



Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery

March 2007

ASSIGNMENTS

Lincoln Chapter:

Sunday, March 11, 2007 and Monday, March 12, 2007, 7-9 p.m.:

Text: Strangers to the City by Michael Casey, Chapter 4, Reading, Also read: RB 43 & 48

Steinauer Chapter: Banquet Room, across from St. Anthony's Church

Monday, March 5, 2007, 7-9p.m.

Text: Strangers to the City by Michael Casey, Chapter 4, Reading, Also read: RB 43 & 48;

Hastings Chapter: St. Michael's Church, Family Room, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, March 10, 2007, 9:30-11:30 a.m.:

Text: Path of Life, Chapter 5, Silence, pg. 58-73, Also read: RB 6

Omaha Chapter: All Saints Episcopal Church, 9302 Blondo, Omaha NE 68134, Rite 13, Classroom.

Tuesday, March 13, 2007: General Assembly, 7-9 p.m.

Text: Path of Life, Chapter 5, Silence, 58-73, Also read: RB 6

A HOLY LENT: As I begin to put together all the news for this newsletter, it is "Mardi Gras" day. Tomorrow we will celebrate Ash Wednesday, again, walking up to get the ashes on our foreheads. I am asking myself how I can make this Lent memorable. As most of you, my day already has the Eucharist, Morning and Evening Prayer, time for Lectio Divina and study in preparation for our chapter meetings. We Sisters fast on Wednesdays with a light meal and give the money saved to the poor at the end of Lent. There are various ways that I can fast. Is there more to Lent? Yes! It will all be new again. The gospel readings at the Eucharist are chosen in accord with the major Lenten themes: penance, prayer, effort to live a good Christian life and acceptance of the mystery of salvation through the cross. Our monastery has selected Morning Prayer readings from Jeremiah and Evening Prayer readings from Exodus (see <http://www.mountosb.org/monastic.html>). I now have Daily Reflections for Lent 2007 (available at religious stores) which will give a new spark of meaning

for prayer and action. I have selected two books for Lectio. If we make this journey with open hearts and minds, we will arrive at the tomb and see that it is surrounded by the light of the resurrected Christ.

THE NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF BENEDICTINE OBLATE DIRECTORS 2007 BIENNIAL MEETING

is taking place on the campus of the University of St. Martin, Lacey, WA, July 28 – August 2, 2007. St. Martin's Abbey and St. Placid's Priory will host the meeting. Saturday, July 28 is the arrival date and registration and Thursday, August 2 will be the departure time after breakfast.

Sister Joelle has said that we may have two Oblates from the Nebraska Oblates attend. I am asking for two volunteers who wish to go and who are able to finance their own way to this national meeting. Lincoln Oblates who have attended in the past are: Robert O'Gara, Marti Fritzen, Ruth Ford, Ann Johnson, and Teresa Harms (did I forget anybody?). A number of our Oblates attended the 2005 national meeting as volunteers in Yankton. They all have found it to be an extraordinarily wonderful experience. Please let Sister Phyllis know by March 15, 2007 if you are interested. Call me, write me or email me. The President of the Association says, "I want to remind you that we invite you to designate two oblates who are in leadership roles or who show potential for leadership with oblates to attend the conference with you. We expect oblate attendees to have some experience as an oblate and to have the approval of the Director of Oblates in order to attend the conference."

2007 INTERNATIONAL PRAYER FOR PEACE:

If you did not get a brochure on this, please refer to the Sacred Heart Monastery newsletter (http://www.yanktonbenedictines.org/oblate_ynk_news.html).

2007 LENTEN APPEAL: Each year Benedictine monasteries around the country are invited by the Alliance for International Monasticism USA (AIM) to:

- Pray for Benedictines and Cistercians in all monastic communities ministering to victims of HIV/AIDS.
- Fast in a special way on Wednesdays and/or Fridays

- Give alms for the monasteries in Tanzania, India, Philippines, Madagascar, sub-Saharan Africa ministering to victims of HIV/AIDS.

At the end of Lent, send your gift to: AIM, 345 East Ninth Street, Erie, PA 16503-1107

OBLATE EMERGENCY CONTACT PLAN:

I will be emailing and sending a hard copy of this document for you to review. If you do not have email at home, you may wish to have a contact person. Please let Pat Shafer know if you wish to be on the list. Call 421-1375 or pshafer@neb.rr.com. There are occasional times, besides snow storms that we may wish to send you information.

COMMUNICATION: Those of you with email should be receiving both the Newsletter and directory from Oblate Teresa Harms every month. In addition, you should be receiving the prayer requests from Oblate Marcia Straatmeyer several times a week. If you are not, let me know. In addition, if you have changed your email, telephone or address anytime recently, please do let Sister Phyllis know.

SACRED HEART MONASTERY

NEWSLETTER: Those on email have been receiving the Sacred Heart Monastery Oblate Newsletter from Sister Joelle. I will begin copying it and sending it via postal mail along with our newsletter for those without email. If those on email are unable to open it, please email me when it arrives and I will send it to you below the message line.

OBLATE QUESTIONNAIRES: Thank you for your responses to the questionnaires. They were very inspiring. May the Spirit continue to guide you on your spiritual journey! Because of the snow storms, the Lincoln Monday night and Hastings Chapters did not do the questionnaire. I believe I have sufficient information now to proceed. After some review, it is my plan to share responses with you via this newsletter and look carefully at some ideas that may be surfacing. First of all there is a strong interest in putting more emphasis on the Rule. We have scheduled certain chapters of the Rule with each Chapter meeting. Please review that chapter carefully and bring your Rule to the Chapter meeting. We will spend more dedicated time to its discussion. I recommend you use Preferring Christ by Norvene Vest as a helpful commentary. Many of you have this book. If you do not, it would be helpful if you would purchase it. Secondly, there are several who are struggling with Lectio Divina and the Liturgy of the Hours. If you would like additional help, please contact Sister Phyllis and I will arrange either an individual session or a small group session for you. See contact information at end of newsletter.

EMAIL ETIQUETTE: A "Chain email" is any email that suggests to the recipient that it be forwarded to "all your friends and relatives" or anything similar, thus forming a chain between the author of the email and each recipient. Such emails are often scams of some sort. The only way to respond to "chain" emails is to NOT send it/delete it and suggest to whoever sent one that they take you off of their list. There are many websites on email etiquette if you wish to know more.

OBLATE NOTES:

- CONGRATULATIONS to Oblate Dick Palazzolo who will be married at St. Benedict's Church in Ridgley, Maryland to Margaret "Margie" Callahan who he met at the North Am. Assoc. of Benedictine Oblate Directors' meeting in Yankton in 2005.
- Dear All: We will be thinking of you as we begin our Lenten journey next week. As we approach the days of Lent, I am reminded again that in the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican. Jesus makes clear that sin is a problem for the "moral person" as well as the "immoral person." To sin is to put something other than God first in our lives. I struggle daily with the idolatries which seek to claim my highest allegiance. Lent calls us all to awareness of this life's long struggle and to the grace of God by which alone we may prevail even though we often fail. Grace and Peace, Oblates Ebb and Lucy Munden
- Greeting to all from Oblate Anna Arnold of Chicago! She says she is just fine.
- Oblates Annamarie and Paul Guidos of Cape Girardeau, Missouri tell us that Angelina is a sophomore at Truman State College, Joey is a runner and in junior high school and Troy is in the 8th grade. "We wish you all a Blessed New Year."

NOTABLE FEASTS IN MARCH:

- 9: St. Frances of Rome, patroness of the Oblates
- 11: St. Patrick
- 19: St. Joseph
- 21: The Passing of St. Benedict
- 25: Annunciation of the Lord

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