



Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery

April 2006

ASSIGNMENTS

LINCOLN CHAPTER

Sun., April 9, 2006 7-9 p.m. North Commons
Mon., Mar 10, 2006, 7-9 p.m. Flanagan Room
Text: Path of Life, LAST Chapt 12, pgs. 168-181.

HASTINGS CHAPTER, St. Michael's Church, Family Room

Sat., April 8, 2006, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Preferring Christ, Chapt 61-66 & Interlude IX
pp. 148-163
New members: Formation Handbook (5th meeting assignment)

STEINAUER CHAPTER, Banquet Hall, across from St. Anthony's Church
Monday, April 3, 2006, 7-9 p.m. Text: Path of Life, Ch. 8, Eucharist, pgs 103-121

OMAHA CHAPTER: All Saints Episcopal Church, 9302 Blondo
Tuesday, April 11, 2006, 7-9 p.m.
Text: Preferring Christ, Chapters 62-65, pgs., 150-160
New members: Formation Handbook assignment

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL THE OBLATES: I am planning to spend the Triduum and Easter Sunday at the monastery this year. I am looking forward to this because I have not been able to do this for many years. May you all have a joyous Easter! Sister Phyllis

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR LINCOLN'S MAY '06 CHAPTER MEETING: Because we finish our text in April, we will use one of the presentations from the Oblate World Congress for our May Chapter meeting. It is a most interesting talk by Sr. Iona Misquitta, OSB, Prioress and Cellarer of the Shanti Nilayam Abbey, Bangalore, India on Inter-Religious Dialogue. This article will be distributed at the April meeting and/or on the Internet.

COMMITTEE ON MUSLIM SPIRITUALITY: Thank you to Oblates Carol Olson, chair, Marti Fritzen, Lou Ann Green, D'Arcy Blosser and Wilma White who will study Muslim Spirituality and provide a Saturday morning conference this summer. If you have further information for them, please send to Carol Olson or one of the members of the group. If we missed anyone who volunteered, do let Carol know.

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY PRAYER

RESOURCES: Thank you also to Oblate Karla Carter, Chair, along with Oblate Bobbie Edwardson who will take the responsibility to search for prayer opportunities in the Lincoln community. They will compile their findings and provide us with such a list.

SPRINGTIME OF THE SOUL (submitted by Lou Ann Green, Oblate)

As far back as I can recall, and still to this day, when the season of Lent approaches, my thoughts shift to: "What am I going to give up this year?" Matthew's invitation in the Ash Wednesday reading to pray, fast, and give alms, often evokes a soul-searching but somber approach to the season. This year, I would like to change my attitude as I enter this season of transformation. I do not want the time to be just about penance and sacrifice, but more about growth and becoming the person I am truly meant to be.

I long for this Lent to be a time to experience new life. This past year, our world was challenged to see life in the midst of the devastation of natural disasters and war. Hearts were shattered and the history of an entire city vanished. We see violence everywhere on our planet. Human grief touches us daily while we are challenged to be hope-filled and remain positive. I long for Lent to be a season of growth, a time when one can sit quietly and reflectively, patiently waiting for silent change to take place. I long for Lent to be a journey to a place of stillness, trusting that in the process, growth will take place, transformation will occur, and God will tend the soil of my soul and nurture new life. With courage and grace, I will then enter into that great mystery of renewal, death, and resurrection.

I long for Lent to be a time of emptying of the trivial and superficial; to be filled with the desire to find the richness of life and to rediscover the promise and possibility that surrounds each day. When I am present to the beauty that fills the ordinary moments of life, my heart is broken open to the stirring of the Spirit within and I recognize the Risen Christ. The season of Lent calls me to wait, to be open and ready, believing with all my heart that new growth and change will happen. God continues to show me snatches of goodness, graciousness, and love, sure signs that lead to a sense of Resurrection. The choice is mine. I can choose the familiar and comfortable or be open to new opportunities that will stretch my soul as I seek something new and different.

At the end of this Lenten season, may we experience a change from the ordinary and recognize the Risen Christ as spring bursts into full bloom and Easter happens once again.

Jackie Schmitz, CSJ
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MOVING FROM A "SATURDAY DESPAIR" TO "EASTER JOY" (By Rev. Duncan Miller, Oblate)

Good Friday, the day Jesus died on the cross, was a tragic day for the Disciples and followers of Jesus. The horror of seeing him crucified, and the agony of waiting for his approaching death had to have been gut wrenching. They knew his death was coming, but there was nothing they could do except wait in fear and trembling for it to finally be over. But as tragic as Good Friday was, I suspect that it was on Saturday that the immensity of Jesus' death started to be felt. On Saturday the followers of Jesus woke up to a lonely world. Jesus was gone. What were they to do now? How would they fill their days? The shock of his death on Friday turned into the reality of despair on Saturday. He who brought color and dimension and purpose to their lives was now gone. What was left was darkness, despair, and.....

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.

Oh Lord, help us to not live as though it is Saturday between Good Friday and Easter morning. Rather, help us live fully into the joy and love of Christ's resurrection. AMEN.

OBLATE NOTES

- From Rev. Duncan Miller, Oblate: On April 8, at the same time, I will be leading a class on the Desert Fathers. In the class we will briefly look at their lives and community, their writings, and what they can teach us today. Specifically we will be looking at Antony, Evagrius Ponticus, Poemen the Shepherd, and John Cassian. I will also point out the connection between John Cassian and Benedict and how Benedict was influenced by the writings of Cassian as well as the other Desert Fathers. Crestwood Christian Church is located at 8000 A Street. Also, I provide Spiritual Direction, free of charge to local clergy, an outreach ministry of Crestwood. Please let me know if you would like further information.
- Oblate Colleen Baade will present a recital of Spanish and Portuguese organ music of the 16, 17 and 18th centuries at St. Mark's-on-the-Campus Episcopal Church, 1309 R St, on Tuesday, April 4 at 7:30 pm. A former Fulbright scholar to Saragossa, Spain, where she studied early Iberian and Italian keyboard music, Colleen Baade earned her doctorate in Historical Performance Practice from Duke University.
- Oblate Myrna Schmid: Please remember her mother, Clara Soule, who died 2-21-06 at the age of 91. She was buried in the Chappell Cemetery, Chappell, NE following a Mass of Christian burial at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Chappell. May she rest in PEACE!
- Oblate Martha Hunzeker: Please continue to pray for her and her husband and family.. She is at home with Hospice Care. She loves visitors and has a greater awareness, less sleepiness, for now.

REPEAT OBLATE RETREAT: "Listen with the ear of your Heart" a semi-silent retreat lead by Sr. Joelle, Oblate Director of SHM. Begins May 5 at 5:15 p.m. and ends May 7 at 11:15 a.m. Single: \$85.00, Double: \$67.50. Contact Sr. Joelle at 605-668-6261 or jbauer@mtmc.edu, very soon to register.

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