunteering the many

tasks there were to make such a large event run smoothly. Among their main functions were covering the reception desk, providing microphones available for questions following conferences and driving the courtesy cars for those needing assistance from their living quarters to the chapel to the auditorium, etc. The courtesy cars used donated orange funeral flags converted into white Benedictine flags made by Lou Ann Green and her sewing machine. In addition there were ten Yankton Oblates also fulfilling these tasks as well as picking up and delivering the participants from the airports in Sioux City and Sioux Falls. We all worked hard, enjoyed many of the conferences and above all met many Oblate Directors and Oblates from all over North America. Most of the Lincoln Oblates stayed in the homes of Yankton Oblates so new friendships were made.

Our own Oblate Marcia Straatmeyer was one of the presenters. She gave a wonderful presentation on "Coping with Crises" along with Larry Rider of Indiana.

Prior to the conference we had a committee of three, Oblates Joanie Perry, Carolee Brink and Carol Olson design and prepare the centerpiece for the banquet held the night of the closing conference. A fresh pineapple was sitting on a mirror on a gold napkin surrounded by green garland and four votive lights. At either end of the table was a beautiful stand-up of Sts. Benedict and Scholastica artistically done by Carolee Brink. This is the verse written by Joanie Perry and placed at each plate.

#### **A Centerpiece Reflection**

*The centerpiece has meaning*

*As toward Benedict we're leaning.*

*Pineapple standing for hospitality*

*Around the table, we pray for compatibility.*

*Green ivy winding round for growth*

*For Benedictine Oblates taking the oath.*

*Candles are glowing on every table*

*Lighting our hearts and keeping our souls stable.*

*Benedict and Scholastica adorn our cards*

*Following their example, as guides and guards*

*Thanking Benedict for being our mentor*

*Through heavenly gates, we hope to enter.*

We will have pictures at our Chapter meetings. A very special thank you to all for your generous service!  
Sister Phyllis

**WORLD CONGRESS OF OBLATES:** On September 18, Carol Olson and Marti Fritzen will be leaving for Rome for the first World Congress. After some anxious moments of transferring their dollars for their foreign registration, they have their reservations, most of their packing is underway and there are bits of excitement beginning to take form. Let us all remember them in our prayers for safe travel. As you will see on the Assignment Sheet for this coming year, we have them scheduled to make a presentation to us at the December Chapter meetings. They will take a week on their own, sight seeing for one week, after the Congress and return on October 2. Watch for some publicity about their travels and the World Congress in several newspapers. If you have a newspaper/magazine you would like to send a news release, just let Sister Phyllis know and she will send it to you.

#### **OBLATES SHARE DAY WITH SCHUYLER**

**OBLATES:** Father Volker Futter, OSB, Oblate Director of the Schuyler Monastery welcomed 22 Lincoln and Hastings Oblates along with the Schuyler Oblates, Saturday, July 9, telling us that St. Benedict is a symbol of reconciliation and peace for us today. Through his school of the Lord's service, he was a teacher of others, spreading Christianity throughout Europe. We are called by God, to be prepared. If we want life, we are to search for the relationship between the human and the divine. Father spoke with us in the morning, there was lunch in their cafeteria and in the afternoon, Father showed us films of their foreign ministries, especially in the poor regions of Africa. The Schuyler Oblates want to come to one of our meetings, now, which we will be planning.

#### **OBLATE NOTES:**

- The **Sacred Poet's Society** meeting will be in the Platte Room at Madonna, Wed, Aug 31st, from 7-9 pm. Call Marta Wheeler or Nancy Ludden if any questions.
- **Congratulations** to Oblate, Bob O'Gara, who completed 40 years as an Oblate on July 11, 2005. He was influenced by and was a graduate of St. Benedict's Abbey in Atchison, KS.
- **Congratulations** to former Oblate Tammie Whitney who made her first Profession of Vows at Sacred Heart Monastery on Sunday, August 7. She is now Sister Tammie.

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