



# 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 + **January 2014**

## Living with *The Rule of St. Benedict*

### PREPARING OUR HEARTS

From *The Rule* of our Holy Father Benedict:  
“In truth, those who are patient amid hardships and unjust treatment are fulfilling the Lord’s command: *When struck on one cheek, they turn the other; when deprived of their coat, they offer their cloak also; when pressed into service for one mile, they go two* (Matt 5:39–41). With the Apostle Paul, they bear with *false brothers, endure persecution, and bless those who curse them* (2 Cor. 11:26, 1 Cor. 4:12).”

—RB 7:42–43.

## Christmas Greetings

### A MESSAGE FROM SISTER PHYLLIS HUNHOFF AND FROM ALL THE BENELECTINE SISTERS AT SACRED HEART MONASTERY

How I wish each of you could be here to experience the beauty of our Liturgy in our wonderful chapel. Of course I invite you to come anytime. We are now in the third week of Advent and as the “O antiphons” began on December 17, we also began to do some Christmas decorating. We see decorated trees and cribs showing up around the monastery. Last fall I joined the Vocation Ministry here at the monastery. It is encouraging to know that young men and women are again dedicating their lives to the Church. So if you know of young women between the ages of twenty and forty-five, do share with them our life and Benedictine values. All of our oblates are being remembered on December 22, 25, and 29 and monthly during 2014.

*My love and prayers, Sister Phyllis*

## Reflection

### KINDNESS

How kindly and sweetly the Child rested in the arms of Simeon, when He was brought to the temple! Pray that this Beloved of yours take His rest in the arms of your soul, and bestow on you an affectionate kindness and sweetness of heart for all.

With what kindness He washes the feet of His disciples and kisses them! And in the same way how affectionately He gives Himself to the apostles and to us in the sacrament of the Eucharist! How affectionately He encourages the apostles during the supper and after it! Do you be kind to all without exception, even though they be rude and opposed to you.

How kindly He received the heavy cross that was laid upon Him, how gently He bore the weight of sin, and how He consoled the weeping women! Do not refuse to bear the yoke of the Savior with kindness and cheerfulness, without complaint, even though you think it is heavier than you have deserved. Do not be gloomy under the burden you have accepted, do not look for a partner in your suffering, but rather share the sufferings of others, and help them when you can, or when others ask or look to you for help.

How kind He is, as the moment of crucifixion approaches; helping His executioners when they try to remove the clothing that clings to his wounds! So you should be kind to those who point out the faults of which you are ridding yourself, and offer yourself to them with kindness and eagerness so that they may lead you wherever they wish. *(continued on p. 2)*

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>Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital</i>
	<i>Steve Blum</i> , steve.blum@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	<i>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>

Again, how kindly He extends His arms and looks upon His executioners, as they fix His hands and feet to the cross, and crucify Him so cruelly. Do you be kind to your opponents, and gladly and eagerly consider whatever happens as for God's service and the help of your brethren.

*From the Daily Reflections of St. Peter Canisius*

## Worship

### MORNING PRAYER

Oblates gather every Friday morning at 7:30 in the chapel at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, 5401 South St., Lincoln, Nebraska, to pray Morning Prayer. Everyone is welcome.

### REMINDER: FEAST OF ST. THOMAS BECKETT

Sunday, December 29, 2013, we will have Vespers at 5:30 p.m. in the chapel at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. This evening's vespers celebrates the life of St. Thomas Beckett.

### FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY OF EGYPT (A.D. 251–356)

At 5:30 pm. on Friday, January 17, 2014, those who can attend will gather in the Ryan Memorial Chapel at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, Lincoln, for Vespers to celebrate the feast of St. Anthony. The life of Anthony is reminiscent of St. Francis of Assisi in that Anthony was so moved by the Gospel message, "Go, sell what you have, and give to [the] poor" (Mark 10:21b), that he did just that with his large inheritance.

Unlike St. Francis, Anthony spent most of his life in solitude. He gave the world the witness of solitary asceticism, great personal mortification, and prayer. He drew many people to himself for spiritual healing and guidance and founded a monastery of scattered cells in the desert in response to many requests. He failed in his hope of becoming a martyr in the Roman persecution of 311, in spite of fearlessly exposing himself to danger while giving moral and material support to those in prison.

Anthony is associated in art with a T-shaped cross, a pig, and a book. The pig and the cross are symbols of his warfare with the devil—the cross his means of power over evil spirits, the pig a symbol of the devil himself. Anthony died in solitude at the age of 105.

The Lincoln Chapter offers Vespers monthly, marking the lives of memorable Benedictines. Here

are the occasions for Vespers for the next several months:

- Feb. 25 (Tues.)—Walburga
- Mar. 21 (Fri.)—Death of Fr. Benedict
- Apr. 21 (Mon.)—Anselm (Day after Easter)
- **MAY 15 (THURS.)—PACHOMIUS.**

### SHORTER CHRISTIAN PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY

On January 1, we start on p. 384. There are special antiphons and concluding prayers on pp. 396–397, beginning with Evening Prayer I. For the weekdays after Christmas we start on p. 384, then switch to pp. 393–395.

On the Feast of the Epiphany (January 5), begin on p. 384. There are special antiphons and concluding prayers on pp. 397–398.

Morning Prayer for the weekdays after Epiphany begins on p. 384. At the readings, turn to p. 399 for Morning Prayer and p. 400 for Evening Prayer.

On the Baptism of the Lord, Sunday, January 12, begin with Morning Prayer on p. 384. There are special antiphons and concluding prayers on pp. 403–404.

On the Monday after the Baptism of the Lord, January 13, we begin Ordinary time with Week I on p. 54. There is no more page-flipping until Lent!

## Chapter Gatherings

### HASTINGS CHAPTER

The general meeting will be Saturday, January 11, 2014, 9:30–11:30 a.m., in the Family Room at St. Michael's Church.

Read Chapters 9 and 10 of *Conversation with Saint Benedict: the Rule in Today's World* by Terrence G. Kardong: "Mobility and Stability" and "Monastic Garb," pp. 72–88.

- Facilitator: Juliene Bryan
- Companion Leader: Leland Ost diek (Novice Lesson #4)
- Prayer Leader: Scott Taylor
- Reflection: Jim Hoffman

### HASTINGS' ST. SCHOLASTICA CELL

Hastings Cell gathering (St. Scholastica Cell): Saturday, January 25, 9:30 a.m., in the Library at St. Michael's Church.

Read Chapter 8, "Discipline," pp. 106–111, from *Cherish Christ Above All* by Demetrius Dumm, OSB.

- Facilitator: Jim Hoffman.

#### **HASTINGS' BROTHER LAWRENCE CELL**

Grand Island Cell gathering (Brother Lawrence Cell): Monday, January 27, 2014, 4:30–5:30 p.m., First Christian Church 2400 W. 14th St., Grand Island. The assignment is the same as for the Hastings Cell.

- Facilitator: Jeanette Nordhues.

#### **LINCOLN CHAPTER**

General gatherings will be held on Sunday, January 12, 2014, 7:00–9:00 p.m. and Monday, January 13, 2014, at the same time. Read Chapters 4 and 14, "Paternalism" and "The Prior of the Monastery," from *Conversation with St. Benedict: the Rule in Today's World*, by Terrence G. Kardong.

The Sunday meeting is in the Sheridan Room at Madonna, while the Monday meeting is in the Nemaha Room.

Cell gatherings: Read Chapter 8, "Discipline," pp. 106–119, from *Cherish Christ Above All*, by Demetrius Dumm, OSB.

#### **OMAHA CHAPTER**

*General Meeting:* The general gathering will be Tuesday, January 14, 2014, 7:00–9:00 p.m. at the New Cassel Retirement Center. The reading will cover Chapters 4 and 14 of *Conversation with Saint Benedict: the Rule in Today's World* by Terrence G. Kardong: "Paternalism" (p. 31) and "The Prior of the Monastery" (p. 113).

The cell gathering will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 7:00–9:00 p.m. at the New Cassel Retirement Center. The cell gathering reading comes from Chapter 8, "Discipline," from *Cherish Christ Above All* by Demetrius Dumm, OSB, pp. 106–111.

We did not cover the readings for the month of December since our gathering scheduled for December was cancelled due to weather. We also did not hold our Cell meeting because it fell on Christmas Eve. Our January reading schedule remains as planned at the beginning of this year. Our sincere warm regards to the entire Oblate community in both prayers for each other and in celebrating this very special liturgical season!

—Rod Dolton, Omaha Dean

#### **STEINAUER CHAPTER**

The general gathering will be held on Monday, January 27, 2014, 7:00–9:00 p.m. in the Banquet Room across from St. Anthony's Church.

Read Chapters 6 and 7 of *Conversation with Saint Benedict: the Rule in Today's World* by Terrence G. Kardong—"The Idolatry of Security" and "Work," pp. 40–56.

#### **Nebraska Cell Groups**

##### **INTRODUCTION**

Cell group readings for 2013–2014 come from *Cherish Christ Above All: The Bible in the Rule of Benedict*, Demetrius Dumm, OSB, Latrobe, Penn.: Saint Vincent Archabbey Publications, 2002.

The Nebraska Chapter has a variety of cell groups:

##### **HASTINGS**

#### **Saint Scholastica Cell**

- Leader: various individuals
- Meetings: The fourth Saturday of the month beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the library of St. Michael's Church, Hastings.

#### **Brother Lawrence Cell**

- Leader: various individuals
- Meets the fourth Monday of the month, 4:30–5:30 p.m. at First Christian Church, 2400 West 14th St., Grand Island, Nebraska.

##### **LINCOLN**

#### **Pax Christi Cell**

- Leader: Lorene Ludy
- Meetings: The fourth Monday from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Mary Lu Long's house, 1615 Brent Blvd., Lincoln.

#### **Beginners' Cell**

- Leader: Marti Fritzen
- Meetings: Monthly on the fourth Sunday at 7:00 p.m. in the Lancaster Room at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. The Rule of Benedict (RB 73:8) says that the rule is for beginners; we are all beginners and all are welcome to this cell.

### Subiaco Cell

- Leader: Tim Fisher
- Meetings: Every other Saturday beginning at 8:00 a.m. with Morning Prayer in the chapel at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. Then this cell for men moves to a designated room for conversation. This month's meetings are December 14 and 28.

### Preferring Christ Cell

- Leaders: Paul Blotkamp and Charlotte Liggett
- Meetings: The fourth Sunday of every month at Madonna. The assignments are from *Preferring Christ* by Norvene Vest.

### OMAHA

#### Omaha Cell

- Leaders: Various individuals
- Meetings: Monthly on the second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at New Castle Retirement Center.

### General Announcements

#### SNOW POLICY

It seems timely to restate our snow policy.

1. Should we have three to four inches of snow, we will cancel the meeting without notice. The meeting will not be rescheduled. The next month's meeting will occur as scheduled with that month's assignment.
2. Should we have a snowstorm that seems hard to judge, an e-mail will be sent. For those without e-mail, please call someone with e-mail. In all cases, use your best judgment: Be Safe!

#### CHANGE OF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

When you update your e-mail address, please send a message to:

[info@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org](mailto:info@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org).

This will assure that you continue to receive notices about the release of newsletters and other important chapter messages.

#### 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 may also send petitions to Marcia Straatmeyer at [mstraat@neb.rr.com](mailto:mstraat@neb.rr.com) or by using the Prayer Request option on the chapter's Web site:

[www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org/contact/](http://www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org/contact/).

#### Retreats

##### OBLATE INSTITUTE

The Sophia Center of the Benedictine Sisters of Mount. St. Scholastica in Atchison, Kansas, has some retreat offerings that may be of interest to oblates. On July 17-20, 2014, they will hold their seventh annual Oblate Institute. Speaker Kathleen Norris's theme will be "Discovering the Desert: St. Benedict's Sources." You can check their 2014 retreat offerings on the Web:

[www.mountosb.org/ministries/scheduled-retreat-opportunities](http://www.mountosb.org/ministries/scheduled-retreat-opportunities).

##### SPIRITUAL PAUSE RETREAT

On Saturday, February 22, 2014, Lincoln Dean Carol Barry will offer a Spiritual Pause retreat on the 1962 lectures of Thomas Merton. This is a continuation of Thomas Merton's 1962 lectures on humility to novices of Gethsemane Monastery. We will listen to lectures on "Augustinian Humility," "Interpreting and Living the Rule," and "Disrespect of Others, Real or Imagined."

The retreat time is 12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and will be held at Serenity Acres in Bennet. Serenity Acres is south off of Highway 2. Take the Bennet exit and then take the third right (Cottonwood Street) to 15101 Bennet Rd. on the left.

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

*+Ut in omnibus glorificetur Deus*

*+That God may be glorified in all things.*