



# Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery

May 2011

## QUESTIONS FOR MAY CHAPTER

### MEETING (The Oblate Life):

Ponder the words: "stability is not about stagnation – but of maintaining one's momentum." pg 162 Read RB 58, vs. 9-16. Boulding says, 'Obedience *to* Christ, obedience *with* Christ' is how the Rule's teaching has been summarized. Can you explain this? Chapter 18, Read RB 71-72.

**Lincoln Chapter:** *Sheridan Rooms & North Commons on Sunday and Lancaster Room on Monday, Madonna Rehab Hosp: Sunday, May 15, 2011 or Monday May 16, 2011 (One week later for Mother's Day): The Oblate Life by Gervase Holdaway, OSB, Chapters 17 & 18*, Note questions and comments above. We will hear Oblate Carol R. Brewer give the reflection on Sunday night and D'Arcy Blosser on Monday night.

**Choir Practice: 6:15 pm, prior to Sunday Chapter meeting, April 10.**

**Steinauer Chapter:** Banquet Room, across from St. Anthony's Church: **Monday, May 30, 2011:** Psalm 32:1-11. Remission of Sin, Effects of sin and punishment; oracle vv 8-9. Result of God's kindness in one's life. Psalm 33:1-22. Rejoice, You Upright of Heart. What "new song"? Power of God's word? What is relation between creation and history? God's word to WORD in New Testament. **Reflection:** Kristi Meyer  
**Lead Prayer:** Marjorie **Companion:** Sister Phyllis

**Hastings Chapter:** *St. Micheal's Church, Family Room, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.*

**Saturday, May 14, 2011: The Oblate Life by Gervase Holdaway, OSB, Chapters 17 & 18.** See questions and comments above.

**Cell meeting:** Saturday, May 28, Psalm 32:1-11. Remission of Sin, Effects of sin and punishment; oracle vv 8-9. Result of God's kindness in one's life. Psalm 33:1-22. Rejoice, You Upright of Heart. What "new song"? Power of God's word? What is relation between creation and history? God's word to WORD in New Testament. Cell Leader: Bob P.

**Omaha Chapter:** New Cassel Retirement Center, Lecture Hall, 900 N 90th Street, Omaha, NE, 7-9 pm, **Tuesday, May 10, 2011: The Oblate Life by Gervase**

**Holdaway, OSB, Chapters 17 & 18.** Note questions and comments above. **Reflection:** Ann Cole,  
**Companion:** Sister Phyllis

### OBLATE NOTES:

- Thank you for your many words and notes of love and concern these past few days. We buried my brother Ed Hunhoff in our little country church where he was baptized, raised and faithfully attended. He and his wife Catherine were care takers of the church and cemetery. He was a good brother who taught me to drive the tractor when I was in high school and became a hired hand when our father died in my third year of high school. He farmed our homestead all his life. Sister Phyllis
- From Oblate Mary Fertig (Ashland – Hastings – now Kansas): We think of you daily and miss our group. We are in "Most Pure Heart of Mary" parish which is the largest parish we have ever belonged. John is still driving the truck, Myron is with Blue Cross of KC and Maria and I are volunteering with this large church. We will be going to Yankton for the fall retreat. God Bless you all!

**SOLEMN VESPERS AT OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE SEMINARY**, Denton, NE, 20 west of Lincoln on the Denton road. Put on your calendar for May 22, 2011 at 5 pm. We will share cars and meet at Madonna at 4:15 pm. We expect this to be a most beautiful experience. Let me know if you would like to go so we have enough cars. Sister Phyllis

**PLAN FOR THE POT LUCK:** Sunday, June 12 at 5 pm. Again, let us have this great and fun Benedictine communal time together. Information coming in the June newsletter.

**PRAIRIE SPRING CREEK, Sunday June 19**  
from 1-5 pm located 20 minutes west of Lincoln and south of Denton. Details to follow. See more at: [www.springcreekprairie.org](http://www.springcreekprairie.org).

**FOR YOUR SUMMER CALENDAR:** July 22-24, 2011, Oblate Darla Weisbeck along with Brother Damian Cayetano, OSB will guide the retreat, "Are you Hastening toward Your Heavenly Home" (Rule of St. Benedict 73:8), at St. Benedict Retreat Center in Schuyler, NE. St. Benedict's Ladder of Humility has inspired seekers through the centuries to journey from compulsion and fear to the perfect love which casts out fear (RB 7:67). They will explore the timeless wisdom found in the 12 steps of this ladder and discover how we, too, can live genuinely and grow in our love for God and neighbor. Email: [www.stbenedictcenter.com](http://www.stbenedictcenter.com) or Telephone (402) 352-8819 ext 360

**FACEBOOK ORIENTATON:** Oblate Jim Rea said that if we would like another orientation towards spring or summer, we could have one. One aspect we could consider: How can I maintain my privacy on Facebook? Let me know if you would like to do that. Sister Phyllis

### **BOOK REVIEW/REFLECTION:**

A BLESSED LIFE By Will Derske  
Review/Reflection by Carol Barry, Lincoln oblate

Will Derske is a Dutch Benedictine oblate, author, and teacher. He wrote a previous book, The Rule of Benedict for Beginners. A Blessed Life is his response to requests to more fully develop the basic attitudes and virtues of Benedictine spirituality, with a view towards their application for non-monastic's. It's a short book of 93 pages and seven chapters, but full of opportunities for reflection. Each chapter stresses the importance of applying the Rule of Benedict in the context of our modern, non monastic lives.

The first six chapters delve in detail on aspects of the Rule stressed by Benedict. Chapter 1 describes Benedictine life as a living tradition. He describes the virtues of stability and obedience as they can be applied to our lives. For example, stability is saying "yes" even when it becomes difficult. Obedience is hearing one another, alert and reflective listening to what is really being asked of you. Chapter 2 on reticence and silence points out that the "gift of silence" is counter cultural in our times. It does not mean merely closing ourselves off

from sound, but allows us to be open to what is present in our soul. In the next chapter he describes the virtue of humility as "the courage to serve", as opposed to servility. Derske points out that humility is a crucial concept to Benedict, appearing 71 times in the Rule. It contrasts with modern values of independence and free choice. Derske states that service teaches us to grow into our 'true' (not imagined) selves.

In Chapter 4 Derske says that the motto "pray and work" is not stated in the Rule of Benedict, but dates from centuries later. He suggest "pray, work, read" as being more in the spirit of the rule. Derske believes that modern communications such as internet and texting provide opportunities to "run away" from work, ourselves, and others. Chapter 5 - on daily study - again refers to mass media as an obstacle. Much of what we read online is trivial and requires no reflection, encouraging us to concentrate on the trivial, while holy reading allows us time for reflection and growth.

In Chapter 6 Derske describes Benedictine hospitality as more than bed and board. It is to remember Jesus in welcoming guests, anyone of whom may be the lord visiting us "even when she has her nose pierced", quoting a brother. Chapter seven is devoted to other aspects of Benedictine spirituality cited in the Rule. For example, frugality, patience, the blessing of a good word, and not complaining are ways to reflect Benedictine values in our work place and in our family.

Derske sums up Benedict as the patron saint of humanity and imperfection. Things will go wrong, people will be pompous and negligent, and there will be quarrels. We are not perfect; if we were we would not need the rules and discipline of "the school of the Lord's service".

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