



Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery

June 2006

A NEW LOOK FOR THE POT LUCK: Lincoln, Hastings, Steinauer and Omaha Chapters "Celebrate the Year!" It will be a FUN NIGHT planned by Sister Marietta of Omaha. She will lead us in "Playing with the Rule." It will not be difficult and we will enjoy it - in the spirit of St. Benedict. Don't miss it! Bring your family, your favorite dish and your office books. Coffee, tea, water, and paper products will be furnished. PLAN FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 11 AT MADONNA (Sheridan Rooms) AT 5:30 P.M.

AN IMPORTANT ISLAM STUDY/CONFERENCE:

Saturday, July 29, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, in the Sheridan Rooms (where we have our meetings) at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. Our Oblate Committee (Carol Olson, Chair, D'Arcy Blosser, Marti Fritzen, Lou Ann Green, Nancy Ludden, Marcia Scott and Wilma White,) will have a morning of presentations and local speakers on the Islam religion. Because of the encouragement of the World Congress of Oblates, it is important to know about the non-Christian religions. There is a great deal of study preparing for this conference and I do want to encourage you to attend. (Put it on your calendars!!)

CELL STUDY 2006-2007: Packets have been prepared. It will contain four presentations from the World Congress along with the opening address from the Abbot Primate and an agenda dividing the presentations.

FALL TEXTS AND STUDY FOR THE GENERAL

ASSEMBLY CHAPTER MEETINGS: The Lincoln and Steinauer Chapters will begin study/lectio on the text, Strangers to the City, Reflections on the Beliefs and Values of the Rule of Saint Benedict, by Michael Casey. It says, "One of the world's experts on monastic spirituality, the author offers his wise teachings on what it means to live today in the distinctive path of St. Benedict. Eloquent and incisive, Casey invites us to embrace the challenge of gospel living. Some of his reflections are on the values of asceticism, silence, leisure, chastity and poverty." Michael Casey is a Cistercian monk of Tarawarra Abbey in Australia.

Hastings and Omaha will begin their study on The Path of Life by Cyprian Smith, OSB. This text was well received by the Lincoln and Steinauer Chapters this past year. The author has been the novice-master of Ampleforth Abbey and the chapters of this book represent various conferences for the novices and adapted for a wider audience.

You will remember that I told you there would be a text by the Benedictine Prioresses of North America which we would probably use. It is now in revision.

ORIENTATION FOR NEW MEMBERS: Orientation dates have already been set for the fall. Lincoln orientation evenings are either Sunday or Monday, August 27 & 28 from 7-9 p.m. at Madonna. For Steinauer, Hastings and Omaha, orientation will be the first day of their September meetings. If you are aware of anyone interested, just let me know. Thank you! Sister Phyllis

THESE BOOKS HAVE BEEN SIGNED OUT FOR A YEAR OR MORE. PLEASE CHECK TO SEE IF YOU HAVE THEM. HOW ABOUT RETURNING THEM AND TAKING A NEW BOOK FOR THE SUMMER?

- A Call to Love – VIDEO OF SHM
- Benedict's Dharma
- Celine
- Circle of Life
- Cloud of Unknowing
- All Will Be Well
- Family Cloister
- Gifts for the Journey
- Intimacy with God
- Joshua and the City
- Life of St. Benedict
- Loving Search for God
- Medal or Cross of St. Benedict
- My Grandfather's Blessings
- One Day He Beckoned
- One Heart Full of Love
- PAX The Benedictine Way
- Practice of the Presence of God
- Prayer Walking
- Rest your dreams on a little twig
- Riding the Dragon
- Rule of St. Benedict, A Commentary in Light of World Ascetic Traditions
- Together in Prayer
- Tree Full of Angels
- What is Contemplation
- Why not become Fire
- Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind

THESE BOOKS HAVE NOT BEEN SIGNED OUT SO ARE MISSING:

- Clowning in Rome
- Lying Awake
- Monastery by Pennington
- Saint Benedict and His Times

MASTER OF ARTS PASTORAL MINISTRIES AT

MMC: This program at Mount Marty College in Yankton (Benedictine sponsorship) is a 36 credit hour course, delivered through a combination of residency seminars and distance learning courses. It is open to students of all faiths and traditions. There are three semester terms with a four-day residency intensive weekend each semester with the remainder of classes through email and on-line programs called Blackboard. It is designed to allow students to remain maximum time at work and home while pursuing the degree. Competitive tuition rates with scholarships! Contact: www.mtmc.edu/admissions/graduate.html or call 800-658-4552.

OBLATE NOTES:

- Please remember Oblate Lucile Fortune of Omaha on the death of her mother.
- Congratulations to Oblate Novice Katie Marie Booton who is graduating May 20 from the Heartland Home Schoolers High School. She is the daughter of Oblate Russell and Judy Booton.
- Congratulations to Oblate Julie Moore and the birth of her daughter, Eva Jane.
- Congratulations to Oblate Giap Nguyen who has been accepted into the novitiate at Saint Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, PA in June. He says, "I feel good to go with the basic foundation from the Benedictine Oblate program in Lincoln."
- Dear friends and family: I would like to let you all know that as of July 2nd I will be Pastor Marta of the Giltner and Phillips churches near Aurora, NE. That is about an hour west of Lincoln. There are about 50 who attend each church each week and double that for membership so they will keep me busy. They seem very happy to have a female pastor again and Denny and I have already started thinking about plans. We don't have a moving date yet, it may be June 10th or the week of July 3rd. We are both very excited and ready for the change. We'll be right out by the cranes so will expect you to come and visit us. There is plenty of room to stay at the house, too. How many people do you know who can say they have a labyrinth right in their yard? Thank you all for your support and your prayers. Love, Oblate Marta Wheeler
- Oblates Carol Olson and Marti Fritzen are continuing to make presentations to various groups. Your generous donations are still alive. Both Carol and Marti presented at the SH Monastery Oblates Chapter meeting earlier this year. Carol will be presenting at her Women's Circle group at Grace Lutheran Church on June 13th at 6:30 pm; to Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Hershey, NE on June 27th and to the Madonna Rehab Hospital

Mission Effectiveness Committee and possibly at Grand Rounds.

- Please remember Oblate Teresa Harms in your prayers as she will be having surgery on May 22. Hence this newsletter is coming early.
- REGULA is a newsletter published by the Friends of Benedict in Washington, DC. They are an Episcopalian group providing interesting information from around the country and Benedictine, retreat-like, experiences. To learn more you may go to their website: <http://www.benedictfriend.org>, or call 202-363-8061.

RULE OF BENEDICT: [Today's Reading](#) | [Liturgy of the Hours](#)

(Submitted by Oblate Sula Grace Hendrichsen, Omaha)
It was midsummer when by chance I ran into one of our most radiant and exuberant students in a large shopping mall. For a teacher it was great delight to have the summer punctuated with a face and personality that during the school-year had always lit up any place where he was. A certain glow around certain people is unavoidably attractive and even inspiring. It might come, of course, from many causes: youth, health, natural beauty, an exuberant spirit, an optimistic attitude, a ready smile. Whatever the cause, most of us find it encouraging and uplifting. In any case, it certainly beats a grumpy face and a bored or dismal attitude. In the book of Exodus the author says of Moses: "As Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the commandments in his hands, he did not know that the skin of his face had become radiant while he conversed with the Lord" (34:29). The story suggests that there is a profoundly based radiance that comes from the right relation to God, from intimacy with God. It is a happiness that has its roots in God and shows itself in how we act, talk and look. If we make our relation to God, a life of prayer, the top priority, it will eventually show itself without the help of wrinkle cream and the right shampoo. It gives us a confidence and trust that cannot but show themselves in how we talk and act. Radiance is a good word for it. We seek a close union with God in Christ and the radiance follows. – [Don Talafous, OSB](#)

HAVE A HAPPY SUMMER!
(No newsletter in July or August)



Sister Phyllis Hunhoff, OSB, Associate Director ♦ Associated with the Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton South Dakota ♦ 5441 Glade Street ♦ Lincoln, NE 68506 ♦ 402-488-6731 (home) or 402-483-9524 (work) ♦ email: Phunhoff@ix.netcom.com ♦ website: http://www.geocities.com/lincoln_oblates