



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 + **October 2013**

Living with *The Rule of St. Benedict*

VISITING GRACIOUSLY

From *The Rule* of our Holy Father Benedict:

“Almost at the same moment, then, as the master gives the instruction the disciple quickly puts it into practice in the fear of God; and both actions together are swiftly completed as one. It is love that impels them to pursue everlasting life; therefore, they are eager to take the narrow road of which the Lord says: *Narrow is the road that leads to life* (Matt 7:14). They no longer live by their own judgment, giving into their whims and appetites; rather they walk according to another’s decisions and directions, choosing to live in monasteries and to have an abbot over them.”
—RB 5:9-12.

Chapter Gatherings

HASTINGS CHAPTER

Saturday, October 12, 2013, 9:30–11:30 a.m.
Chapters 3 and 4 of *Conversation with Saint Benedict: the Rule in Today’s World* by Terrence G. Kardong: “Partisan Politics and the Benedictine” and “Paternalism,” pp. 18–39. Facilitator: Leland Ostdiek; Companion Leader: Juliene Bryan. Novice Lesson 2; Prayer Leader: Robin Stroot; Reflection: Ethel Weir. The meeting is held in the Family Room of St. Michael’s Church.

Hastings Cell gathering (St. Scholastica Cell):
Saturday, October 26, 9:30 a.m. in the Library at St. Michael’s Church. Read Chapter 6, “Trust”, pp. 77–87 from *Cherish Christ Above All* by Demetrius Dumm, OSB. Facilitator: Juliene Bryan.

Grand Island Cell gathering (Brother Lawrence Cell): Monday, October 28, 2013. The assignment is the same as for the Hastings Cell. Facilitator:

Jeanette Nordhues. The meeting is held at First Christian Church 2400 W. 14th St., Grand Island, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

LINCOLN CHAPTER

Sunday, October 13, and Monday, October 14, 2013. The Sunday meeting will be held in the Sheridan Room at Madonna and the Monday meeting in the Nemaha Room. Read Chapters 11 and 17 from *Conversation with Saint Benedict: the Rule in Today’s World* by Terrence G. Kardong, “The Cell Phone and the Monk” and “Channel Surfing,” pp. 89–96 and pp. 137–146.

Cell gatherings: Read Chapter 6, “Trust”, pp. 77–87, from *Cherish Christ Above All* by Demetrius Dumm, OSB.

New Lincoln Cell Group—Charlotte Liggett and Paul Blotkamp will hold their cell meeting Sunday, September 29, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. Meet outside of the Sheridan Room at Madonna. The first meeting will discuss what day, time, and place to meet for the remainder of the year. The focus for reflection comes from *Preferring Christ* by Norvene Vest, Chapter 8.

OMAHA CHAPTER

Tuesday, October 8, 2013, 7:00 p.m., in the New Cassel Retirement Center, 1st Floor Lecture Hall, 900 N. 90th St., Omaha. Chapters 11 and 17 from *Conversation with Saint Benedict: the Rule in Today’s World* by Terrence G. Kardong: “The Cell Phone and the Monk” and “Channel Surfing,” pp. 89–96 and pp. 137–146.

The October Cell meeting will be held Tuesday, October 22, 2013, 7:00–9:00 p.m., at the New Cassel Retirement Center. Read Chapter 6, “Trust,”

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

pp. 77–87, from *Cherish Christ Above All* by Demetrius Dumm, OSB.

STEINAUER CHAPTER

The chapter will meet on Monday, October 28, 2013, 7:00–9:00 p.m., in the Banquet Room across from St. Anthony's Church. Members will discuss Chapters 3 and 4 from *Conversation with Saint Benedict: the Rule in Today's World* by Terrence G. Kardong: "Partisan Politics and the Benedictine Chapter" and "Paternalism," pp. 18–39.

Memorial of St. Gall

LINCOLN CHAPTER OFFERS EVENING PRAYER

Wednesday, October 16, 2013, we will gather for Evening Prayer at 5:30 p.m. in the Madonna Chapel, Lincoln, in honor of St. Gall. St. Gall (d. 646) was an Irishman and one of St. Columban's companions on his journey to spread the gospel to Europe.

The Lincoln Chapter offers Vespers monthly, marking the living of other memorable Benedictines. Here is the schedule for the rest of 2013:

- Tuesday, November 19: Mechtilde
- Sunday, December 29: Thomas Becket.

Reflection

A PRAYER IN EACH FINGER

NOTE: Pope Francis shared the following reflection with young people who gathered in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, this past summer for the sixth World Youth Day. Joanna Kennedy, Lincoln oblate, translated the Holy Father's presentation from the Spanish version.

1. The thumb is nearest to you. So start praying for those who are closest to you. They are the persons easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is "a sweet obligation."
2. Following is the index finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct, and heal. This includes teachers, professors, medical personnel, and religious workers. They need support and wisdom to indicate to others the correct direction they should take. Always have them present in your prayers.
3. Then comes the tallest finger. We remember our leaders. Pray for the president, congress, and people in business and industry. These persons direct the destiny of our nation and

guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.

4. The fourth is known as our ring finger. Many may be surprised that it is our weakest finger, as any musician will tell you. We should remember those who are most vulnerable, the people with a lot of problems or who are bed-ridden due to infirmities. They need our prayers day and night; it will never be enough. We should also remember married couples.
5. The last is our little finger, the smallest of them all. This is what we should be before God and others. The Bible says, "The last shall be first." This little finger should remind you to pray for yourself. After you have prayed for the other four groups, you will see your needs in the correct perspective, and you will be able to better pray for them.

Oblation Ceremony

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Nebraska Chapter will celebrate its annual oblation ceremony on November 10, 2013, 2:00 p.m., in the Chapel at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. Family and friends are invited; refreshments will be served after the ceremony.

Prospects, novices, and oblates from all four Nebraska Chapters meet in the Chapel at Madonna. New members (prospects) will make their initial oblations, novices will make their final oblations, and current oblates will have the opportunity to renew their oblations.

Retreats: Enquirers, Novices, and Cell Leaders

LEARNING MORE ABOUT LIVING BY THE RULE

There will be a retreat for the enquirers and novices (those who will make their final oblations in November) at Serenity House, Bennet, Nebraska, on September 28, 2013. The retreat will begin at noon, with lunch provided, and end at 3:00 p.m. We will cover the first lessons of the *Oblate Handbook*, give an overview of praying the Liturgy of the Hours, and discuss questions enquirers may have. We invite novices to come and share their experiences as novice oblates with the enquirers.

The Chapter cell leaders and Deans will meet 9:30 a.m. to noon that same day, prior to the retreat. This will be a facilitator training session.

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/.

Monastery Connections

INVITATIONS TO VISIT SACRED HEART MONASTERY

October offers several opportunities to visit Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, South Dakota. This is the monastery with which the Nebraska Chapter is affiliated.

Monastery Visit and Theology Institute— Friday and Saturday, October 18–19, 2013

Friday

- Arrive at noon for lunch on Friday, have a tour—including visits to the chapels and the museum—and hear a history of the monastery.
- Supper, then join the Sisters for Vespers and a communal anointing at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday

- Morning Prayer, 8:30 a.m.
- Theology Institute, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Bishop Remi J. De Roo will speak on "The Spirituality of Vatican II." More information is on the Web at www.remideroo.com.
- Lunch and depart.

Monastery Visit and Holiday Fair— Friday and Saturday, October 25–26, 2013

Friday

- Arrive at noon for lunch on Friday, have a tour—including visits to the chapels and the museum—and hear a history of the monastery.
- Evening Prayer at 5:15 p.m., then Supper.

Saturday

- Morning Prayer at 8:30 a.m.
- Monastery Holiday Fair, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with lunch and departure.

The cost for either visit is a free-will offering. The monastery's facilities will accommodate five guests. More are welcome, but we will need to offer a motel downtown.

These are great opportunities to become better acquainted with Sacred Heart Monastery and to

come to know the sisters. Please consider making one of these trips, especially if you have never visited the monastery before! Please let your deans know as soon as possible if you plan to go.

Oblate News

DAVID SCHMIDT PRESENTS ORGAN RECITAL

David Schmidt, Lincoln oblate, presented an organ recital at Bishop Marty Chapel at Sacred Heart Monastery, on September 15, 2013. David is an alumnus of Mount Marty College, and a talented organist. While at college in Yankton, he studied with the late Sr. Jane Klimisch, OSB. He presented one of her works, "*This is the Day the Lord Has Made*," at the concert. In the program, David wrote, "I learned so many things from the sisters in Yankton in regards to music, as well as many other life lessons, that it is only fitting to come home, so to speak, to play the organ in the chapel again."