



Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery

OCTOBER 2011

"St. Benedict begins his rule in simplicity by calling us to listen. When we put down what burdens our hands, when we set aside what concerns our hearts, when we stop moving for movement's sake, and listen, then we have begun to follow his rule. In truth, listening to God is as much a part of the Christian life as it is the Oblate life."

(Oblate David Frye, Facebook)

ASSIGNMENTS: It is my hope that our conversation about our website:
<http://sites.google.com/site/nebraskabenedictineoblates> will be helpful to you as you continue your studies this year.

OCTOBER ASSIGNMENT FOR LINCOLN,

HASTINGS & OMAHA: The Oblate Life by Gervase Holdaway, OSB, Chapter 21, Was Blind but Now I See, Chapter 22, Creation and Chapter 23 (Read RB 57), The Oblate Life: Spirituality at Work.

- Does your day see the sacred in the ordinary/all as sacred vessels of the altar?
- Understand the various types of work as they relate to spirituality.

NEW MEMBERS ONLY: Special session, Saturday, October 29, 9-10:30 a.m. in the Flanagan Room for orientation to the Divine Office, confirmation of Initial Oblation & practice for ceremony.

LINCOLN CHAPTER: Sunday, October 9, 2011 or Monday, October 10, 2011
Sheridan Rooms & North Commons Cafeteria on Sunday and Sheridan Rooms on Monday, Madonna Rehab Hosp:
NOTE ROOM CHANGE FOR MONDAY EVENING.
See assignment and questions above. We will look forward to hear Oblate Darla Weisbeck give the reflection. Choir Practice at 6:15 pm prior to meeting.

HASTINGS CHAPTER: St. Michael's Church, Family Room, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Saturday, October 8, 2011, See assignment and questions above. We will look forward to hear Oblate Jeanette Nordhues give the reflection and facilitate the meeting. Companion: Carol Barry, Prayer: Leland Ost diek

OMAHA CHAPTER: New Cassel Retirement Center, Lecture Hall, 900 N 90th Street, Omaha, NE, 7-9 pm, Tuesday, October 11, 2011. See assignment and questions

above. We will look forward to hear Oblate Phil Kelley give the Reflection and facilitate the meeting. Prayer: orienting to the Shorter Christian Prayer book.

STEINAUER CHAPTER: Banquet Room, across from St. Anthony's Church:
Monday, September 26, 2011: The Oblate Life by Gervase Holdaway, OSB, Chapters 3, 4, 5 & 6.

- How can you relate to some of the early examples of Oblate life in Chapter 3?
- How would you write a few words on the subject of Benedictine spirituality as others have done in Chapter 4?
- Discuss the various ways that Hodgetts uses the metaphors of fish and ocean in Chapter 5. Read RB 53
- Why do you think Srubas chose those particular three Benedictine principles in her Oblate collage? (Chapter 6)

We will look forward to hearing Oblate Joyce Burnison give the reflection and facilitate the meeting. Companion: Sister Phyllis, Prayer: Alan Tramp

LET US WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

- **LINCOLN:** Ginny Adams, Amaechi Izeogu, Chris Jacobsen, Larry Kunc, Lorene Ludy, Sally McKee, David F. Michel, Kirk Newland, Kate Maattala Sirota, Clifford Stockmyer, Dori Umphreys, Donna Washburn, Laurie Young,
- **STEINAUER:** Jeanette Sisco,
- **HASTINGS:** Susan Janda and Mary Marie Dixon
- **OMAHA:** Jeanne Weaver

PLEASE NOTE: The Mount Marty College Choirs of Sacred Heart Monastery are traveling to Europe to sing at the monastery of Maria-Rickenbach/Switzerland on the occasion of Mount Marty's 75th anniversary to show our gratitude to the Sisters whose monastery sent our founders to America. Your generosity will assist many college students in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to give back to the Old World the cultural gifts it has given to the New. Would you give just a dollar? If yes, would you visit <http://mountmarty-incantatour.blogspot.com> and consider giving \$1 (or €1) or more? On behalf of all who will benefit, I thank you, Dr. Sean Vogt, Associate Professor of Music, Department Chair & Director of Choral

Activities, Mount Marty College (605) 668-1539, 1105 West 8th Street, Yankton, SD 57078, (I would also recommend you view his website: <http://www.seanfvoigt.com>.)

SEVERAL SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES:

- “Playing at the Center of the Cosmos; The Meaning of Hildegard’s Ordo Virtutum,” by Dr. Margot Fassler, Keough-Hesburgh Professor of Music History, University of Notre Dame, October 10th, 5:30 pm, Great Plains Art Museum, Lincoln, NE.
- “Ethical Leadership in Uncertain Times, Leading with Moral Courage,” a peacemaking workshop, Oct. 2, 2011 at the First United Methodist Church, Lincoln, NE, featuring Brenda Council and other speakers and sponsored by interfaith communities, organizations, and individuals supporting the cause of peace.

OBLATE NOTES:

- After a tragic happening in the family, Oblate Tim Adams reflects for us on Facebook: “Once again I saw the power of God working through a faith community. We were all embraced by my brother’s church. Many church members came by while we were visiting. They brought food, supplies, and even a house cleaning crew. More importantly, they brought the healing power of their presence.”
- In responding to “Listening to our Master” on Facebook, Oblate Russ Booton says, “I have often found that to silent my mind to hear God, a repeated prayer often helps: “Christ, have mercy,” or “God, come to my assistance,” or just simply “God”. I would repeat such a simple prayer silently or out loud, with every breath or every other breath, for five minutes or longer. This helps tremendously as a prelude to Morning Prayer or Lectio.”

THE COMING OF GOD

By Maria Boulding

Summary Submitted by Oblate Ann Cole, Omaha Chapter

“If you want God, and long for union with him, yet sometimes wonder what that means or whether it can mean anything at all, you are already walking with the God who comes. If you are at times so weary and involved with the struggle of living that you have no strength even to want him, yet are still dissatisfied that you don’t, you are already keeping Advent in your life.

If you have ever had an obscure intuition that the truth of things is somehow better, greater, more wonderful than you

deserve or desire, that the touch of God in your life stills you by its gentleness, that there is a mercy beyond anything you could ever suspect, you are already drawn into the central mystery of salvation.”

So begins THE COMING OF GOD by Maria Boulding.

This book describes the various ways God comes to us, through Scripture, through people and the human condition, and in personal prayer. We are an Advent people, and God comes to us in the advent of each day.

There is a wonderful chapter on Listening to the Word, which describes how Jesus himself had to listen to the Word that he is, growing and maturing as a young boy into his own human personhood. Maria describes Jesus’ response to his vocation as a “continual choosing anew, as ours is, in deeper understanding and maturing freedom.”

She states, “The word is very near to you, it is in your mouth and in your heart. Nearer even than that, because you yourself are his creative word of love. You know him and can listen to him because you are his image, his icon because he has mirrored himself in your being and his creative word is even now bringing out that likeness, and giving you to yourself. Your obedient listening to his word is at its most fundamental in this humble, loving acceptance of yourself as his work. The word within you is your own center, your deepest reality and your freedom. It is God’s utterance of your new name, the name that reveals to you your destiny and meaning and all that you can become....”

This book is a treasure-trove of pearls in preparing for Advent and Christmas. It is a favorite book for me, which I began reading one October, setting it aside after Christmas and finishing it the following Advent. I had the privilege of meeting Maria Boulding several years ago and was deeply touched by the encounter. Maria was a contemplative Benedictine nun from Stanbrook Abbey, U.K., who died in 2009. Her book is obviously the fruit of her many years of lectio.

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