



# Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery

May 2012

## **OBLATE ASSIGNMENT FOR LINCOLN,**

**HASTINGS AND OMAHA:** The Practice of the Presence of God, Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection, edited and Paraphrased by Donald E. Demaray. Part II: Letters pgs 41 – 69 (The End)

**LINCOLN:** Sunday, May 20, 2012 and Monday May 21, 2012 (One week later for Mother's Day): Sheridan Rooms & North Commons on Sunday and the Nemaha Room on Monday, Madonna Rehab Hosp: See assignment above. We will look forward to hear Marti Fritzen give the reflection on Sunday evening and Nancy Childs on Monday night. **Choir Practice at 6:15 pm prior to Sunday meeting.**

**STEINAUER:** Monday, June 4, 2012, The Oblate Life by Gervase Holdaway, OSB, Chapters 17 & 18

- Ponder the words: "stability is not about stagnation – but of maintaining ones 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. Reflection: Robert Lewis, Prayer: Joyce Burnison

**HASTINGS:** Saturday, May 19, 9:30 am. St. Michael's Church, Family Room, See assignment above. Prayer: Jeanette Nordhues  
Hastings Cell meeting: Saturday, June 2, Be a Monastic and Not Leave Your Day Job, Conversion and Stability, Five Simple Guidelines for Oblates & The Value of Oblates to a Monastic Community.

**OMAHA:** Tuesday, May 8, 2012: See assignment above. From Oblate Rod Dolton "Our May 8th meeting to begin at 7:00 PM will be very special as it will be our last gathering as the Omaha Chapter to be attended by our Nebraska Oblate Director, Sister Phyllis Hunhoff, OSB" This will be at the home of Rod Dolton – see his email for directions.

**Cell meeting: Tuesday, May 22, 2012:** Be a Monastic and Not Leave Your Day Job, Conversion and Stability & Five Simple Guidelines for Oblates. Facilitator: Sister Marlene

**TRANSITION PLAN:** I am pleased to announce that we have our oblate leadership for all the Chapters and I am grateful to them for taking on the additional responsibility. As in other parts of the country, lay leadership in Benedictine Oblate programs are given the title of Deans. The Deans for our Lincoln Chapter are Steve Liechti, Carol Barry, Mary Schroer, Jim Rea & Carol Olson with Steve as the contact person. In the outlying Chapters, Juliene Bryan will be the Dean in Hastings, Marcia Borchert being the Dean in Steinauer and Rod Dolton will be the Dean in Omaha. They are meeting to learn the details for optimal change.

**LIBRARY BOOK OPPORUNITY:** Because it is so convenient to order books today on-line, we will no longer be having the mobile library so I will be giving away all of the books to you. At all the May Chapter meetings, I will be bringing the books (divided for all chapters) for you to choose a book. If you wish, you may give a small contribution for the Nebraska Oblate fund. The fund (bank account) will be kept by Carol Barry. If there are left over books, I will bring them to the Pot luck and then to St. Michael's Parish where they are selling books on-line to pay off their debt. If you have a book you may consider that as your book or return it.

## **DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR:**

June 17 at 5 pm, Madonna North Commons/Sheridan rooms.

## **INSTALLATION OF THE NEW DEANS**

with Vespers: July 11 at 5 pm, Madonna Chapel.

## **PENTECOST (Note from Sr. Joelle):**

The last Sunday of May we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost. I like what Sr. Joyce Rupp says in *May I Have This Dance?* Each year it is an invitation to be attentive once more to God's presence in our lives. The Spirit of God came as unexpectedly as a wind in the mountains upon the followers of Jesus. . . . In that Upper Room, people who had been terrorized with their own fears

suddenly experienced an immense freedom and a deep sense of God's life within them. . . . With the rushing wind came a surge of courageous energy that hadn't been there before."

She continues, "We can choose whether or not to act upon these energies, whether or not to allow them to become effective in us. . . . We need to look at our lives for evidence of a turning toward love. . . . How do I accept others, especially those who seem very different from me? When do I take the time to call, to write, to be with someone who needs my care and kindness? Does my heart bear compassion and concern for the pain of my world? How are the energies of the Spirit of God active in my life? Has the rushing wind made any difference in how I act?" These are all good questions to ponder as we come closer to the feast of Pentecost and during the summer months. May your summer be a time of leisure, prayer and reaching out to others in whatever way you can! God bless, Sr. Joelle

### **"A TREE FULL OF ANGELS"**

by Macrina Wiederkehr

Book report by Gerry Kuhn, Hastings Oblate

As I was planning a flight to Ft. Benning, GA. for the last of 15 grandchildren's graduation I needed a small book to accompany me. When browsing Sr. Phyllis mobile library in Hastings I was called to "A Tree Full of Angels." I had heard Macrina Wiederkehr speak at the Schuyler Monastery years ago and was impressed. Since I just love all the trees in Georgia the book spoke to me. It is so filled with aha spiritual and prayerful meditative moments. The morning walks I took were accompanied with Jesus and this book. I would stop as Macrina spoke of the rays of sunshine through the trees with visions of angel wings in the tree branches.

One sentence has stayed with me as she stated not to pray TO God for people but pray ABOUT them. That allows us to let go - wanting to control the outcome and to ask for God's will in the prayers for myself and others.

In her telling of the rescue of turtles I was reminded of the importance of quietness and slowing down to hear God's voice. In 2nd grade Macrina carefully

placed the turtles across busy roads where they were in danger at their slow pace in life. She learned to cherish life from these turtles. So if God has such a heart for sparrows and turtles, she could not even imagine the depth of love and care for US who have been created in God's own image.

Solitude can plunge us into the depths of ourselves to find God. So in this book I saw such a value of hearing God speak in our quiet times. The chapter on Finding God in the Mailbox spoke of such humility and soul searching as Macrina answered their questions. Would that I could learn to find God's wisdom in the answers to questions in my own life? The letter to her telling her to "stop analyzing the mystery and to just sit at Jesus feet " spoke to me. I need so many reminders to just be still and "Know that I am God." Retirement has offered more times of quietness to hear God speak but I find myself still rushing from habit of much busier earlier years.

The Table of Daily Life chapter shows how healing any place or object can be. She told of her care of a small Sycamore tree and how its growth became a healing spot for her. Children often choose a rock or a pet and most any place where they can go that offers them comfort when sad, afraid or confused. For me I learned very early just stopping in at church was a respite from fears and hurts when I could not express my thoughts or feelings elsewhere. That is still true for me today as an adult when I "stop in" at church.

I do have to agree with the review on the back cover. "A Tree Full of Angels" is a book to read again and again, each time finding a new bit of spiritual advice to try out." One of the most energizing and workable guides you have yet to read. (Catholic Digest)

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