



Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery

February 2009

ASSIGNMENTS:

Lincoln Chapter: Sun, North Commons Cafeteria or Mon in the Lancaster Room, Madonna Rehab Hosp, Sunday, February 8, 2009 or Monday, February 9, 2009: Strangers to the City, Chapter 13, Perseverance pgs 185-198. RB 58, Genesis 28:10-18. NOTE: the REFLECTION for Sunday, 2-8 will be presented by Oblate Steve Liechti entitled: Interactive Christology. In a book by Michael Casey of similar name, he uses the Gospel of Mark to provide reflection, lectio and contemplation to reveal how Mark speaks so loudly to Christians in turbulent times. Mark's engaging presentation invites us to join in our own spiritual formation as we move through the chapters of Mark. I will focus primarily in this presentation on Christ's Transfiguration and the spiritual gems from this text.

Steinauer Chapter: Banquet Room, across from St. Anthony's Church, Monday, Feb. 2, 2009, 7-9 p.m.: Strangers to the City, Chapter 13, Perseverance pgs 185-198. RB 58, Genesis 28:10-18 NOTE: new scripture reading.

Hastings Chapter: St. Michael's Church, Family Room, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Saturday, February 14, 2009: The Path of Life, Chapter 8, The Eucharist, pgs.103-121. RB 38, 1 Cor: 23-34 Since we missed the meeting in January, we will take the same assignment as was planned for January.

Omaha Chapter: New Cassel Retirement Center, Lecture Hall, 900 N 90th Street, East Entrance, Omaha, NE, Tuesday, February 10, 2009: General Assembly: Article: "When to Forgive" by Avery Dulles. Take time to read as it is about as long as a chapter in a text. This was distributed at the last meeting but you can also get it at this website: http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=2522. I can also send a copy if you need one.

NEW BOOKS FOR ALL CHAPTER

MEETINGS: Desiring Life by Norvene Vest will be distributed again at the February meeting. We will need it for all of our March Chapter meetings. Assignment sheets will also be available for those without email. You can go to our website: www.geocities.com/lincoln_Oblates and get it there.

OPENINGS STILL AVAILABLE FOR THE 2009 SECOND OBLATE WORLD CONGRESS:

I received information saying that there are still openings for Oblates at the World Congress of Oblates to be held in Rome at the Salesianum, Via della Pisana, the 2nd to 10th of October, 2009. The theme for the Congress: "The

religious challenges of today – The Benedictine answer." If you are interested contact me (Sister Phyllis) as I need to send information to our USA National Coordinator as soon as possible along with the introductory fee of \$300. He will send the initial information to Rome. You will receive some helpful hints as early as March. If you wish to learn more about the congress, I am sure that Oblates Carol Olson and Marti Fritzen, who went to the 1st World Congress will be happy to visit with you. At this time there is no funding available for a participant. You can go to the Oblates World Congress website to get more details: <http://www.benedictine-oblates.org/2009/notizie-en.htm>.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE SIGNED ON TO OUR OBLATE YAHOO GROUP:

We are making progress. If you are still getting this newsletter as a paper version and you have email, please do join our yahoo group. To get you started contact Oblate Teresa at teresamharms@yahoo.com or email phunhoff74@windstream.net

LAST REMINDER FOR FEB RETREAT at

SHM, Yankton. It begins Fri, Feb. 20, at 5:15 p.m. and ends Sunday, Feb. 22 after brunch. Contact Sister Joelle 605-668-6009 or jbauer@mtmc.edu. Shared rides are being arranged.

THE BLOG: Please see the presentation of Oblate Steve Liechti on our Blog after Sunday Feb. 8. You will want to read and comment on this. Also, send Dan Deffenbaugh something you have been reading or you have written and wish to contribute. He will be happy to edit it for you (he makes it sound very good) and then he will put it on the blog. See: <http://www.sacredheartyanntonoblates.blogspot.com/>

CHORAL GROUP: Meeting, Sunday, Feb. 8 at 6:15 p.m. All are welcome to come. Thank you for bringing us some inspirational and beautiful music to our Sunday night Chapter.

GETTING READY FOR ASH WEDNESDAY (February 25):

Have you thought about how you might enrich your life during Lent? How about being more diligent in saying the Liturgy of the Hours? Today (Jan 30) we are in Week III of the Psalter. Sunday, Feb. 1 is the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The week of Ash Wed will be Week III.

Then the 1st Sunday of Lent (March 1) we will begin Week I of the Psalter. There is one whole week of beautiful texts for Lent in the Shorter Christian Prayer Book (pages 405-428). In the one volume Christian Prayer Book there are special antiphons and other full text for each day - of each week of Lent. If someone would like to move to or try the full volume, I still have two used copies at no cost to you. Just let Sister Phyllis know. You may also want to join us on Friday mornings at 7:30 a.m. in the Madonna chapel for Morning Prayer or Wed afternoons at the Newman Center at 5:10 p.m. for Vespers.

PRAYER FOR LENT

God of salvation, you are quick with your mercy and steadfast with your love. As we begin Lent help us to pray with ardor, fast with a hunger for you, and be generous with those in need. May our Lenten practices turn us from evil and instill in us a love of righteousness. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and brother, Amen.

OBLATE NOTES:

- Please remember Oblate Dr. Joe Gard who died unexpectedly January 24. His rosary/wake was Thursday evening January 29 at which time we (Sr. Phyllis, Oblates Marti Fritzen and Carol Barry) had our Oblate prayer service. Please also remember his wife Oblate Barb Gard and their family in your prayers.
- Oblates Steve and Carla Jordan '94: We pray that 2009 is full of blessings for you. Cape Girardeau, MO is a lovely place to visit and we would love to show you around – come and see us. Steve participates in Abbey Road, a folk/Americana-style singing group and has written some wonderful songs for them. Carla had the honor of presenting at the National Trust for Historic Preservation Convention. Beau is serving active military duty with the Air Force. Mick will graduate from HS in May. Lilly is a busy college Freshman and spent 5 weeks in Scotland performing with the SEMO band color guard at the Tattoo in Edinburgh.
- Congratulations to Pastor Tim Adams, Oblate '08, who celebrated his 40th year of pastoral ministry.
- Oblate Jana Pentz-McBride '99: Yes, I have moved and have been remarried for 3 years to a wonderful, Christian man who is a doctor of Pharmacy, James White. My new address: 864 Kimberly Avenue, Redlands, CA 92374. I still work at the same place: Boshart Engineering. Last year was harrowing, as the car business nationwide took the plunge, but we are now working on electric cars and getting ready to launch a new product required in CA to reduce air pollution. My son, Drew, has moved to KCMO and is working about an hour away so I've been able to see a lot of him. With my remarriage come 3 grown stepchildren and 3 1/2 grandchildren. Life is a blessing in so many ways....God has certainly directed all my steps out here!
- Oblate Duncan Miller '04: Dear Friends and Family: On Election night John, my son and I decided that we were going to the Inauguration in January. We made it. It was a hard 3 1/2 days, driving 2500 miles and sleeping in the

car, but one of the most exciting trips of our lives. Truly this event was as much a Civil Rights celebration as it was an Inauguration. When Obama finished his oath of office, the crowd erupted with an energy of joy that I never knew could exist. The spirit of Martin Luther King and all those who struggled, sacrificed, and inspired were certainly felt in the joy of the occasion. Though we stood in the cold for five hours in the same place half way between the Capital and the Washington Monument, the time went by quick as we shared the moment with total strangers, but strangers who quickly became friends.

- Prayers to Sacred Heart Monastery: If you would like to send some of your prayer requests directly to our Sisters at the monastery, simply go to www.yanktonbenedictines.org and then click on Prayer Requests.

FEAST OF ST. SCHOLASTICA: Let us remember to celebrate the feast of the sister of St. Benedict on February 10 with some special prayer of thanksgiving or petition.

Prodigal's Plea

A poem by Dorothy Colgan (92), mother of Fr. Tobias Colgan, OSB, St. Meinrad Abbey.

I may be late, dear Lord,
So, please, don't close the door.
And would you leave a light?
(I've lost my way before.)

I'm one of your stray sheep,
Bewildered, filled with fright.
I've feasted on wild oats
And now regret each bite.

With foolish days behind,
Ahead I see my goal.
Will you have a shoulder
For this repentant soul?

PRAY FOR RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS!

Sister Phyllis Hunhoff, OSB, Associate Director ♦
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