



Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery

October 2007

OBLATE ASSIGNMENTS

LINCOLN CHAPTER: Sunday, October 14 in the North Commons, Madonna, 7-9 p.m. *or* Monday, October 15, Flanagan Room 7-9 p.m.
Wisdom from the Tradition, Chapters I & II, pp. 1-18;
RB 4:50, 72-74; Matthew 13:33 and Psalm 95

STEINAUER CHAPTER: Banquet Room, across from St. Anthony's Church
Monday, Oct. 1, 2007, 7-9 p.m.
Wisdom from the Tradition, Chapters I & II, pp. 1-18;
RB 4:50, 72-74; Matthew 13:33 and Psalm 95

HASTINGS CHAPTER: St. Michael's Church, Family Room, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Saturday, October 13, 2007:
Wisdom from the Tradition, Chapters I & II, pp. 1-18;
RB 4:50, 72-74; Matthew 13:33 and Psalm 95

OMAHA CHAPTER: New Cassel Retirement Center, Lecture Hall, 900 N 90th Street, Use Front Entrance, Omaha, NE
Tuesday, October 9, 2007, General Assembly:
Wisdom from the Tradition, Chapters I & II, pp. 1-18;
RB 4:50, 72-74; Matthew 13:33 and Psalm 95. New members begin Formation Handbook with Oblate Marcia Straatmeyer

WISDOM FROM THE TRADITION: Just as a reminder, after prayerfully reading the designated sections, please reflect on the questions at the end of each section. Then make notes in the space allotted so you can share your comments during faith sharing. In addition, each assignment has specific references from the Rule and Scripture.

CELL STUDY: Sister Phyllis has just ordered an additional five books, *Thoughts Matter* by Mary Margaret Funk, OSB. Let me know if you still need one (\$11.50). If you have not chosen a Cell group, do get in touch with Sister Phyllis. Any of the Cell groups will welcome you.

WELCOME: new aspiring Oblates. Here they are and their designated Chapters:

LINCOLN CHAPTERS

- Tim Adams, Friend
- Chase Becker
- Mary Costello
- Shelley Freeman
- Mara Fritts
- Charlene Gondring
- Sheri Lynne Hansen
- Julie Hendricks,
- Joanna Kennedy
- Carol Niemann
- Barbara Revers, Omaha

STEINAUER:

- Wauna Aitken, Tecumseh
- Delores Lewis and
- Robert L. Lewis, Tecumseh
- Olive O'Donnell, Pawnee City
- Allan W. Tramp, Falls City

HASTINGS:

- Leland and Joyce Ostdiek, Blue Hill
- Cathy Mohnike, Sutton

OMAHA:

- Pat Mordeson, Omaha

ANNUAL OBLATE RETREATS: October 5, 6 & 7 are the dates for our fall retreat at Sacred Heart Monastery. February 22, 23 & 24 will be the early 2008 retreat. They will begin Friday evening and end Sunday noon. The theme is "Hospitality" and will again be a semi-quiet retreat. I would recommend that you make contact soon with Sister Joelle Bauer for a reservation at 605-668-6009 or jbauer@mtmc.edu.

NOTE: There are two forms of the “Glory be to the Father.” One which I will call the short form and the other which many of us have said since we were youngsters, called the long form. Both of them are acceptable. I suggest that, for now, we use the short form at our UNL Vespers and the long form for our Chapter meetings unless otherwise designated. Here are the two forms:

SHORT: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

LONG: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THANK YOU: First of all thank you to Oblates Vic and Catherine who presented for us on the North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors (NAABO). Secondly, a thank you to Catherine who gave our Oblate library the following books that were used as references for the NAABOD Conference by the two presenters: Certain Trumpets, the Nature of Leadership by Garry Wills, Servant Leadership by Robert Greenleaf and Transforming Leadership by James Macgregor Burns. NAABOD has a quarterly newsletter which you may access by going to: www.naabod.org

BOOK REVIEW: “Meditations on St. Benedict’s Rule” by Rachel M. Srubas
Review by Marti Fritzen

Oblate Carol Olson and I met Rachel Srubas at the International Oblate Congress in Rome in 2005. She is a Presbyterian clergywoman. At the time she told us that she was writing a book, but I don’t remember her giving us many details.

Then sometime last year I received an e-mail from her that was sent to those who had gone to Rome. The book was in print and we had an opportunity to buy it. For several weeks it was available through the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Tucson. It is the Monastery that Rachel is associated with as an Oblate. She gave them all the proceeds. Now the book is readily available from sources such as Amazon.

The forward and the preface are very important because she tells you about herself and the special way she writes. She gives us a very nice short description of lectio divina and then proceeds to describe a variation on

it that she calls scriptio divina or prayerful writing. Here is her description of it:

“As a spiritual practice, scriptio divina begins with the open-hearted reading of Scripture or another spiritual text, but the prayer that emerges, neither tacit nor spoken, is written. Writing prompted by the Spirit who speaks through Scripture may result in prayers addressed to God such as those that comprise this book. Or, the scriptio divina process may lead to writing that lacks the formal conventions of prayer but is nevertheless devotional in origin”. Srubas describes Benedict as “a contemplative writer whose Rule is replete with the fruits of his own lectio divina.”

The body of her book consists of nearly seventy meditations on the Rule. She starts each of them with a short quote from the Rule and then follows it with the meditation. Here is one of Rachel’s meditations.

To Receive and Reflect

We really must be quite clear that our prayer will be heard, not because of the eloquence and length of all we have to say, but because of the heartfelt repentance and openness of our hearts to the Lord whom we approach. Our prayer should, therefore, be free from all other preoccupations and it should normally be short....

Chapter 20, St.

Benedict’s Rule

Like a rung gong, a singing bowl whose lingering note calls a mediator’s mind to awareness, your clean silence welcomes me to lay my worries at your feet and rest, wide awake, in your company.

Scrub away the residue of yesterday. Polish the bell of my soul to a high shine. Ready me to receive and quite clearly reflect your simple light.

This is not a book that is read from cover to cover in one sitting. It needs to be read slowly and mindfully one meditation at a time.

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