



Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Living by the Spirit of The Rule of St. Benedict + Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery
www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org + info@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org + June 2015

A Word from St. Benedict's Rule

FAULTS AND CORRECTION

"If someone commits a fault at any work—while working in the kitchen, in the storeroom, in serving, in the bakery, in the garden, in any craft or anywhere else—either by breaking or losing something or failing in any other way in any other place, he must at once come before the abbot and community and of his own accord admit this fault and make satisfaction. If it is made known through another, he is to be subjected to a more severe correction. When the cause of the sin lies hidden in his conscience, he is to reveal it only to the abbot or to one of the spiritual elders, who know how to heal their own wounds as well as those of others, without exposing them and making them public."

Source: *RB 46:1-6*

Reflection

THE LOVE OF GOD



St. Basil the Great
St. Sophia
Cathedral, Kiev

Love of God does not spring from study. It is not from others, after all, that we learn to enjoy the light, to yearn for life, and to love our parents and those who nourish us. Much less, then, does love of God arise from external teaching. Rather, as soon as people exist they have the germ of reason, and this contains the power and impulse to love. In the school of divine instruction, therefore,

we but cultivate this power and wisely nourish it; thus, with God's help, it is brought to full development. For our part, we shall endeavor here,

as far as the Holy Spirit enables us, to fan into flame this spark of love for God that is hidden within you.

Our first comment is that God has given us the power and ability to carry out all the commandments he has given us. We have no cause, then, to be upset, as though something out of the ordinary were being demanded of us; nor, on the other hand, do we have reason to be proud, as though we were giving back to God something he had not given us. When we use our God-given powers as we should, we lead a life made beautiful by virtue; but if we misuse them, we slip into vice. Indeed, the very definition of vice is the misuse of the powers God gave us for doing good. The virtue God ask of us is, on the contrary, the use of these powers according to right conscience and God's law.

All that I have been saying is to be applied to love. Since we are bidden to love God, we are sure that from the first moment of life we have an innate power and ability to love. We need no external arguments to prove this; we know it by our own experience. We naturally desire what is good and beautiful, even though people differ as to what is good. So, too, we need no schooling to have affection for our relatives and neighbors, and we spontaneously love our benefactors. But what is more beautiful than God? What is more pleasing and sweeter to the mind than God's greatness? What desire is stronger and more ardent than the one God instills into the purified soul that cries out: "I am wounded by love"? The splendor of divine beauty is beyond all telling.

From *The Longer Rules*
by St. Basil the Great (329/330-379 AD)

CHAPTERS	DEANS	LOCATIONS
Hastings	Juliene Bryan, juliene.bryan@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Family Room, St. Michael's Church, Hastings
	Carol Barry, carol.barry@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital
	Steve Blum, steve.blum@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Sheridan Room (Sunday)
Lincoln	Carol Olson, carol.olson@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Lancaster Room (Monday)
	Jim Rea, jim.rea@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	5401 South St.
	Mary Schroer, mary.schroer@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Lincoln
Omaha	Rod Dolton, rod.dolton@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	New Cassel Retirement Ctr. Lecture Hall, Omaha
Steinauer	Marcia Borchner, marcia.borchner@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Banquet Room, Convent House B&B, Steinauer

Sacred Heart Monastery News

RESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM FOR SINGLE WOMEN

The Purpose of our Volunteer Program is to provide single women with the opportunity to enhance their lives by sharing in the life, prayer, and ministries of our Monastery.

Ministry Opportunities

Work/ministry assignments are based on the volunteer's experience, interests, talents, and the needs of the Monastery. A variety of opportunities are available in areas such as: office work, computer work, reception desk, liturgical ministries, various household tasks, gardening, nursing care, cooking, baking, and more.

Are You a Woman Who ...

- Is looking for a meaningful work experience that enriches others?
- Is between jobs and not certain what the future holds?
- Is pursuing your education but in need of a break from the books in order to re-focus and re-direct your education?
- Is finished with school (for now) but not professionally committed?
- Would like some time and a place to do some serious reflection on your life?
- Is a professional who would like to share your talents and experiences in a monastic setting?
- Would welcome some time in a monastic setting in order to deepen your spirituality?
- Is at a crossroads in life and would like some time for discernment?
- Desires to experience the rhythm of life in a monastic community?
- Has thought about religious life and would like to live with our Community for a period of time?

A Volunteer ...

- Is someone who wants to serve others and enjoys the mutual enrichment of a religious monastic community.
- Is 21 years of age or older (or at least a junior in college) without dependents.
- Has a desire to experience Benedictine monastic life.
- Is in good physical health.
- Will be responsible for personal expenses (room and board are provided).

- Will provide for own financial, medical and personal needs.
- Has a willingness to commit to a specific period of time (one month to several months to a year or longer) Commitments are renewed annually.
- Will work around 30 hours a week (4–6 hours/day).
- Will provide the information requested on the application.

For more information:

www.yanktonbenedictines.org/center-events.

FROM THE MONASTERY'S FACEBOOK PAGE

Lilacs from our own backyard have replaced the lilies in our Easter decor in the Monastery Chapel. Thank you to our Sister Sacristan for the beautiful pictures.

On the Web: www.facebook.com/shmvocation

Worship

MORNING PRAYER

Oblates gather every Friday morning at 7:30 in the Ryan Memorial Chapel at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, 5401 South St., Lincoln, Nebraska, to pray Morning Prayer. Everyone is welcome.

OPPORTUNITY FOR MORNING PRAYER

Two of the Lincoln cell groups begin their gatherings in the Ryan Memorial Chapel with Morning Prayer. Everyone is invited to pray with them. This month, Morning Prayer will be held on two Saturdays—June 13 and 27—beginning at 8:00 a.m. Please consider adding this prayer office to your spiritual life.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SHORTER CHRISTIAN PRAYER

Pentecost was May 24, 2015. Turn to pp. 489–498 for Evening Prayer I through Evening Prayer II for Pentecost. We are in Ordinary Time until the first Sunday in Advent, November 29, 2015. On Monday, May 25, 2015, we started with Week I, p. 54. The Sunday after Pentecost is the ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, p. 511.

MONASTERY AND CHAPTER GATHER PETITIONS

If you would like to send your prayer requests to the monastery, please use Sacred Heart Monastery's prayer request form.

On the Web:

www.yanktonbenedictines.org/PrayerRequest.php.

You may also send petitions to Marcia Straatmeyer at mstraat@neb.rr.com or by using the Prayer Request option on the chapter's Web site.

On the Web:

www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org/contact/.

Chapter Gathering

ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER

On Sunday, June 14, 2015, all oblates of the Nebraska Chapters are invited to celebrate the end of another year of oblate gatherings. We will meet at 4:30 p.m. in the Sheridan Room at Madonna for the potluck dinner. Lead Dean Carol Olson will share some slides of highlights from her recent visit to various Benedictine monasteries in Germany, Austria, and the Czech Republic. We will conclude with Vespers in the Chapel. Paper products and drinks will be provided. Please bring a salad, vegetable, dessert, or main dish to share. Family members are welcome! Unfortunately, Sr. Phyllis will not be able to join us this year for the festivities. Bring your copy of *Shorter Christian Prayer* for Vespers.

Lincoln Chapter News

SUNDAY CHAPTER GATHERINGS

Starting in the fall the Lincoln Chapter will have its gatherings on Sundays only. The Lincoln Deans would like to extend their gratitude to Charlene Gondring for her faithful service as group facilitator on Mondays for the past several years. Thank you, Charlene!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The Lincoln Chapter is in need of oblate discussion facilitators. Persons would lead discussions of the assigned reading material in small groups during the Chapter gatherings. Experience with facilitating discussion preferred. Training and resources for leading groups will be provided as needed. Please consider volunteering or agreeing to volunteer if you are asked.

Even as this would require a more intentional preparation for the Chapter gathering, it may result in a significant improvement in your personal spiritual formation as a result! Prayerfully consider this opportunity, and please see a Lincoln Dean for more details if you are interested.

Lincoln Cell Groups

Subiaco Cell

- Leader: Tim Fisher
- Meetings: Every other Saturday beginning at 8:00 a.m. with Morning Prayer in the chapel at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. Then this cell for men moves to a designated room for conversation.
- This Month: June 13 and 27, 2015.

Hildegard von Bingen Cell

- Leader: David Frye
- Meetings: Every other Saturday beginning at 8:00 a.m. with Morning Prayer in the chapel at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital.
- This Month: June 13 and 27, 2015.
- June 13: **Praying the Divine Office**
Morning Prayer: Member of the Subiaco Cell Group *Lectio Divina*: RB 19, "The Discipline of Psalmody," Steve Blum, Leader
Discussion: The Preface and the Introduction to *Shorter Christian Prayer*, Marianne Guenther, Leader.
- June 27: **Hildegard von Bingen**
Morning Prayer: Member of the Hildegard von Bingen Cell
Group *Lectio Divina*: RB 5:1-9, "Obedience," Leader to be named.
Discussion: "Hildegard of Bingen: *Say and Write What You See and Hear*," from *50 Women Every Christian Should Know: Learning from Heroines of the Faith*, Michelle DeRusha, pp. 19-25, David Frye, Leader.

Retreats

EXPLORATIONS IN CREATIVE PRAYER

- Knowles Mercy Spirituality Center, Waterloo, Nebraska
- Thursday, June 11, 2015, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Glenda Dietrich Moore, artist and event leader
How can your own creativity support your listening and responding to the Spirit? Through visual expression we can learn to be true to our own voice, our own pace, and our own choices while listening to and being guided by God's Spirit. This day will awaken and celebrate the creative process in your life through a variety of prayer

forms, scripture, reflection, and hands-on expression with art materials. You will be invited to be playful in your prayer life while partnering your own creativity with God's creative Spirit. Very simple art materials (paint, collage, and clay) will be used in a non-threatening manner while focusing on the process rather than the end product, and *no* previous art experience is necessary. The creative prayer explorations practiced in this workshop also lend themselves to be used by participants at future times and places.

Location: Knowles Mercy Spirituality Center, 2304 Campanile Rd, Waterloo, NE 68069
Phone: 402.359.4288
Email: kmscenter@mercywmw.org
Website: www.kmscenter.org
Fee: \$40 includes lunch and art supplies.

New Song: The Psalms in the Sunday Lectionary, and several other books, the latest of which is *Pleading, Cursing and Praising: Conversing with God Through the Psalms*. Her presentations will include: telling your story, crying out your pain, giving thanks to God, and singing your praise.

Details: Registration, costs, and information for this and other retreat offerings:
www.sophiaspiritualitycenter.org or 913.360.6173.

PODCAST: THE RULE OF BENEDICT

Fr. Mauritius Wilde, OSB, Prior of Christ the King Priory in Schuyler Nebraska, presents a podcast on the *Rule of Benedict*. With host Kris McGregor, Fr. Mauritius provides commentary on various verses from chapters of the Rule.
Web: www.discerninghearts.com.

CONTEMPLATIVE AWARENESS: A SPIRITUAL QUEST

- 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Saturday, June 27, 2015
- Saint Benedict Center, Schuyler, Nebraska.

Living in the midst of busyness and chaos can overwhelm, discourage, and paralyze the best of us. Take time out to feast on God's passionate and unconditional love in an atmosphere of prayer. Presentation, reflection, discussion, handouts, and an optional art experience will be a part of this quest. Presented by Sister Kathleen Courtney, OSB, a Benedictine Sister from Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, South Dakota, and Sr. Ann Marie Petrylka, OSM, St. Leo's Parish, Omaha.

Details and Registration: www.saintbenedictcenter.com

EIGHTH ANNUAL OBLATE INSTITUTE: THE PSALMS BELONG TO YOU

- Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, Kansas
- 6:00 p.m., Thursday, July 16, through 12:30 p.m., Sunday, July 19, 2015.
- Presenter: Sr. Irene Nowell, OSB

At this annual event, Benedictine oblates from across the country have an opportunity to hear prominent speakers and to share the experience of Benedictine spirituality in everyday life.

This year's speaker, Sr. Irene Nowell, OSB, is a Benedictine sister of Mount St. Scholastica, a renowned scholar, and an engaging speaker. She served on the translation team of the revised Old Testament of the New American Bible and the Committee on Illuminations and Texts for the Saint John's Bible. She is the author of *Numbers; Sing a*