



# Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Living by the Spirit of The Rule of St. Benedict + Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery  
www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org + info@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org + January 2013

## Greetings

### HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

From the *Rule* of our Holy Father Benedict:  
“Your way of acting should be different from the world’s way; the love of Christ must come before all else” (RB 4:20–21).

### A MESSAGE FROM SR. PHYLLIS

Greetings to all of you! Let us be united during this holy season with Jesus as God’s great gift to us. As we give and receive, let us especially be grateful that we have this grace of love for God and each other. My love and prayers for you!  
—Sister Phyllis, O.S.B.

## Coming this Month

### CHAPTER GATHERINGS

**Hastings Chapter:** Saturday, January 12, 2013, 9:30–11:30 a.m. Chapter 3 of *A Blessed Life* by Wil Derske: “Humility: the Courage to Serve,” pp. 30–50. The facilitator is Sharon Connor; the companion leader is Robin Stroot; the reflection is by Gerri Kuhn; and the prayer leader is Juliene Bryan. The meeting is held in the Family Room of St. Michael’s Church.

Cell: January 26, 2013, 9:30 a.m. From *Cherish Christ Above All*, by Demetrius Dumm, O.S.B., Chapter 2, “God’s Gracious Call,” pp. 19–30. Cell facilitator will be Robin Stroot. The meeting is held in the Library of St. Michael’s Church.

**Lincoln Chapter:** Sunday, January 13, 2013, and Monday, January 14, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. Chapter 2 of *A Blessed Life* by Wil Derske, pp. 16–

29. Steve Liechti will give a reflection on the theme “Reticence and Silence”. The Sunday meeting will be in the Sheridan Room at Madonna, while the Monday meeting will be in the Lancaster Room.

Cell meetings: From *Cherish Christ Above All* by Demetrius Dumm, O.S.B., Chapter 3, “A Journey of Faith,” pp. 31–38.

**Omaha Chapter:** Tuesday, January 8, 2013, 7:00–9:00 p.m. General meeting assignment is from *A Blessed Life* by Wil Derske, Chapter 3, pp. 40–50. The facilitator Joan Meisner, Vespers leader is Deacon Chuck, and the companion leaders are Philip Kelley and Sr. Marlene.

Cell meeting is Tuesday, January 22, 7:00–9:00 p.m. *Cherish Christ Above All* by Demetrius Dumm, O.S.B., Chapter 2, pp. 24–30. The facilitator will be Sr. Marlene Stetz. Meetings are held at New Cassel Retirement Center, lecture hall (first floor).

**Steinauer Chapter:** Steinauer Chapter: *The Oblate Life*, Chapter 28, “Benedictine Oblate and Interreligious Dialogue,” Chapter 29, “Marriage and the Family,” and Chapter 30, “The Single Oblate.” The prayer is by Paul Duryea and the reflection is by facilitator Joyce Burnison. Monday, January 28, 2013, at the banquet room at Convent B&B across from St. Michael’s Church from 7:00–9:00 p.m.

## From the Rule

### THE FIRST DEGREE OF HUMILITY

“... a person keep the fear of God before his eyes, and beware of ever forgetting it” (RB 7:10).

CHAPTERS	DEANS	LOCATIONS
Hastings	Juliene Bryan, juliene.bryan@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Family Room, St. Michael’s Church, Hastings
	Carol Barry, carol.barry@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital
	Steve Liechti, steve.liechti@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Sheridan Room (Sunday)
Lincoln	Carol Olson, carol.olson@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Lancaster Room (Monday)
	Jim Rea, jim.rea@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	5401 South St.
	Mary Schroer, mary.schroer@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Lincoln
Omaha	Rod Dolton, rod.dolton@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	New Cassel Retirement Ctr. Lecture Hall, Omaha
Steinauer	Marcia Borchert, marcia.borchert@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Banquet Room, Convent House B&B, Steinauer

## In Our Prayers

### CONDOLENCES

We are saddened to note the recent death of Marilyn Bollinger, Omaha oblate. Rod Dolton, Omaha Dean, attended the visitation and gave a card to the family from the Omaha Chapter, extending condolences. Sr. Phyllis notes that Marilyn was a special lady and devoted oblate. Marilyn's name will be entered in the Oblate Necrology.

## Lincoln Chapter News

### CELL GROUP INVITATION

Have you been away from a cell group for a while, or never joined one? Cell groups are a special way for oblates to build community. All oblates are invited to belong to a cell. Sr. Phyllis got the idea for cell groups from the book, *Preferring Christ*, by Norvene Vest. The places, dates and times for the cell groups are listed on the Web site ([www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org](http://www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org)) under the heading "Cells." All are invited to this important aspect of oblate life.

### THANK YOU, COLLEEN!

For at least ten years, Lincoln Oblate Colleen Baade has provided the beautiful organ accompaniment for Vespers at the Lincoln Chapter's general meeting. She has been very generous with her time and talent, and the Lincoln Oblates owe her a big thank you! Colleen will be taking time off from playing at Vespers for the time being.

### WANTED: MUSICIANS

The liturgical committee is searching for musicians to help with Vespers at the Lincoln Chapter's general meetings on Sundays. We are so happy to have recently found another accompanist. If there is anyone else who plays piano or organ we encourage you to volunteer. You will receive at least two weeks' notice before you play and you will get assistance in how to play the psalms.

We also are appealing to people who sing solos and to people who play instruments such as strings, brass, flutes, and wind instruments to volunteer to help with the worship. We offer a special thanks to Matt Gibilisco, who played the

prelude and postlude on his violin at the December Vespers.

You may contact anyone on the committee to let us know that you want to participate: Carol Barry, Marti Fritzen, David Frye, and Steve Liechti.

## The Divine Office

### ENJOY THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

You can pray online with others at [www.divineoffice.org](http://www.divineoffice.org). This is a beautiful Web site where you can pray out loud with a small community saying Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer. Click on the microphone arrow to hear it. They have different music and patterns of saying the office on different days and you can follow along with your office book if you wish.

Another option for the divine office online, including the office of readings, can be found at: [www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com).

## Invitation

### RETREAT FOR OBLATES AT THE SACRED HEART MONASTERY

Sr. Joelle Bauer has scheduled an Oblate Retreat for February 22-24, 2013, at the Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, South Dakota. The theme and content will be "Living the Psalms." The theme will focus on three kinds of psalms, as well as some psalms used throughout the Rule. You will be invited to pray the psalms with the events of your lives. The retreat begins the evening of February 22 and ends the morning of Feb. 24. The cost is \$120 for a single room, including meals and conferences, and \$170 for a room with two people. The number of participants is limited. You can make reservations by contacting:

Sr. Joelle Bauer  
1005 W. 8th Street  
Yankton, S.D. 57078  
[jbauer@mtmc.edu](mailto:jbauer@mtmc.edu)  
605-668-6009.

There is voice mail for the telephone number. There is the possibility of a scholarship for a person who may have difficulty with the cost for the retreat.

#### PRIVATE RETREATS

If you're unable to go to the Oblate Retreat, remember that you can visit Sacred Heart Monastery for a private retreat. Go to [www.yanktonbenedictines.org](http://www.yanktonbenedictines.org) to the Peace Center for more information. Sacred Heart Monastery is a beautiful place of peace and spirituality. Take time to experience the monastery with which we are affiliated.

For those interested, there are four monasteries in our area that offer various retreats and programs. You don't need to be an oblate of these communities to partake of their offerings. For information you can contact:

**Christ the King Priory, Schuyler,**

**Nebraska:** [www.benedictinemissionhouse.com](http://www.benedictinemissionhouse.com)—Retreat Center/Programs and Retreats.

**Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, Kansas:**

[www.mountosb.org](http://www.mountosb.org)—Ministries/Sophia Spirituality Center.

**Mt Michael's Abbey, Omaha, Nebraska:**

[www.mountmichael.com](http://www.mountmichael.com)—Abbey for Mass and Divine Office schedule.

**Conception Abbey, Conception, Missouri:**

[www.conceptionabbey.org](http://www.conceptionabbey.org)—Abbey Guest Center.

#### Saturday Retreat

##### "AWAKEN THE CHRIST WITHIN"

The Nebraska Chapter will offer a retreat on January 19, 2013, 12:30–3:00p.m. The retreat will be held at Serenity House in Bennet, Nebraska, and will be led by Steve Liechti and Mary Schroer, Lincoln deans. To quote Fr. Thomas Keating, Founder of Contemplative Outreach:

The coming of Christ into our conscious lives is the ripe fruit of the Christmas–Epiphany Mystery. It presupposes a presence of Christ that is already within us, waiting to be awakened .... It invites us to take possession of what is already ours.

The topic will be an introduction to Contemplative Silence. We will learn steps to creating a silence that allows us to move inward towards the Christ Presence. We will have time for discussion and a walk on the spacious grounds. We will plan for follow-up meetings.

For those who R.S.V.P., we will provide directions. Please do so by January 15. The cost

is a commitment of your time and openness to new spiritual formation. Please respond to Steve Liechti, using his dean's e-mail address:

[steve.liechti@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org](mailto:steve.liechti@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org).

#### Vespers

##### CELEBRATING THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Lincoln's Subiaco Cell Group invites you to join them in "Evening Prayer During the Twelve Days of Christmas," December 26 through January 5, Epiphany Eve. The group will meet each evening at 5:30 p.m. at the Madonna Chapel. We will be using *Shorter Christian Prayer* with assigned readings for Christmas. Invite friends and neighbors to hear the Psalms and contemplative readings for the Festival of the Incarnation. Come even if you do not have your book with you; you can *listen* along.

#### Shorter Christian Prayer

##### JOURNEYING FROM CHRISTMAS TO THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

*Shorter Christian Prayer* can be a bit confusing this time of year, so here are some instructions.

#### The Christmas Season

The readings for the Christmas Season begin on p. 380 with Evening Prayer I for Christmas (Monday night, December 24). Christmas Morning Prayer begins on p. 384, with the Psalms and Canticle on p. 43. For Evening Prayer on Christmas, turn to p. 387.

The weekdays after Christmas begin on Wednesday, December 26, with Morning Prayer, p. 384, Psalms and Canticle on p. 43. At the Reading, turn to p. 392. Evening Prayer begins on p. 387. At the Reading, turn to p. 394. Continue this pattern for all of the Weekdays after Christmas.

Sunday in the Octave of Christmas (December 30) is the Feast of the Holy Family. Morning Prayer starts on p. 384, and Evening Prayer on p. 387. There are special antiphons and concluding prayers on pp. 391–392 for the Feast of the Holy Family, beginning with Evening prayer I (Saturday night, December 29).

On January 1, start on p. 384. There are special antiphons and concluding prayers on pp. 396–397, beginning with Evening Prayer 1

(Saturday night, December 31), for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

### **The Feast of the Epiphany until the Baptism of the Lord**

On the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6), begin on p. 384. There are special antiphons and concluding prayers on pp. 397–398.

Morning Prayer for the weekdays after Epiphany begins on p. 384. At the readings, turn to p. 399 for Morning Prayer and p. 400 for Evening Prayer.

### **The Baptism of the Lord**

On the Baptism of the Lord, Sunday, January 13, begin with Morning Prayer on p. 384. There are special antiphons and concluding prayers on pp. 403–404.

On the Monday after the Baptism of the Lord, January 14, we begin with Week I in Ordinary Time on p. 54. There is no more flipping of pages until Lent!

### **Meditation for Epiphany**

**FROM THE SERMONS ON THE EPIPHANY OF ST. LEO THE GREAT**

God in his merciful providence decided to come to the rescue of the world in the final age and determined that Christ should save all the nations of the earth. From among these peoples, blessed Abraham, our father, was promised a countless posterity that would emerge, not from his bodily seed, but from his fruitful faith. For this reason his posterity was compared to the throne of stars, indicating that this father of the nations would have a heavenly, not an earthly, offspring .... All the peoples of the earth, in the persons of the three wise men, adore their Maker and God, who is known not only in Judea but throughout the world so that “his name might be great in Israel” and everywhere. Now that these mysteries of God’s gracious favor are made know to us, let us rejoice on this day of our birth and of the world’s vocation; let us celebrate and thank our merciful God, “who has made us worthy to share the lot of the saints in light; who has rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of his beloved Son.” ... All these prophecies began to be fulfilled when the star led the three magi from their distant

land that they might recognize and adore the King of heaven and earth. Their example urges us to be servants, as best we can, of the grace that invites all people to Christ. In this service, beloved, all ought to help one another so that in God’s kingdom, to which faith and good works bring us, we may shine as children of light through our Lord Jesus Christ, who with God the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and rules forever.

### **Snow Policy**

**WHEN “THE WEATHER OUTSIDE IS FRIGHTFUL ...!”**

It seems timely to restate our snow policy.

1. Should we have three to four inches of snow, we will cancel the meeting without notice. The meeting will not be rescheduled. The next month’s meeting will occur as scheduled with that month’s assignment.
2. Should we have a snowstorm that seems hard to judge, an e-mail will be sent. For those without e-mail, please call someone with e-mail. In all cases, use your best judgment: Be Safe!