



# Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery

May 2008

## **ASSIGNMENTS ARE THE SAME FOR ALL CHAPTERS: NOTE HOLY RULE CHAPTERS TO READ**

**Lincoln Chapter:** Sunday, North Commons Cafeteria and Monday in the Sheridan Rooms A & B. Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital Sunday, May 18, 2008 or Monday, May 19, 2008 (**NOTE: ONE WEEK LATER**) Strangers to the City by Michael Casey, OCSO, Chapter 7, Antecedent Willingness, RB 71, Numbers 22:22-34

**Steinauer Chapter:** Banquet Room, across from St. Anthony's Church, Monday, May 5, 2008, 7-9p.m. Strangers to the City by Michael Casey, OCSO, Chapter 7, Antecedent Willingness, RB 71, Numbers 22:22-34

**Hastings Chapter:** St. Michael's Church, Family Room, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 17, 2008. The Path of Life, Chapter 9, The Liturgy of the Hours, RB 16, Psalm 119: 57-64, 161-168

**Omaha Chapter:** Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 7 p.m. Oblate Ron Dolton has invited us to his house at 13814 X Circle. "Keeping a religious home" discussion, social and Vespers.

**CHANGE OF DATE FOR THE POT LUCK:** It is now scheduled for Sunday, June 15, 2008 at 5 p.m., due to the monastery Chapter meeting scheduled on the previously scheduled date. It will be held at Madonna in the North Commons and Sheridan Rooms, our regularly scheduled rooms for our Lincoln meetings. I hope you can come.

## **TWO SUMMER OFFERINGS IN LINCOLN:**

- "Liturgy of the Hours" will be presented by Sister Jeanne Weber, Saturday, May 31, 2008 from 9 to 12 a.m. in the Sheridan Rooms at Madonna. Sister Jeanne has been our Liturgy Director at Sacred Heart Monastery since 1998 after completing an MA in Liturgical Studies from St. John's University, Collegeville, MN. She said she would start by focusing on the Liturgy of the Hours as the prayer of the church, how the Liturgy of the Hours developed historically, including the monastic and cathedral types of prayer, and the meaning and practice of the Liturgy of the Hours today, both for Monastics and for Oblates. She would like your ideas before hand as she plans to have discussion time. There will be a small fee of \$10.

- "Gifts of a Contemplative Life" will be presented by our Oblate Darla Weisbeck MSW, Saturday, July 12, 2008 from 9-12 a.m. in the Sheridan Rooms at Madonna. Darla is a cofounder of the Center for Contemplative Spirituality, Crestwood Christian Church and has designed and led retreats as well as educational experiences for over 25 years. She is saying, "Come apart for awhile to quiet your mind, open your heart and nurture your spirit. Join with us in exploring The Sacred Yes, The Sacred No and Creating Sacred Spaces in our lives." Darla has asked that there be no cost for this presentation.

**AMERICAN BENEDICTINE ACADEMY:** The 2008 convention of the ABA will be held at Sacred Heart Monastery/Mount Marty College in Yankton, SD, August 7-10. It will have as its theme, "Monastic Spirituality: Expanding Merton's Vision." Contact Sr. Bonita Gacnik, OSB bgacnik@mtmc.edu.

**MONASTIC INSTITUTE FOR OBLATES:** "Living the Way of Benedict" will be held at the Sophia Center, Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, Kansas, July 17-20, 2008. Contact Sister Marcia Ziska, OSB at 913-360-6161 or mziska@mountosb.org.

## **OBLATE NOTES:**

- A special thank you to Oblate Paul Blotkamp who has developed the Necrology for Oblates of Sacred Heart Monastery in a very lovely book in calligraphy, beautiful quotes from scripture and other sources and appropriate pictures, many of which he took at Sacred Heart Monastery. I will bring it again to the various Chapters so all will have a chance to see it.
- A special thank you to Oblate Carol Olson who has donated two books to the Oblate library: The Holy Twins; Benedict and Scholastica, by Oblate Kathleen Norris and The Motley Crew by Benet Tvedten, OSB.

## **PLANNING FOR SUMMER/SUMMER READING:**

It is time to begin thinking about your summer, all the activities that are on your calendar and how you will persevere in your spiritual and liturgical life. You will see that there are four stimulating possibilities listed above, all scheduled at different times. I am hoping that those of you, who have not yet started to say the Liturgy of the Hours on a regular basis, will attend this presentation

and give serious thought to starting. It is such an important prayer with the psalms as they come alive and speak for us. Secondly, in July, we have an opportunity to delve more deeply into our contemplative selves. It will be a special time to nurture our wounded and caring hearts. I hope that you will consider attending these two offerings. And do put the Pot luck on your calendar as a part of our Benedictine community hospitality. Lastly, here comes a list of preferred books for you to sign out for the summer. (Of course if you have books finished or not being read, do return them). These are books which I have read and/or other oblates have highly recommended. They are among the few books that I will bring to the Chapter meetings in May. They are listed as LECTIO READ or EASY READ.

### LECTIO READ

- *Beginning Again, Benedictine Wisdom for Living with Illness* by Mary C. Earle: Mary takes the setbacks of chronic illness or disability and uses them as powerful tools for keeping a rule of life. She is a retreat leader and Episcopal priest.
- *Fully Human Fully Divine* by Michael Casey: A reviewer, Michael Downey, says, "Casey invites us to a fresh encounter with the pulsating humanity of Jesus. God calls us, even and especially in our weakness to become divine." Michael Casey is a Cistercian monk in Australia.
- *Heart Whispers, Benedictine Wisdom For today* by Elizabeth Canham: Readers will discover anew that life with God is a journey that grows richer and more blessed as we hear and respond to divine grace. Candam lived five years as a monastic oblate in a Benedictine community. She is director of Stillpoint Ministries.
- *Open Mind, Open Heart* by Thomas Keating: This book is designed to initiate the reader into a deep, living relationship with God. It is excellent for deep reflective reading. Thomas Keating is a Cistercian priest, monk and abbot.
- *The Life of Saint Benedict, Commentary* by Adalbert de Vogue, OSB: The wondrous actions of Benedict are compared after the manner of the wonder-workers in the Bible, the stages of spiritual progress – an enriching book.
- *Living With Contradiction* by Esther de Waal: We will learn from the ancient wisdom of St. Benedict that the ambiguities and contradictions that we face can become the "opening doors" that lead to transformation and a new life. Esther de Waal is a married Anglican woman who lives in the Welsh borders.
- *Servant Leadership, A Journey into the Nature of Legitimate Power and Greatness* by Robert K. Greenleaf: There is a revival of this extraordinary management style, written in 1977. It is hoped that it will influence a new generation world-wide to transform global capitalism and better serve all of humanity and our planet. Greenleaf died in 1990.
- *The Wounded Healer* by Henri J. M. Nouwen: In this hope-filled book, Nouwen inspires men and women who want to be of service to their church or

community but have found the traditional ways ineffective. He sees them called to identify the suffering in their own hearts as a starting point.

### EASY READ

- *A Tree Full of Angels, Seeing the Holy in the Ordinary* by Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB: This is a book in the Benedictine tradition of divine reading where we learn how God feeds us in so many ways. Wiederkehr is a member of St. Scholastica Monastery in Fort Smith Arkansas.
- *The Abbey Up the Hill, A Year in the life of a Monastic Day Tripper* by Carol Bonomo: The author gives us a spiritual journey tale with no sentimentality but honesty and humor on her rocky way to community stability and a place of belonging. She is a lobbyist and speechwriter for the state of Southern California.
- *The Father and the Son, My Father's Journey into the Monastic Life*: The author, Matt Murray, a staff reporter for the Wall Street Journal, give us a direct, forceful and moving account, as the youngest member in the family, along with the distress of "losing" his father. It is a book that is hard to put down.
- *The Five People you meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom, a New York Times Bestseller: This has memorable characters filled with abundant warmth and wisdom from the gifted author.
- *The Orchards of Perseverance, Conversations with Trappist Monks about God, their lives and the world*, by David Perrata: We learn from those who have experienced lives devoted to listening long and lovingly to the beating heart of God.
- *Maurice and Therese, The Story of Love* by Patrick Ahern: This is the magnificent correspondence between Therese of Lisieux and the young struggling priest, Maurice prior to her death. Ahern is an auxiliary bishop of New York, regarded as an expert on the spirituality of St. Therese.
- *Spirituality For Everyday Living* by Brian C Taylor: This is highly recommended by those who have read it, bringing us the principals of balance through prayer, conversion of life, commitment, study, work, relationships and solitude. Rev. Taylor is an Episcopal priest in eastern Oregon.

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