



# Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

*Living by the Spirit of The Rule of St. Benedict + Associated with Sacred Heart Monastery*  
www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org + info@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org + **June 2013**

## Greetings

### HUMILITY IN ALL THINGS

From the *Rule* of our Holy Father Benedict: "Seeking his workman in a multitude of people, the Lord calls out to him and lifts his voice again: Is there anyone here who yearns for life and desires to see good days? (Ps 33:13) God then directs these words to you: If you desire true and eternal life, keep your tongue from vicious talk and your lips from all deceit: turn away from evil and do good; let peace be your quest and aim (Ps 33:14-15). —Prologue of RB

## Retreat: "Awaken Christ Within"

### SATURDAY RETREAT: SECOND CENTERING PRAYER RETREAT

The Centering Prayer retreat in January was such a success that many participants requested an encore! The second Centering Prayer retreat will be held on May 25, 2013, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Retreatants will meet at Serenity House in Bennet, Nebraska. The leader is Steve Liechti.

To quote Fr. Thomas Keating, Founder of Contemplative Outreach:

The coming of Christ into our conscious lives is the ripe fruit of the Christmas-Epiphany Mystery. It presupposes a presence of Christ that is already within us, waiting to be awakened .... It invites us to take possession of what is already ours.

The topic will be an introduction to Contemplative Silence. We will learn steps to creating a silence that allows us to move inward towards the Christ Presence. We will have time

for discussion and a walk on the spacious grounds.

RSVP to:

steve.liechti@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org.

Steve will provide you with directions to Serenity House, an easy drive from Lincoln.

## Celebration

### NEBRASKA CHAPTER POTLUCK AND CELEBRATION OF THE LINCOLN CHAPTER'S TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

On June 9, 2013, everyone in the Nebraska Chapter is invited to celebrate the end of another year of oblate gatherings and the twentieth anniversary of the Lincoln Chapter of Benedictine Oblates in Nebraska. We will meet at 4:30 p.m. in the Chapel at Madonna in Lincoln. We will begin the celebration with Vespers and anniversary events in the Chapel. We will then move to the Sheridan Room for our annual potluck. Paper products, drinks, and desert will be provided. Please bring a salad, vegetable, or meat dish. There will be a basket available if you would like to make a goodwill offering to offset the cost of the get-together. Sr. Phyllis will be joining us for the festivities!

### ATTENTION, ALL LINCOLN CHAPTER OBLATES

Do you have a story to share with others about your experience in the Lincoln Chapter of the Benedictine Oblates of Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, South Dakota?

In honor of our twentieth anniversary celebration of the Lincoln Chapter on June 9, the Oblate Deans would like to have members share

CHAPTERS	DEANS	LOCATIONS
<b>Hastings</b>	<i>Juliene Bryan</i> , juliene.bryan@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	<i>Family Room, St. Michael's Church, Hastings</i>
	<i>Carol Barry</i> , carol.barry@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org <i>Steve Liechti</i> , steve.liechti@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	<i>Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital Sheridan Room (Sunday)</i>
<b>Lincoln</b>	<i>Carol Olson</i> , carol.olson@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	<i>Nemaha Room (Monday)</i>
	<i>Jim Rea</i> , jim.rea@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	5401 South St.
	<i>Mary Schroer</i> , mary.schroer@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Lincoln
<b>Omaha</b>	<i>Rod Dolton</i> , rod.dolton@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	<i>New Cassel Retirement Ctr. Lecture Hall, Omaha</i>
<b>Steinauer</b>	<i>Marcia Borchert</i> , marcia.borchert@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	<i>Banquet Room, Convent House B&amp;B, Steinauer</i>

remembrances of their Oblate journeys in a display during our celebration. Please e-mail them to Jim Rea or Carol Olson (addresses below) no later than May 31, 2013.

Electronic forms are preferred, but handwritten submissions will be accepted.

[carol.olson@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org](mailto:carol.olson@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org)

[jim.rea@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org](mailto:jim.rea@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org)

### Retreat: Humility

#### CHAPTER SEVEN OF THE RULE AND THOMAS MERTON

We will have a Saturday retreat on July 20, 2013, at Serenity House in Bennet, presented by Carol Barry. The theme will be on Chapter 7 of the *Rule of Benedict*: Humility. As part of our retreat, we will have the opportunity to listen to CD recordings of some of Thomas Merton's 1962 lectures to the novices of Gethsemane Monastery. Watch for more details on times.

RSVP to:

[carol.barry@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org](mailto:carol.barry@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org)

### Reflection

#### REFLECTIONS ON THE MEANING OF ST. BENEDICT

Saint Benedict has the reputation of being the messenger of peace, the maker of unity, the master of civilization, and especially the herald of Christianity and the author of monasticism in the West. When darkness seemed to be spreading over Europe after the fall of the Roman Empire, he brought the light of dawn to shine upon this continent. For with the cross, the book, and the plow, Christian civilization was carried, principally through him and his disciples, to the peoples who lived in those lands that stretch from the Mediterranean to Scandinavia and from Ireland to the plains of Poland.

With the cross, that is, with the law of Christ, he strengthened and developed the institutions of private and social life. Through the "Work of God," that is, through the careful and assiduous conduct of prayer, he taught that divine worship was of the greatest importance in the social order. And so he sealed that spiritual unity of Europe in which the various nations of different ethnic origins and languages felt themselves to be united into the one people of God. And so this unity, learnt from so great a master, which the

disciples of Saint Benedict so faithfully strove to achieve, became the principal element of that period of history called the middle ages. All people of good will in our times must strive to recover that unity, which, as Saint Augustine says, is "the form of all beauty", and which alas has been lost in the vicissitudes of history.

With the book, that is, with the culture of the mind, this venerable patriarch from whom so many monasteries have drawn their name and their spirit, spread his doctrine through the old classics of literature and the liberal arts, preserved and passed on to posterity by them with so much care.

And lastly, with the plow, through agriculture, he changed the waste and desert lands into orchards and delightful gardens; and joining work with prayer in the spirit of those words *ora et labora*, he restored the dignity of human labor.

And lastly, with the plow, that is, though agriculture, he changed the waste and desert lands.

—From a *Brief* by Pope Paul VI, 1964

#### REFLECTIONS NEEDED

We would like to access your wisdom in our monthly newsletter reflections! Please consider writing a reflection (or book review) of 400–500 words and submit it to be included in the newsletter next year. It need not be a seasonal subject, just something you would like to share with the other Oblates.

### Prayer Requests

#### MONASTERY AND CHAPTER GATHER PETITIONS

If you would like to send your prayer requests to the monastery, the Web address for Sacred Heart Monastery's prayer requests is: [www.yanktonbenedictines.org/PrayerRequest.php](http://www.yanktonbenedictines.org/PrayerRequest.php).

You can also continue to send requests to Marcia Straatmeyer at [mstraat@neb.rr.com](mailto:mstraat@neb.rr.com) or by using the Prayer Request on the chapter's Web site: [www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org/contact/](http://www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org/contact/).

### Message from Sister Phyllis

#### NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF OBLATE DIRECTORS

We need your help! This July will be the National meeting of the Oblate Directors in

Bismarck, North Dakota. We may send two oblates from our monastery. This chance does not come very often. This is a very good educational opportunity and for oblates to become acquainted with other oblates throughout North America. Two of our oblates who would be able to go if we had some financial support for them. Would you be able to help? We have \$300 now and will need another \$600. If you can, please make a check to *Benedictine Oblates* and send it to:

Carol Barry  
2843 South 42nd St.  
Lincoln, NE 68506.

That is a tax-deductible gift if you choose.  
THANK YOU AND MANY BLESSINGS!

### World Congress of Oblates

#### EVENT OPPORTUNITY

The Congress will again be meeting in Rome October 4–10, 2013. Its last meeting was in 2009. Each member monastery is allowed to send one oblate. We do not have the cost of registration at this time. You will need to cover this cost as well as your travel expenses. This is an exceptional opportunity for an oblate, so if you are interested, please contact Sr. Phyllis, [phyllis.hunhoff@mtmc.edu](mailto:phyllis.hunhoff@mtmc.edu), 605.668.6000. To learn more, see Oblates Carol Olson and Marti Fritzen who attended the first Congress in Rome in 2005. Also see: [www.benedictine-oblates.org](http://www.benedictine-oblates.org).

### Corporate Prayer

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SHORTER CHRISTIAN PRAYER BOOK

On the Monday following Pentecost (May 20) we began on Monday of Week III, p. 202. We will be in Ordinary time from Pentecost until Advent. So, no additional page turning!

#### FEAST OF ST. BENEDICT

The chapter will celebrate the Feast of St. Benedict on Thursday, July 11, with Vespers in the Chapel at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. Plan on getting together at 5:30 p.m. to celebrate this important feast!

#### LINCOLN VESPERS ON BREAK

Beginning in June, we will suspend meeting at the Madonna Chapel for Thursday evening Vespers during the summer months.

### Chapter Gatherings

#### NEW BOOK FOR NEXT YEAR!

The book we will use for general meetings next year is *Conversations with Saint Benedict—The Rule in Today's World* by Terrence G. Kardong, OSB. It is available through Amazon.com, or through your local bookstore. Here are a few comments from other authors:

*Perfect conversation partners—St. Benedict and his self-styled curmudgeon disciple, Terrence Kardong! Readers seeking wisdom will find themselves drawn into exchanges on both contemporary and perennial issues facing monastics and others committed to living well in community. Who can escape concerns about mutual presence and mutual assistance, the value of silence, power dynamics, the good uses of electronic stuff, and what not to wear, as well as the dozen other practical topics in this essay collection? The author's opinions will evoke yours.*

Mary Collins, OSB, Mount St. Scholastica,  
Atchison, Kansas

*This well-considered series of essays, bringing Saint Benedict's Rule into dialogue with contemporary attitudes and issues, is both instructive and entertaining. Each essay is thought-provoking, honest, and challenging. They are also powerful and contemporary expositions of basic monastic values.*

Michael Casey, OCSO, Author of *The Road to Eternal Life: Reflections on the Prologue of Saint Benedict's Rule*

*Pick up this book and you'll find yourself immediately engaged in a conversation, at times inspired or nodding in wholehearted agreement, at other times vehemently disagreeing, and at other times laughing or smiling at its humor. As such, it is a great conversation starter for monastic communities, oblates, and faith sharing groups.*

Colleen Maura McGrane, OSB, Vocation Director, Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Clyde, Missouri