



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 + **July 2013**

Greetings

THE ABBOT AS LEADER BY EXAMPLE AND WORD

From the *Rule* of our Holy Father Benedict:
“Furthermore, anyone who receives the name of abbot is to lead his disciples by a twofold teaching: he must point out to them all that is good and holy more by example than by words, proposing the commandments of the Lord to receptive disciples with words, but demonstrating God’s instructions to the stubborn and dull by a living example.”—RB 2:11–12.

Memorial of Saint Benedict, Abbot

LINCOLN CHAPTER GATHERS FOR EVENING PRAYER

The Church marks the life and ministry of Saint Benedict on July 11. As part of our thanksgiving to God for his service to the Church and for his teaching both by example and by words, we will gather for Evening Prayer. Here are the details:

Evening Prayer
Thursday, July 11, 5:30 p.m.
Chapel at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital
5401 South St.
Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Liturgy of the Hours, Vol. III, summarizes the life of Saint Benedict:

Saint Benedict was born at Nursia in Umbria about the year 480. Educated at Rome, he began the eremitic life at Subiaco where he gathered disciples, and then departed for Monte Cassino. There he established the famous monastery and composed the Benedictine Rule. Because this rule was subsequently adopted throughout Europe, he received the title of patriarch of Western monasticism. He died

on March 21, 547, but since the end of the eighth century, his memory has been observed on this day (p. 1527).

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 Seven 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.

National Gathering

DIRECTORS AND OBLATES TOGETHER

When the North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors meets in Bismarck, North Dakota, at the University of Mary, July 12–17, the Nebraska Chapter will send Sister Phyllis and two oblates—Steve Liechti and David Frye.

Through the generous contributions of chapter members, they received some financial support for their expenses.

Please remember them in your prayers and watch for news about their time at the gathering. You can read about the biennial meeting online: www.naabod.org/naabod-mtg.html.

The theme of the meeting is “Living the Benedictine Charism Faithfully in the World.” One featured speaker will be Fr. Terrence Kardong, O.S.B., from Assumption Abbey, Richardton, North Dakota. He is the longtime editor of *American*

CHAPTERS	DEANS	LOCATIONS
Hastings	<i>Julienne Bryan</i> , julienne.bryan@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	<i>Family Room, St. Michael’s Church, Hastings</i>
	<i>Carol Barry</i> , carol.barry@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	<i>Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital</i>
	<i>Steve Liechti</i> , steve.liechti@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	<i>Sheridan Room (Sunday)</i>
Lincoln	<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
Omaha	<i>Rod Dolton</i> , rod.dolton@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	<i>New Cassel Retirement Ctr. Lecture Hall, Omaha</i>
Steinauer	<i>Marcia Borchert</i> , marcia.borchert@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	<i>Banquet Room, Convent House B&B, Steinauer</i>

Benedictine Review and the author of a number of books, including *Benedict's Rule: A Translation and Commentary* and *Conversation with Saint Benedict: The Rule in Today's World* (the text for our chapter's gatherings this coming year). Another presenter will be Sr. Colleen Maura McGrane, O.S.B., Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Clyde, Missouri, who has served as the translator of the multi-volume commentary on the *Rule of Benedict* by Adalbert de Vogüé, the French Benedictine scholar. Finally, Sr. Thomas Welder, O.S.B., from the Benedictine Sisters of Annunciation Monastery, Bismarck, South Dakota, will speak. She has served the University of Mary since 1963.

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.

You may also send petitions to Marcia Straatmeyer at mstraat@neb.rr.com or by using the Prayer Request option on the chapter's Web site:
www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org/contact/.

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, 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.

Book Review

PILLARS OF COMMUNITY

Nebraskans are often especially sensitive to depictions of the Great Plains as “flyover country,” the reduction of this place to a patchwork of wheat fields striped with summer-fallow land and punctuated with circles of irrigated corn—all viewed in passing from 30,000 feet. We know that when one travels the roads of this place and visits its towns, the land and the people come alive.

In the same way, we can be tempted, when we read certain passages in the *Rule of Benedict*, to fly right by and through them, without stopping to appreciate their depth and resonance. Consider this one:

What book of the holy catholic Fathers does not resoundingly summon us along the true way to reach the Creator? ... [T]here is also the rule of our holy father Basil (RB 73:4,5b).

To help us to slow down and to appreciate the terrain of the *Rule of Benedict*, Terrence Kardong, O.S.B., has written *Pillars of Community: Four Rules of Pre-Benedictine Monastic Life*. He provides background and commentary on the Rule of Basil, the Rule of Pachomius, the Rule of Augustine, the Rule of the Four Fathers and its companion, the Second Rule of the Fathers.

The chapters combine textually grounded commentary with a wealth of wide-ranging background and insight. As is true in much of his writing, the author draws upon a lifetime of monastic experience to provide contemporary connections to the wisdom of “the holy catholic Fathers.” For example, he writes:

We know that we cannot do many kinds of work without concentrating our minds on the thing at hand. Modern-day cell phone accidents are making this all too clear. Certainly Basil does not agree with the Messalians of his day, who though that biblical command for constant prayer (1 Thess 5:17) forbade them to work. For Basil, the remembrance of the presence of God is fully compatible with ordinary life on this earth (p. 33)

If you are searching for a guide and companion to enrich your appreciation of the *Rule* and its roots, then *Pillars of Community* would fulfill that need for traveling deliberately and insightfully.

—David M. Frye

Chapter Anniversary

PHOTO GALLERY

On June 9, members of the Nebraska Chapter gathered in Lincoln for the annual celebration. This year's gathering also marked the twentieth anniversary of the formation of the Lincoln Chapter. Images of the gathering are on the Web:
www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org/albums/20th-anniversary-celebration/.