



Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery

September 2008

WELCOME BACK! I hope you are as eager to get started again as I am. It has been a short summer, one filled with so much good but also a bit of sadness. I have learned of the special events and vacations from a number of you. There have been family crises and suffering. We find many needing our prayers. We hear Jesus tell us in Luke 22, that he wants to eat the Passover with us, knowing that part of our journey will include the cross. But we also hear Isaiah 65 say: God gives us this wonderful assurance that we will have a permanent dwelling place – not only joy in this world but also in the next. So, it is time now to move back into our studies in *Strangers to the City* and the *Path of Life* and renew our efforts in *Lectio* that God is always most central in our lives.

OBLATE ASSIGNMENTS

- LINCOLN CHAPTER: Sunday meetings will be held in the Madonna North Commons Cafeteria/Sheridan Rooms, 7-9 p.m. Monday meetings will be held in the Sheridan Rooms 7-9 p.m. Sunday, September 14, 2008 and Monday, September 15, 2008: As you will see we are returning to the text, *Strangers to the City* by Michael Casey. It is not an easy read but an excellent study with *Lectio Divina*. Again, I encourage you to take your time with these readings and give yourself the benefit of the author's wisdom. We will begin this month with Chapter 8, *Mutuality*, pgs 106-123. Holy Rule (RB) 5 Obedience; Acts 2: 43-47. I will a SHOW DVD ABOUT OBLATES from St. Meinrad Abbey.
- STEINAUER CHAPTER: Banquet Room, across from St. Anthony's Church Tuesday, September 2, 2008 7-9 p.m. (NOTE ONE DAY LATER) Since Sept. 1 is Labor Day, we will move the first meeting ONE DAY LATER. This will also be our introduction and orientation time for new members. We will continue in the text: *Strangers to the City* by Michael Casey. It is not an easy read but an excellent study with *Lectio Divina*. Again, I encourage you to take your time with these readings and give yourself the benefit of the author's wisdom. We will begin this month with Chapter 8, *Mutuality*, pgs. 106-123. Holy Rule (RB) 5 Obedience; Acts 2: 43-47. New members will be using the *Formation Handbook*. I will a SHOW DVD ABOUT OBLATES from St. Meinrad Abbey.
- HASTINGS CHAPTER: St. Michael's Church, Family Room, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Saturday September 13, 2008: (This will also be our introduction and orientation for new members) We will be continuing in the text: *The Path of Life* by Cyprian Smith, OSB,

Chapter 10, *Private Prayer*, pgs 122-153, RB 52, Hebrews 5:5-10

- OMAHA CHAPTER: New Cassel Retirement Center, Lecture Hall, 900 N 90th Street, Use Front Entrance, Omaha, NE. Good news! The New Cassel parking lot will be finished in several weeks. Tuesday, September 16, 2008, General Assembly: (This will also be our introduction and orientation for new members.) PLEASE NOTE: This month – only - is the 3rd and 5th Tuesday. The Cell will meet on August 30. We will be continuing in the text: *The Path of Life* by Cyprian Smith, OSB, Chapter 10, *Private Prayer*, pgs 122-153, RB 52, Hebrews 5:5-10. New members will be using the *Formation Handbook*

IMPORTANT NOTICE – PRAYLINE AND NEWSLETTER EMAILS CHANGING:

Starting in September, our email prayer and news notices will change. In order to continue receiving these notices, you must join our oblate email groups. The good news is that we now have over 150 oblates with email addresses! But because the number of oblates continues to grow, we are having many difficulties with services intended to reduce spam and junk email. To solve the problem we are moving to a subscription type service (free) to manage our list.

If you have email, you will soon be getting two email messages inviting you to join these groups. One group is for news and announcements, and the other group is for prayer requests. You will receive very specific instructions in the email, taking you step-by-step through what you need to do to join. Your speedy response will help us send out prayer requests in a timely manner. Thank you! If you need assistance, hopefully you will have family or friend to assist you. Otherwise you can call Marcia Straatmeyer (416-1788), Russ Booton (484-5851) or Teresa Harms (488-3807).

CELL STUDY: This year we will use the text *Radical Hospitality*, "Benedict's way of love" by Homan, OSB and Pratt. It comes with "A Companion Guide" by Robert Gibson which we will also use. One commentary says, "Radical Hospitality is a quietly dazzling book, overflowing with small stories, teaching by illustration how to attempt to live the Benedictine Rule." I am estimating that for the two, it will cost \$20.00 which includes the 20% and tax exemption. Books will be available at the Chapter meetings.

Oblates who have made their Final Oblation last November may now join a Cell. If there are other oblates who wish to join, please contact Sister Phyllis for the times of the various Cells.

ANNUAL OBLATE RETREATS: October 3, 4 & 5 are the dates for our fall retreat at Sacred Heart Monastery and February 20, 21 & 22 will be the early 2009 retreat. The theme is "Balance and moderation." They will begin Friday evening and end Sunday noon.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ASPIRING OBLATES!
We will introduce them at our September Chapter meetings and list them in the next newsletter.

RECOGNIZING OUR OBLATES: Whereas I know that our oblates are not seeking recognition, I thought you might like to know the enormous numbers of oblates who are continuing "behind the scenes," keeping our Oblate Benedictine Community alive. I also know that there are many others who are willing to help. If anyone has an idea for participation, do feel free to see anyone of us. If I have forgotten someone or something important, do let me know and I will publish it in the next newsletter.

- Formats and sends newsletter, buys and prints mailing envelopes, updates and arranges email list, updates our website: Teresa Harms
- Updates email and sends prayer requests and other announcements: Marcia Straatmeyer
- Lincoln Chapters, General Assembly faith sharing facilitators: Jim O'Hanlon, Deb Miller and Jim Potter, Russ Booton and Pat Shafer. In Hastings, Steinauer and Omaha, all oblates facilitate faith sharing.
- Updates and manages Lincoln name tags: Deb Miller and Jim Potter
- Steinauer Coordinators: Don and Marcia Borchers. Hastings Coordinators: Dixie Tripe and Dawn Lapka. Margaret Kepford arranges for St. Michael's family room. Omaha Coordinators: George and Paula Rood
- Cell Coordinators: In Lincoln are Pat Shafer, Brigid Amos, Carol Olson, Marti Fritzen and Tim Fisher.
- Companions for new members for this fall: Phip Ross, Mary Schroer and Russ Booton. There have been four or five oblates who have led in the past. In Hastings, Steinauer and Omaha, all oblates assist in orienting new members.
- Drivers to Hastings: Carol Barry and Wilma White with one trip by Robert and Delores Lewis. Driver to Steinauer: Brigid Amos. Driver to Omaha: still under discussion
- Hospitality in Lincoln: Lou Ann Green, Carol Barry and Wilma White
- Oblate Office filing: Lucy Kahler
- Committee for Blog development: Phip Ross, Dan Deffenbaugh and Teresa Harms. Committee to review emailing: Teresa Harms, Russ Booton and

Marcia Straatmeyer. African development project:
Lou Ann Green

- Group for Spring gardening and contributors: Rich O'Neil, Marva Wasser and husband, Carol Barry and Teresa Harms.
- UNL Vespers: Paul Blotkamp. Eight oblates lead Friday Morning Prayer.
- Presenters: Many of our oblates have made presentations at the general Assembly: Lou Ann Green, Carol Olson, Colleen Baade, Vic Faesser, Daniel Deffenbaugh, Ron Sedlacek, Paul Blotkamp and Darla Weisbeck. In October we will hear Rev. Ebb Munden.
- Book Reviews have been contributed for the newsletter: Brigid Amos, Myrna Schmid, Nancy Ludden, Steve Liechti, Marti Fritzen, Dan Deffenbaugh, Marcia Straatmeyer, Carol Olson and Darla Weisbeck
- Telephone partners notify those without email of important happenings.

BOOK REVIEW: Seven Sacred Pauses, "Living Mindfully Through the Hours of the Day" by Macrina Wiederkehr.

This is an inspiring book to bring the Divine Office home into our hearts, to pause, play and live in tune with the spirit of each hour.

The author provides creative ways to practice learning to live as vessels of devotion and to pour forth loving service to others.

An inspirational gift of the spirit - to nurture and provide breathing spells for the soul. Submitted by Oblate Darla Weisbeck



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