



# 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 + April 2013

## Greetings

### HE IS RISEN!

From the *Rule* of our Holy Father Benedict: "Let us get up then, at long last, for the Scriptures rouse us when they say: *It is high time for us to arise from sleep* (Rom. 13:11). Let us open our eyes to the light that comes from God, and our ears to the voice from heaven that every day calls out this charge: *If you hear his voice today, do not harden your hearts* (Ps 94(95):8)" (RB Prol. 8–10).

## Coming this Month

### CHAPTER GATHERINGS

**Hastings Chapter:** Saturday, April 13, 2013, 9:30–11:30 a.m. Chapter 6 of *A Blessed Life* by Wil Derske: "Benedictine Hospitality," pp. 74–84. The facilitator is Robin Stroot; the companion leader is Leland Ostdiek; the reflection is by Scott Taylor; and the prayer leader is Juliene Bryan. The meeting is held in the Family Room of St. Michael's Church.

Hastings Cell: Saturday, April 27, 2013, at 9:30 a.m. From *Cherish Christ Above All*, by Demetrius Dumm, OSB, Chapter 4, "Christ, In Whom We Are Loved," pp. 44–58. The facilitator is Juliene Bryan. The meeting is held in the library at St. Michael's Church.

Grand Island Cell: Monday, April 22, 2013, 4:30–5:30 p.m. at First Christian Church, 2400 W. 14th St., Grand Island. From *Cherish Christ Above All*, by Demetrius Dumm, OSB, Chapter 4, "Christ, In Whom We Are Loved," pp. 44–58. The facilitator is Scott Taylor.

**Lincoln Chapter:** Sunday, April 14, 2013, and Monday, April 15, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. Chapter 5 of *A Blessed Life* by Wil Derske: "The Daily Study: In Contact with Nurturing Sources," pp. 65–73. Mary Schroer will give a reflection. The Sunday meeting will be in the Sheridan Room at Madonna, while the Monday meeting will be in the Nemaha Room.

Cell meetings: From *Cherish Christ Above All* by Demetrius Dumm, OSB, Chapter 4, "Christ, in Whom We Are Loved," pp. 50–68.

**Omaha Chapter:** Tuesday, April 9, 2013, 7:00–9:00 p.m. General meeting assignment is from *A Blessed Life* by Wil Derske, Chapter 6, "Benedictine Hospitality," pp. 74–78. The facilitator is Deacon Chuck and the companion group leaders are Philip Kelley and Sr. Marlene.

Cell meeting is Tuesday, April 23, 2013, 7:00–9:00 p.m. *Cherish Christ Above All* by Demetrius Dumm, OSB, Chapter 4, pp. 50–58. The facilitator will be Ann Cole. Meetings are held at New Cassel Retirement Center, lecture hall (first floor).

**Steinauer Chapter:** Monday, April 29, 2013, at the banquet room at Convent B&B across from St. Michael's Church from 7:00–9:00 p.m. *The Oblate Life*, Chapter 35, "Doors: One Man's Story of Retirement," Chapter 36, "Again and Death," and Appendix #4, "The Medal of St. Benedict."

CHAPTERS	DEANS	LOCATIONS
<b>Hastings</b>	Juliene Bryan, juliene.bryan@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Family Room, St. Michael's Church, Hastings
	Carol Barry, carol.barry@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org Steve Liechti, steve.liechti@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital Sheridan Room (Sunday)
<b>Lincoln</b>	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
<b>Omaha</b>	Rod Dolton, rod.dolton@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	New Cassel Retirement Ctr. Lecture Hall, Omaha
<b>Steinauer</b>	Marcia Borchert, marcia.borchert@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Banquet Room, Convent House B&B, Steinauer

## Prayer Requests

### MONASTERY AND CHAPTER GATHER PETITIONS

If you would like to send your prayer requests to the monastery, the Web address for Sacred Heart Monastery's prayer requests is: [www.yanktonbenedictines.org/PrayerRequest.php](http://www.yanktonbenedictines.org/PrayerRequest.php).

You can also continue to send requests to Marcia Straatmeyer at [mstraat@neb.rr.com](mailto:mstraat@neb.rr.com) or by using the Prayer Request on the chapter's Web site: [www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org/contact/](http://www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org/contact/).

## Reflection

### OUR IMMOLATED LAMB IS OUR PASSOVER FROM DEATH TO LIFE

The prophets had much to say of the mystery of Christ our Passover, "to whom be glory through all ages. Amen." He came to earth to become a suffering mortal; he put on human nature in the Virgin's womb, destroyed the passions of the flesh in his own mortal body, and in his undying spirit slew death.

He was led to the slaughter like a lamb, rescued us from servitude to our Egypt, the world, and from servitude to our Pharaoh, the devil. He marked our souls with his own Spirit and our bodies with his blood. He threw death into confusion, and Satan into turmoil, as Moses once did to Pharaoh; he struck down wickedness and all its offspring, as Moses once afflicted Egypt.

He brought us from slavery to freedom, from darkness to light, from death to life, from oppression to an eternal kingdom, and made of us forever a new priesthood and a chosen people. He is the Passover by which we are saved.

In many people he endured much: he was slain in Abel, shackled in Isaac, a pilgrim in Jacob, sold to slavery in Joseph, exposed to die in Moses, slaughtered in the sacrificial lamb, persecuted in David, and stripped of honor in the prophets.

He took flesh of the Virgin, hung upon the cross, was buried in the earth, and rising from the dead, ascended the heights of heaven. And when he rose from the dead, he raised humankind from its tomb.

From the *Homily on the Paschal Mystery* by Bishop Melito of Sardis (died c. 180).

## Spiritual Pause Retreat

### OBLATES EXPERIENCE CENTERING PRAYER

Lincoln Oblate Carol Olson gave a Spiritual Pause Retreat on Embodied Prayer on March 16, 2013, at Serenity House in Bennet, Nebraska.



Carol Barry, Wilma White, Jennifer Williss, and Mary Schroer at the Embodied Prayer Retreat.

## Retreat: "Awaken Christ Within"

### SATURDAY RETREAT: SECOND CENTERING PRAYER RETREAT

The Centering Prayer retreat in January was such a success that many participants requested an encore! The second Centering Prayer retreat will be held on May 25, 2013, 12:30–3:30 p.m. Retreatants will meet at Serenity House in Bennet, Nebraska. Leaders are Steve Liechti and Mary Schroer.

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.

RSVP to:

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

Steve will provide you with directions to Serenity House, an easy drive from Lincoln.

### Mark Your Calendar

#### NEBRASKA CHAPTER POTLUCK

Mark Your Calendars for the June 9, 2013, potluck. In addition to our annual potluck, we will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Nebraska Oblates.

### Important Events

#### NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF OBLATE DIRECTORS

This association will be meeting July 12–17, 2013, at Annunciation Monastery, Bismarck, North Dakota. This year the Nebraska Oblates may send two oblates to this meeting. The cost of registration is \$360 for single occupancy and \$285 for double occupancy. You will need to cover this cost as well as your travel expenses. If you are interested, please contact Sr. Phyllis, [phyllis.hunhoff@mtmc.edu](mailto:phyllis.hunhoff@mtmc.edu), 605.668.6000, to obtain a program and an application. You can see more at [www.naabod.org](http://www.naabod.org).

#### WORLD CONGRESS OF OBLATES

The Congress will again be meeting in Rome October 4–10, 2013. Its last meeting was in 2009. Each member monastery is allowed to send one oblate. We do not have the cost of registration at this time. You will need to cover this cost as well as your travel expenses. This is an exceptional opportunity for an oblate, so if you are interested, please contact Sr. Phyllis, [phyllis.hunhoff@mtmc.edu](mailto:phyllis.hunhoff@mtmc.edu), 605.668.6000. To learn more, see Oblates Carol Olson and Marti Fritzen who attended the first Congress in Rome in 2005. Also see: [www.benedictine-oblates.org](http://www.benedictine-oblates.org).

### Web Site Notes

#### ARCHIVE OF CHAPTER NEWSLETTERS

Each month's newsletter is archived on our Web site at:

[www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org/news/](http://www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org/news/).

If you dig around a bit on that page, you might notice the archive has a few gaps in it. If you still have copies of newsletters from 2008—January through June and also October—or any newsletters from 2007 or earlier, please contact David Frye at [info@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org](mailto:info@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org) so we can round out the offerings in the archive.

### LIKING THE WEB SITE ON FACEBOOK

Thanks to an alert suggestion from Sr. Phyllis, the Web site now has Facebook “like” and “send” buttons on each page. You can easily help spread the word about our chapter by using this feature.