



Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery

January 2011

QUESTIONS FOR JANUARY CHAPTER

MEETING (The Oblate Life):

- Reflect upon: "Punctuating the day with self-generated excerpts from our liturgical memories is a wonderfully liberating experience." pg 86, Read RB 43 & 50
- In praying the psalms with Jesus, how are you going to respond to the proclamation of God's rule? (pg 104)

LINCOLN CHAPTER: Sheridan Rooms & North Commons Cafeteria on Sunday and Lancaster Room on Monday, Madonna Rehab Hosp: Sunday, January 9, 2011 or Monday January 10, 2011: The Oblate Life by Gervase Holdaway, OSB, Chapters 10 & 11, See questions above. John Long will present the reflection on Sunday evening and D'Arcy Blosser will present the reflection on Monday evening. Carolee Brink will lead Vespers on Monday evening.

CHOIR PRACTICE: 6:15 pm, prior to Sunday Chapter meeting, Jan 9.

STEINAUER CHAPTER: Banquet Room, across from St. Anthony's Church: Monday, January 31, 2011, Psalm 66:1-20. How Marvelous Your Works. Exaggeration; awe; related to Jesus' resurrection and Epiphany? Psalm 60:1-14. Complaint after Defeat. Oracle (vv 8-10); how is God identified with war in the name of religion? Vic will give the reflection and facilitate. Lead Prayer: Don Companion: Alan – 4th Meeting/Session

HASTINGS CHAPTER: St. Michael's Church, Family Room, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Saturday, January 8, 2011: The Oblate Life by Gervase Holdaway, OSB, Chapters 10 & 11, (See questions above) Reflection/Facilitator: Scott Companion: Dan D. Prayer Leader: Leland

Hastings Cell meeting: Saturday, January 29. Psalm 66:1-20. How Marvelous Your Works! Exaggeration; awe; related to Jesus' resurrection and Epiphany? Psalm 60:1-14. Complaint After Defeat Oracle (vv 8-10); how is God identified with war in the name of religion? Cell Leader: Kathy S.

OMAHA CHAPTER: New Cassel Retirement Center, Lecture Hall, 900 N 90th Street, Omaha, NE, 7-9 pm, Tuesday, January 11, 2011: The Oblate Life by Gervase Holdaway, OSB, Chapters 10 & 11, (See questions above) Reflection/facilitator: Lucile Fortune, Companion Leader: George Rood, 4th meeting/session

RETREAT FOR OBLATES: The next Oblate Retreat is scheduled for February 18th-20th with the topic of Rooted in Love. The theme focuses on Benedictine stability and how it permeates all aspects of our lives. This semi-silent retreat begins the evening of Friday, Feb. 18th and ends the morning of Sunday, Feb. 20th. The cost for a single room, including meals, is \$90; a room with two people is \$140. Reservations can be made by contacting Sr. Joelle Bauer at 1005 W. 8th Street, Yankton, S.D. 57078, jbauer@mtmc.edu, 605-668-6009. There is an answering machine for the telephone number.

OBLATE NOTES:

- Thank you for keeping me informed on Oblate news; I miss being a physical part of the group. Maureen Worden, La Crosse, WI
- I meet some oblates in the course of my work with the CAC and also through people who are volunteering at Christ in the Desert Monastery. One is helping with their beer making project. I've been learning more about mystics. Vivian Bowman, Albuquerque, NM
- Report from Malaysia: We thought we'd better get in touch so people didn't forget who we were! We are in Malaysia in a city of over 1 million called Subang Jaya. Jim's teaching architecture at Taylor's University on a two-year contract.

We recently went to George Town on the island of Penang off the northwest corner of Malaysia. Both were recently named UNESCO World Heritage Sites for their unique historical and architectural interest. Both were important seaports overlooking the Malacca Straits. Malacca was held by the Portugese, Dutch and British, George Town mainly the British, but both have that wonderful combination of Chinese, Malay and Indian heritage. We had a great time trying the food, exploring buildings and

temples and enjoying the atmosphere in both places. Both have trishaws, bicycles with attached two-person carts that are highly decorated. A fun way to get around and support this vanishing profession.

We're planning to go to Singapore over our short Christmas holiday. For those of you who haven't heard much from us, we're here and would love to hear from you! Better yet, come visit! Malacca's only a few hours from KL by bus and would make a great place to visit. Blessings, Jim & Deb

- Thank you for your many Christmas cards and notes. It is always nice to hear from you. Sister Phyllis
- Converting Oblate pins into pendants: There are devices sold online called "pin to pendant converter." Go to Google and brooch converter. Amazon.com sells them for \$3.25 and up plus shipping. In the spirit of St. Benedict, if anyone finds a product or method that works particularly well, please do let us know.

BOOK REPORT from Oblate Kristi Meyer of Steinauer Chapter: (Hope you are having a very blessed Advent. Our family certainly is - just now getting decorations up and haven't heard or seen any Christmas gift lists yet from the children. We have been buying things for the less fortunate...perhaps they are finally seeing that Christmas isn't just about the gifts!!) Some of you may have heard of Immaculee Ilibagiza, some may have even seen her speak recently in Lincoln. I first learned of her when she spoke at the Midwest Family Conference in Wichita, KS in 2009. Her book "Left to Tell" is a story about her survival and forgiveness. It has been a wonderful gift to those who are difficult to buy for.

In 1994 more than one million people were murdered in roughly 100 days in Rwanda. The spring of 1994 - in my own little world I was getting married, genocide seemed a world away. Until I read this book.

Immaculee grew up in an affluent African family. When she came home from college for Easter break in 1994 the country's Hutu tribe turned on the Tutsi tribe with an agenda to kill all Tutsi's. Immaculee's father sent her into hiding at the house of a Hutu friend and pastor. Her family was Tutsi and she found herself being hunted to be killed by her neighbors and former friends. She listened through a wall as they spoke graphically about how they had already maliciously murdered her parents, brothers, and friends. Her shelter for 91 days was a 3ft x 4ft bathroom hidden behind a wardrobe...with seven other women!

She prayed to be spared, not to die in that bathroom and not to die at the hands of the murderers. She spent her hours in constant prayer for forgiveness of the killers and in an effort of improving herself. During these 3 months she learned English by reading an English translation Bible. Her faith in God was unwavering however the devil was hard at work. Although she was spared from death her battle continued far past the survival of starvation, trauma and grief. Her greatest inspiration to me is her ability to love those who hated her and to forgive those who viciously murdered her family. Immaculee's soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.

SOMETHING FOR THE NEW YEAR from Sister Joelle Bauer, Oblate Director, SHM: In RB Chap. 53 on the Reception of Guests, St. Benedict gives us ideas that are good to reflect upon. When our lives become hectic and rushed with activity, Benedict tells us in this chapter on hospitality that we need to place "worldly" things in the context of prayer, reverence and silence. Norvene Vest says in Preferring Christ, that "It seems to me that Benedict suggests here that I need to honor my own limitations. If I have developed certain rhythmic patterns for the day, knowing that those patterns are beneficial for me, then it is well to stay with those patterns even and especially in times of crisis. . . . there will be moments when I must let them go, but I need to return to them as soon as possible, knowing that without them, my strength is limited. . . . Maybe it is daily "silence breaks", maybe morning and evening prayer, maybe a time for Lectio: whatever is found to be valuable is to be honored. If I leave my Lectio with a prayer word or phrase, I might take that phrase into the day, using it to bless everyone and everything all day long." Let us welcome others openly and also set limits in order to do what is important in our lives.

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