



# 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 + January 2017

## A Word from St. Benedict's Rule

### STEWARDSHIP OF THE COMMON GOODS

The goods of the monastery, that is, its tools, clothing or anything else, should be entrusted to brothers whom the abbot appoints and in whose manner of life he has confidence. He will, as he sees fit, issue to them the various articles to be cared for and collected after use. The abbot will maintain a list of these, so that when the brothers succeed one another in their assigned tasks, he may be aware of what he hands out and what he receives back. Whoever fails to keep the things belonging to the monastery clean or treats them carelessly should be reprovved. If he does not amend, let him be subjected to the discipline of the rule.

Source: The Rule of Benedict, RB 32:1-5

## Reflection

### CELEBRATING THE COMING OF SALVATION

Let us then joyfully celebrate the coming of our salvation and redemption. Let us celebrate the festive day on which he who is the great and eternal day came from the great and endless day of eternity into our own short day of time .... Truth, then, has arisen from the earth: Christ who said, I am the Truth, was born of a virgin. And justice looked down from heaven: because believing in this new-born child, man is justified not by himself but by God .... Truth has arisen from the earth: because the Word was made flesh. And justice looked down from heaven; because every good gift and every perfect gift is from above .... Justified by faith, let us be at peace with God: for justice and peace have embraced one another. Through our Lord Jesus Christ: for Truth has arisen from the earth. Through whom we have access to that grace in which we stand, and our boast is in our hope of God's glory .... For how could there be peace on



St. Augustine of Hippo  
Pietro Perugino, 1498, Public Domain

earth unless Truth has arisen from the earth, that is, unless Christ were born of our flesh? And he is our peace who made the two into one: that we might be men of good will, sweetly linked by the bond of unity. Let us then rejoice in this grace, so that our glorying may bear witness to our good conscience by which we glory, not in ourselves, but in the Lord .... Ask if this were merited; ask for its reason, for its justification, and see whether you will find any other answer but sheer grace.

Source: Sermon by St. Augustine, bishop, from the *Office of Readings*, December 24.

CHAPTERS	DEANS	LOCATIONS
Hastings	Julienne Bryan, julienne.bryan@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Family Room, St. Michael's Church, Hastings
	Carol Barry, majorcarolb@yahoo.com	Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital
	Steve Blum, steve.blum@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Sheridan Room
Lincoln	Carol Olson, carol.olson@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	5401 South St.
	Jim Rea, jim.rea@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Lincoln
	Mary Schroer, mary.schroer@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	
Steinauer	Marcia Borchner, marcia.borchner@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Banquet Room, Convent House B&B, Steinauer

## News

### LINCOLN OBLATE MAKES FINAL OBLATION



**Final Oblation:** Louise Tollefson (left) makes her final oblation on December 18, 2016, at the gathering of the Lincoln Chapter. Carol Olson, lead dean (right), leads the service.

## Sacred Heart Monastery News

### PRAYER FOR THE ELECTION OF A Prioress

God of all Faithfulness, we ask you to enlighten the minds and hearts of all the Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery as they prepare to elect the next prioress. May they select a member of the community who is best able to lead the monastery into the future in the Benedictine way of life according to Your will. This we ask in Christ's name and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

### MONASTERY NEWSLETTERS

To view the full Oblate Newsletter and for online copies of the Yankton Benedictines Newsletter go to the Sacred Heart Monastery Web site and select "Recent News"—Newsletter.

**Web site:** [www.yanktonbenedictines.org](http://www.yanktonbenedictines.org).

### SAVE THE DATE

The 2017 oblate retreats at Sacred Heart Monastery will be held on April 7–9 and October 27–29, 2017. Details will follow!

## Worship Notes

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYING THE DIVINE OFFICE

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.

Some Lincoln oblates 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 at **8:00 a.m. on two Saturdays—January 7 and 21**. Please consider adding this prayer office to your spiritual life.

Also, Lincoln oblates gather in the Ryan Memorial Chapel for Evening Prayer on the fourth Sunday each month at 7:00 p.m. This month, they will pray **Evening Prayer on 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 22**.

### MONASTERY AND CHAPTER GATHER PETITIONS

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

**On the Web:**

[www.yanktonbenedictines.org/PrayerRequest.php](http://www.yanktonbenedictines.org/PrayerRequest.php).

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

**On the Web:** [www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org/contact/](http://www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org/contact/).

### SHORTER CHRISTIAN PRAYER INSTRUCTION

We are in the Christmas Season from Christmas until the Baptism of the Lord on January 9, 2017. During the Christmas Season, for weekdays after Christmas, see pp. 392–395 in *Shorter Christian Prayer*. The Magnificat Antiphon and concluding prayers for the Epiphany of the Lord, Sunday, January 8, 2017, can be found on pp. 397–398. The Antiphons and Concluding Prayer for the Baptism of the Lord, January 9, may be found on pp. 403–404. On the Monday after the Baptism of the Lord, January 16, 2017, we will switch to Week I on p. 54. We will be in ordinary time from January 10, 2017, until Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017.

## Chapter Gatherings

### READINGS

The readings for 2016–2017 come from *Preferring Christ: A Devotional Commentary on the Rule of St. Benedict* by Norvene Vest. The January reading covers Interlude VIII and chapters 58–60.

### LINCOLN

The Chapter Gathering will be held on Sunday, January 8, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sheridan Room at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital.

**HASTINGS**

The Hastings Gathering will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2017, at 9:30–11:30 a.m., in the St. Cecilia's Health Ministry Building, 415 N. Kansas, Hastings.

- *Facilitator:* Sharon Connor
- *Reflection:* Robin Street
- *Prayer Leader:* Susan Janda
- *Companion Leader:* Robin Stroot, Oblate Handbook Lesson #4.

**STEINAUER**

The Steinauer Gathering will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2017, 7:00–9:00 p.m., in the Banquet Room, Convent House B&B, Steinauer. This location is across the street from St. Anthony's Church.

**Cell Groups****CELL GROUP READINGS: 2016–2017**

Text: *The Soul of a Pilgrim: Eight Practices for the Journey Within*, Christine Valters Painter, OblSB, Sorin Books, 2015. The cell groups will discuss this book from the fall of 2016 through the spring of 2017. All cell groups across Nebraska except Lincoln's Pax Christi Cell will read the same text. December's discussions focus on Chapter 4, "The Practice of Making the Way by Walking," pp. 63–79.

Cell Details: [www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org/cells](http://www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org/cells)

**Cell Group Gatherings**

Oblates are encouraged to further their oblate experience by joining a cell group. Following are the available cell groups for 2016–2017. Listings include meeting dates, times, and locations.

**Grand Island Cell Group*****Brother Lawrence Cell***

- Leader: Jeanette Nordhues
- Meetings: The fourth Monday of the month, 4:30–5:30 p.m., **in the home of Joan Hopkins, 1611 W. Charles St.**, Grand Island. *Please note the new location!*
- This Month: Monday, January 23.

**Hastings Cell Group*****Saint Scholastica Cell***

- Leader: Lee Ostdiek
- Meetings: The fourth Saturday of the month beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Library at St. Cecelia's Health Ministry Building, 415 N. Kansas, Hastings.
- This Month: Saturday, January 28.

**Lincoln Cell Groups*****Beginners' Cell***

- Leader: Marti Fritzen
- Meetings: Monthly on the fourth Sunday at 7:00 p.m., beginning with Vespers in the chapel at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. Then the group goes to the Platte Room for its gathering.
- The Rule of Benedict (RB 73:8) says that the rule is for beginners; we are all beginners and all are welcome to this cell.
- This Month: Sunday, January 22.

***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. Following a time for quiet reflection, the cell then gathers in **Sheridan Room B** (the room where you pick up your name tags at the chapter gathering) for *lectio divina* and conversation on a topic or the reading. Following this, members may gather in the cafeteria for fellowship. *Please note the new location.*
- This Month: Saturdays, January 7 and 21.

***Pax Christi Cell***

- Leader: Lorene Ludy
- Meetings: Monthly on the **third Tuesday** from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Mary Lu Long's house, 1615 Brent Blvd., Lincoln. *Please note the new meeting day.*
- This Month: January 17.

***Preferring Christ Cell***

- Leader: Charlotte Liggett
- Meetings: Monthly on the fourth Sunday at 7:00 p.m., beginning with Vespers in the chapel at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital.
- This Month: January 22.

### **Omaha Cell**

- Leader: Phil Kelley
- Meetings: Monthly on the fourth Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the New Cassel Retirement Center. Members take turn serving as facilitators for the cell's gatherings. This cell will reflect on readings from *Preferring Christ: A Devotional Commentary on the Rule of St. Benedict* by Norvene Vest.
- This Month: Tuesday, January 24.

Frye at [info@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org](mailto:info@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org). If you would prefer having a paper newsletter mailed to you, please notify Carol Barry at [MajorCarolB@yahoo.com](mailto:MajorCarolB@yahoo.com).

Our current and past newsletters are always available on our Web site at [www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org/news/](http://www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org/news/).

### **General Announcements**

#### **SNOW AND CHAPTER GATHERINGS**

It's that time of year again! If we should have three to four inches of snow, we will cancel the chapter gathering without notice. The meeting will not be rescheduled. The next month's meeting will occur as scheduled with that month's assignment. Should we have a snowstorm that seems hard to judge, an e-mail will be sent. For those without e-mail, please call someone with e-mail.

In all cases, use your best judgment. Be safe.

### **Area Retreat Offerings**

#### **OVERVIEW**

We are fortunate to have several monasteries in our area that provide retreat opportunities. We will continue to call your attention to retreats that may be of interest to our oblates. Please visit each monastery's Website for more information on these and other opportunities for retreat offerings. For the convenience of the approximately 20 percent of our members who do not have Internet access, we have provided the address and phone number for each monastery.

#### **ST. BENEDICT CENTER, SCHUYLER, NEBRASKA**

**Topic:** *Jesus: The Image of God's Mercy*

**Date:** April 22, 2017

**Leader:** Fr. Anselm Gruen, OSB, will be coming from Germany to give this retreat.

**Contact:** 1123 Road I Schuyler NE 68661, (402)-352-2177

**Web:** <http://www.stbenedictcenter.com>.

### **E-mail Notice**

#### **ATTENTION: AOL.COM USERS**

We are unable to send the newsletter via e-mail to AOL users because that provider appears to be blocking \*.pdf file attachments. If you have another e-mail address we can use, please send it to David