



Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery

September 2012

MESSAGE FROM SR. PHYLLIS: My dear Oblates: Greetings to all of you! You are in my thoughts and prayers as you begin a new year. You might want to remember St. Benedict's words in the Prologue, "before you begin any good work you must pray earnestly for God to perfect it." Then you will know that all that you do is for God's honor and glory. Each moment of the day we know that God is with us. As you begin anew, I am also adjusting to my new ministries and the horarium (lit of the hours) of the day. You may want to go to our website: www.yanktonbenedictines.org, click on news and events and see that we have had several lovely celebrations. Sister Julie has made her final perpetual profession and we have celebrated some diamond anniversaries (you will see a familiar face). Tomorrow we will be receiving a new member into our monastery. And thank you for your prayers as my back is much better. I will look forward to any word from you - my new email is: phyllis.hunhoff@mtmc.edu. With much love to you! Sister Phyllis

FROM THE LINCOLN DEANS (Steve Liechti, Carol Olson, Carol Barry, Jim Rea and Mary Shroer): Here we Go! And to all you, WELCOME BACK. Come to our first General Meeting to give us a look over. YES, we are hard at work finishing this calendar year to which Sr. Phyllis provided so much assistance. Thank You Sister, and we miss you. We are discerning on how to proceed in 2013. Proceed we will, and we know that we want to build our community. We want to revitalize our cell groups, and we want to give you all an opportunity to know us better. So we will be more involved early on until we can recruit more of you to help. We are taking our tasks as they come on calendar. Our attention now is NEW OBLATE RECRUITMENT, and our FIRST THREE GENERAL MEETINGS. Read on to learn more about these.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Hastings chapter

September meeting and orientation:

Orientation will be held on Saturday, September 1, 2012 from 9:30-11:30 AM. First regular meeting will be September 8, 2012. The reflection will be given by Dawn Lapka, prayer leader is Ethel Weir. Meetings will be at St. Michael Church Family Room, 7156 Creighton Ave, Hastings NE.

September cell meeting will be Saturday, September 29, 2012 at 9:30 AM in the library of St. Michael Church, cell leader Susan Janda.

Omaha Chapter

Orientation for new members and the September meeting will be held on September 11, 2012. The meeting will be held at New Cassel Retirement Center, Lecture Hall 900 N 90th St, East Entrance, Omaha NE from 7-9 P.M. The Lecture Hall is on the 1st floor.

Steinauer Chapter

Orientation and Chapter meeting on September 24, 2012 from 7-9 PM in the Banquet room at Convent House.

Assignment: From "The Oblate Life". Chapter 19, Moderation: The Key to Permanence & Chapter 20, Benedictine Hospitality. How do you understand "quasi-legal genre" and "qualitative moderation" pages 180-181, Read RB 64 How do you welcome "the stranger" today? Read RB 53 Reflection & facilitator - Marcia Borchert; Prayer - Don Borchert

Lincoln Chapter

If you know someone who might be interested in joining the Benedictine Oblates, please invite them to attend one of the orientation meetings. They are scheduled for Aug 19 and 20 in the Sheridan Room at Madonna at 7 PM. Consider attending with the person(s) whom you know are interested. Of course, inquiries about joining can be made at any time. Contact Jim Rea 402-423-8694.

September meeting: Sunday September 9, 2012 in the Sheridan Room at Madonna Rehabilitation

Hospital from 7-9 PM. The books "A Blessed Life" (for general meetings) and "Cherish Christ Above All" (for those in cell groups) will be introduced. There is no reading assignment for the first general meeting. Monday September 10, 2012 in the Sheridan Room at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital 7-9 P.M. The meeting will be facilitated by Dean Steve Liechti.

Cell groups: We will be using "Cherish Christ Above All" by Demetrius Dumm, OS.B. for the next two years. September Cell Group assignment: read the Forward and Chapter 1, pages 5-7.

Upcoming: the October meeting will be facilitated by oblate David Frye. He will give us a reflection related to Chapter 1 of "A Blessed Life". He will also go over the new web site he designed for us. December's reflection will be by Carol Barry and will be related to Chapter 7 in "A Blessed Life".

NEW LINCOLN CELL GROUP: There will be a new cell group starting this year for those making their final oblation this November. It will focus on studying the Rule of Benedict using the book "Preferring Christ" by Norvene Vest. This book is an excellent explanation of the RB with modern reflections. The group leaders will be Pat Shafer and Paul Blotkamp. The cell will meet September 23, 7 P.M. at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in the Lancaster Room. This Cell will continue the group's spiritual formation with a focused presentation of the rule. It will provide valuable insight on how to live the Rule in the modern world. The book is available through Amazon. Please make every effort to attend this first meeting. The group will plan future meeting times and places at this meeting.

HASTINGS CHAPTER ANNIVERSARY: The Hastings Chapter will be celebrating the tenth anniversary of the founding of their Chapter on August 28, 2012. The anniversary will be observed with Vespers at St. Michael's Church, in the chapel, at 5p.m. on the 26th of August and a reception to follow in Theisen Hall. Morning Mass will be said for the 10th Anniversary on August 28th at 7:30. Congratulations, Hastings Oblates, on your milestone anniversary.

NEW WEB SITE: Thanks to Lincoln oblate David Frye for creating an exciting new web site for the Nebraska Oblates. It will be going live soon. Check it out!
<http://www.nebraskabenedictineoblates>

REFLECTION ASSIGNMENTS: Each month one of the Chapters will provide a reflection or book report of not over 500 words to be published in the newsletter. The Lincoln Chapter will be responsible for the October, January, and March entries. The Omaha Chapter is asked to take November and April. The Hastings Chapter will have December and May. The Steinauer Chapter will supply a reflection for February.

Let us know of any events in your area that you would like to have mentioned in the newsletter.

Mark your calendars for the Oblation ceremony on November 11, 2012. It will be at 2:00 PM in the Madonna Chapel.

OBLATE RETREAT: There will be a retreat at Sacred Heart Monastery on September 21-23, 2012 entitled "Prayer: Exploring Ways of Communing with God". Unfortunately, the retreat is currently filled. Anyone desiring to make the retreat is welcome to inquire to joanne.dickinson@mtmc.edu to learn if any openings have occurred.

FRIDAY MORNING PRAYER-LINCOLN: Every Friday at 7:30 a.m. a group of oblates say Morning Prayer in the Madonna Chapel. It has become a wonderful tradition and is another opportunity to build community and strong friendships with our Benedictine brothers and sisters. Some stay for a snack in the cafeteria after Morning Prayer. The coordinator of Friday morning prayer is Paul Blotkamp.

STEVEN LIECHTI, DEAN
215 N 44TH ST #303
LINCOLN NE 68503
402-610-5095
seliechti@gmail.com