



# Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery

December 2010

## QUESTIONS FOR DECEMBER CHAPTER MEETING (The Oblate Life):

- Can you describe your experience: "Oblation means more truly becoming what I am?" pg 60. Read 1 Kings 19.15-21
- How faithful are you to your church? Are you a contributing member? pg 68 (for your personal reflection)
- What have these words meant for you: "Insofar as my state in life permits?" pg 77, Read RB 64 vs. 17-19

## ASSIGNMENTS

**LINCOLN CHAPTER:** Sheridan Rooms & North Commons Cafeteria on Sunday and Lancaster Room on Monday, Madonna Rehab Hosp: Sunday, December 12, 2010 or Monday December 13, 2010: The Oblate Life by Gervase Holdaway, OSB, Chapters 7, 8 & 9. See questions above. Jim O'Hanlon will present the reflection on Sunday evening and Paul Blotkamp will present the reflection on Monday evening. Tim Fisher will lead Vespers on Monday evening.

**STEINAUER CHAPTER:** Banquet Room, across from St. Anthony's Church: Monday, November 29, 2011, Psalm 50: 1-23 God Scolds the People. Covenant references; significant words. Psalm 84:1-12 Prayer of a Pilgrim. Happy, celebratory, great love of Temple - why? Reflection/facilitator: Alan Tramp Lead Prayer: Marjorie Wenzel Companion: Marcia Borchers No meeting in December.

**HASTINGS CHAPTER:** St. Michael's Church, Family Room, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Saturday, December 11, 2010: The Oblate Life by Gervase Holdaway, OSB, Chapters 7, 8 & 9. See questions above. Refection/Facilitator: Bob Phillips Companion: Scott Taylor Prayer Leader: Jeanette Nordhues

**OMAHA CHAPTER:** New Cassel Retirement Center, Lecture Hall, 900 N 90th Street, Omaha, NE, 7-9 pm, Tuesday, December 14, 2010: The Oblate Life by Gervase Holdaway, OSB, Chapters 7, 8 & 9. See questions above Reflection/Facilitator: Phillip Kelley,

Companion Leader: Sister Phyllis, 3rd meeting/session. No Cell meeting in December.

**CHOIR PRACTICE:** 6:30 pm, prior to Sunday Chapter meeting, Dec 12.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW NOVICES AND OBLATES:

Making their Initial Oblation to become Novices are:

### Lincoln Chapter:

Steven Blum	Dale Pribnow
Gary Harrington	Dale Schroeder
Lorene Ludy	Ruth White
Vincent R. Murphy	

### Steinauer Chapter:

Marilyn Neukirch

### Hastings Chapter:

Sharon Connor

### Omaha Chapter:

Kathy Burke	Anne Rapczynski
Pat Gallagher	

The Oblate Novices making their Final Oblation are:

### Lincoln Chapter:

Nancy Childs	Chris Neville
	Anna
Charlotte Liggett	Schundrenko.
Collette Masek	Julie Warrington

### Hastings Chapter:

June Hill,	Jeanette Nordhues,
Gerry Kuhn,	Robin Stroot

### Omaha Chapter:

Charles E. Luczynski

## OBLATE NOTES:

- I'm sorry I have been so out of touch, and I'm especially sorry that I missed the oblation last Sunday. I have been to every one of these since my initial oblation as a novice six years ago (I think). I continue to pursue my studies and teaching here in

Alabama but am looking forward to returning to Hastings in January. Hopefully I can simply pick up where I left off but things never seem to be that simple. I am hoping to visit the Benedictine monastery just north of here for a retreat in the coming weeks. Peace, Dan Deffenbaugh

- I was so sorry to miss the Oblation ceremony yesterday. It was one of those days that filled up so much that I didn't even get back to Lincoln until almost 4 p.m. In addition to the 3 Eucharist's that I always have on Sunday morning--in 3 different locations, I needed to visit someone in the hospital, as well. You all were very much in my thoughts and prayers as I was driving around. Gretchen Naugle
- Marilyn Neukirch, Oblate Novice, is sharing this prayer with us – one that she learned as a child: Each thought, each work, each deed of mine, shall be an act of love divine. And everything that I shall do, be my God for the love of you.

**REFLECTION** from Marva Wasser: Sister Phyllis asked that I contribute some sort of spiritual writing for the October newsletter. At that time, I requested a later date, preferring a time that I would no longer be plagued by “chemo brain”. Little did I know that this journey would take me to a place more debilitating. It's either “pain brain” or “pain relief brain” depending on where I am in the cycle of prescriptions given to minimize pain. Along the way, I have been exposed to a number of books and CD's as well as loads of advice and admonitions. I have also developed a new vocabulary that includes new medical terms and a deeper understanding of and respect for the mysteries of the human body.

While not necessarily able to process complex information and concepts, I have had the opportunity to “rediscover” some simple truths. The first of these is that these sorts of things can happen to anyone – no one deserves them and no one is exempt. Regardless, it is important to remember is that I am not going through this alone. Besides the compassion and caring of Christ, I have been blessed by an army of angels to help navigate this new terrain. They come in the way of spiritual direction, insights and knowing that someone is praying for you when you are too tired to put your own thoughts into prayers. These angels also appear as compassionate medical care, a wonderful family that is always on call and make me laugh when a laugh seems all but impossible, ladies who clean my house even though most don't clean their own, a friend willing to share chicken noodle soup and conversation about anything BUT my circumstances, a meditation group that helps me find the moments of gratitude in each day and constant reminders that one needs to live in the

moment and to let go of thoughts from the past or worries about the future.

I've learned that when one's brain is not fully functional, there comes a time to put your heart in charge. The reading materials speak to my head while the angels speak to my heart. In the end I may find that living from my heart is where God intended that this journey lead me and that place feels more like home than where I once spent so much of my time.

**ADVENT – CHRISTMAS 2010:** (The new liturgical calendars are available for those who wish to have one. They will be at the Chapter meetings.)

As you receive this newsletter, we will be beginning Advent preparations for the feast of Christmas. Let us try to share together the words of Matthew presented to us in the four Advent Sunday gospels. In the midst all the hurly burly of our lives, may Christmas be the “best ever” because we have taken the time for Lectio with these four gospels. Here they are with a taste of what you can anticipate:

- 1st Sunday of Advent: Matthew 24:37-44  
Those of us who are vigilant/aware of God's coming/presence in our lives will not be surprised when God opens the door (comes to us) in our ordinary daily events,
- 2nd Sunday of Advent: Matthew 3: 1-12  
John the Baptist tells us to look carefully at our lives/producing good fruit and make changes as necessary because the one who is following him – is truly exceptional - Jesus.
- 3rd Sunday of Advent: Matthew 11:2-11  
John the Baptist had to ask, “Are you the one who is to come?” Jesus told them/us what we should be doing.
- 4th Sunday of Advent: Matthew 1:18-24  
Jesus/Emmanuel (God with us) lives among us. Jesus is with us through our chaos and sadness and joy.

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