



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 + April 2014

A Word from the Gospels

THE GOOD NEWS OF EASTER

“He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.’”

—Matthew 28:6–7, NAB.

Reflection

FROM A SERMON BY MAXIMUS OF TURIN (FIFTH CENTURY)

For Christ’s resurrection is life for the dead, pardon for sinners, glory for the saints. And so the holy prophet invites every creature to the celebration of Christ’s resurrection: we should rejoice, he says, and be glad on this day, which the Lord has made Christ is the Son-day, to whom the Father-day has whispered the secret of his divinity. He is the day who says through the mouth of Solomon: “I have made an undying light rise in the heavens.” Just as there is no night at all to follow the heavenly day, so too the darkness of sin does not follow the justice of Christ. For the brightness and the luminous splendor of the heavenly day last forever, and there are no shadows which can put an end to it; and so too the brilliance and the flashing radiance of Christ’s light never cease, and there is no darkness of sin which can overcome them. This is why Saint John the Evangelist says: “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

And so, my brethren, we ought all to rejoice on this holy day. No one should separate himself from the general rejoicing because he has sins on his conscience; no one should refuse to take part in the public worship because of the burden of his

misdeeds. However great a sinner he may be, on this day he should not despair of pardon, for the privileges granted by this day are great. If a thief was thought worthy of paradise, why should not a Christian be thought worthy of forgiveness?

Worship

MORNING PRAYER

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

FEAST OF ST. ANSELM (A.D. 1033–1109)

At 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2014, those who can attend may gather in the Ryan Memorial Chapel at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, Lincoln, for Vespers, to commemorate the feast of St. Anselm.

Anselm was an indifferent Christian in his youth, but became a great theologian and church leader. He even received the name “Father of Scholasticism” for his attempts to analyze and describe faith through the aid of reason. He became abbot of the Monastery of Bec in Normandy. He was admired for his patience, gentleness and teaching skill, and under his leadership Bec became an influential monastic school in philosophy and theological studies.

At the age of sixty, and against his will, Anselm was appointed archbishop of Canterbury in 1093. He was opposed in his appointment, and in his efforts to reform the Church, by King William Rufus. Anselm finally went into voluntary exile until Rufus died in 1100, when he was recalled to

CHAPTERS	DEANS	LOCATIONS
Hastings	<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>
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 Borchner</i> , marcia.borchner@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	<i>Banquet Room, Convent House B&B, Steinauer</i>

England by King Henry I. Disagreements with King Henry forced Anselm into exile again.

Anselm opposed the slave trade and was committed to the very poorest people. He succeeded in obtaining from the national council at Westminster the passage of a resolution prohibiting the sale of human beings.

Anselm, like every true follower of Christ, had to carry his cross, especially in the form of opposition and conflict with those in political control. Though personally a mild and gentle man and a lover of peace, he would not back off from conflict and persecution when principles were at stake.

The Lincoln Chapter offers Vespers monthly, marking the lives of memorable Benedictines. Here is the remaining occasion for Vespers in the coming months:

- May 15 (Thurs.)—Pachomius.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SHORTER CHRISTIAN PRAYER DURING THE EASTER SEASON

On Palm (Passion) Sunday, April 13, Evening Prayer I starts on p. 111, Week II. At the Reading, turn to p. 429.

The Easter Triduum—Holy Thursday through Holy Saturday—falls on April 17–19. Evening Prayer is taken from Week II. Turn to pp. 436–456 at the Reading.

On Easter Sunday we begin with Week I, page 42, using the antiphons on p. 457. The psalms and canticle are from Week I. At the Reading, turn to p. 457.

During the Easter Season, follow the weekly Psalter (for example, the Monday after Easter is from Week I, p. 54). Turn to pp. 464–486 at the Reading.

Note: the Easter Antiphons are highlighted in red for Sundays and weekdays during the Easter season.

Chapter Gatherings

HASTINGS CHAPTER

The general meeting will be Saturday, April 12, 2014, 9:30–11:30 a.m., in the Family Room at St. Michael's Church.

Read Chapters 15 and 16 from *Conversation with Saint Benedict: the Rule in Today's World* by Terrence G. Kardong: "Zeal, Good and Bad" and "Hierarchy," pp. 1021–136.

- Facilitator: Robin Stroot

- Companion Leader: Sharon Connor
- Prayer Leader: Ethel Weir
- Reflection: Robin Stroot.

HASTINGS' ST. SCHOLASTICA CELL

Hastings Cell gathering (St. Scholastica Cell): Saturday, April 26, 9:30 a.m., in the Library at St. Michael's Church.

Read Chapter 10, "Personal and Private Prayer," pp. 135–147, from *Cherish Christ Above All* by Demetrius Dumm, OSB.

- Facilitator: Kathy Schroder.

GRAND ISLAND'S BROTHER LAWRENCE CELL

Grand Island Cell gathering (Brother Lawrence Cell): Monday, April 28, 2014, 4:30–5:30 p.m., First Christian Church 2400 W. 14th St., Grand Island.

Read Chapter 10, "Personal and Private Prayer," pp. 135–147, from *Cherish Christ Above All* by Demetrius Dumm, OSB.

- Facilitator: Jeanette Nordhues.

LINCOLN CHAPTER

General gatherings will be held on Sunday, April 13, 2014, 7:00–9:00 p.m. and Monday, April 14, 2014, at the same time. Read Chapters 12 and 13 (pp. 97–112), "Table Reading," and "Competition," from *Conversation with St. Benedict: the Rule in Today's World*, by Terrence G. Kardong, OSB.

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

Cell gatherings: Read Chapter 10, "Personal and Private Prayer," pp. 135–147, from *Cherish Christ Above All*, by Demetrius Dumm, OSB.

OMAHA CHAPTER

General Meeting: The general gathering will be held during the Fifth Week of Lent, Tuesday, April 8, 2014, 7:00–9:00 p.m. at the New Cassel Retirement Center. The reading will cover Chapters 12 and 13 (pp. 97–112), "Table Reading" and "Competition," from *Conversation with St. Benedict: the Rule in Today's World*, by Terrence G. Kardong, OSB. Prior to group breakout, the meeting will begin with a reading and reflection that covers paragraph B.2.b. through the B.2.h. and Summary from the "Ongoing Formation Tab" of our Oblate Handbook.

The cell gathering will be held on Easter Tuesday, Tuesday, April 22, 2014, 7:00–9:00 p.m. at the New Cassel Retirement Center. This is during the third full week of Lent and is also the feast day of the Annunciation of the Lord. There will be no breakout. Following our administrative announcements, the meeting will begin with the reading and reflection covering the two-page topic, “St. Benedict and His Life,” from the beginning of “The Monastic Tradition” in our Oblate Handbook. We will then discuss our Cell reading assignment, covering Chapter 10, “Personal and Private Prayer,” pp. 135–147, from *Cherish Christ Above All*, by Demetrius Dumm, OSB.

STEINAUER CHAPTER

The general gathering will be held on a date to be announced, from 7:00–9:00 p.m., in the Banquet Room across from St. Anthony’s Church.

Read Chapters 11 and 12 of *Conversation with Saint Benedict: the Rule in Today’s World* by Terrence G. Kardong—“The Cell Phone and the Mon” (pp. 72–79) and “Table Reading” (pp. 89–105).

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 April 5 and 19.

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

CHANGE OF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

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

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.

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/.

Retreats

OBLATES' RETREAT AT SACRED HEART MONASTERY

Sr. Mary Jo Polak, OSB, will offer a semi-silent retreat, "Matters of the Heart in *The Rule of St. Benedict*," from **Friday, May 16, 2014, to Sunday May 18, 2014**. The retreat brochure states, "Sometimes we think of Benedict as the Rule-giver, a wise but strict Father figure. With a closer look, we see how often Benedict talks about matters of the heart and the right attitude of our hearts to be good monastics."

To register, contact S. Joelle Bauer:

jbauer@mtmc.edu
605.668.6009
Sacred Heart Monastery
1005 W. 8th St.
Yankton, SD 57078.

The cost for a single room, meals, and the retreat is \$120, double room \$170, payable upon check-in at the retreat. Contact a dean to find out about carpooling possibilities.

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:

On the Web: www.mountosb.org/ministries/scheduled-retreat-opportunities.

BEING A CONTEMPLATIVE IN A DIGITAL WORLD

On Saturday, **April 5, 2014**, 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Carol Olson will lead a retreat exploring our relationship with information, technology, distraction, and time. Using *The Rule of Benedict*, Scripture, and other resources as guides, we will "synchronize" and "recharge" our spiritual batteries to better our connection with the Divine and with others.

The retreat 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 by April 3:

carol.olson@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org.

SPIRITUAL PAUSE RETREAT REQUEST

In the past year, several of the Benedictine Oblate Deans have led retreats of various topics at Serenity Acres in Bennett, Nebraska. We would like to expand the opportunities to lead future retreats to all of the Oblates. The Lincoln Deans are aware of Oblates with gifts and talents for sharing their spirituality, practices, and experiences with others. If you are interested in leading a retreat, or if you have suggestions for a future retreat, please contact Carol Olson, Lead Dean:

402-486-0864
carol.olson@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org.

RETREAT ON CHAPTER FOUR OF BENEDICT'S RULE

The St. Benedict Center of Christ the King Priory in Schuyler, Nebraska, is offering a retreat **September 5-6, 2014**. The retreat begins on Friday at 7:30 p.m. and ends on Saturday at 4:00 p.m. The retreat, "Tools of the Spiritual Craft," will be presented by Fr. Michael Casey, OCSO, Ph.D. The program description says:

At the end of the Prologue of his Rule, Saint Benedict speaks about making progress in faith and good living. What he probably means is advancing in faith through good living. In his much-neglected fourth chapter *On the Implements of Good Works*, he lists seventy-four means by which we can upgrade the quality of our life and our faith. In these days together, we will discuss some aspects of Benedict's program of practical good living in the light of contemporary experience.

Check the Web site for registration and costs. St. Benedict's Center has several retreats offered each month that you might want to check out.

On the Web: www.stbenedictcenter.com.

Sacred Heart Monastery

GATHERING OF BENEDICTINE OBLATES

At the National Meeting of North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors (NAABOD), there was a suggestion to have a day of sharing with other Oblates within our region. The Benedictine Sisters at Immaculata Monastery in

Norfolk offered to host a gathering. It is scheduled for August 10, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The day is in the “planning stages,” with the title, “Living as a Benedictine Oblate in Today’s World.” It will be a day for oblates, with a few talks given by oblates from our different areas, group sharing and interaction and learning about each other’s practices in living the Benedictine Way of Life. Since the day is still in the planning stage, the planners are hopeful each community of Oblates would be a part of the day by sharing people who will serve as a speaker, being part of a panel, or providing an icebreaker. If you are willing to do any of these tasks, please let me know. Thank you for considering this ministry.

—Sister Joelle Bauer, Oblate Director

Sister Joelle writes:

As we journey forward in life this Lent, may we in quiet and solitude enter into prayer, and as St. Benedict often suggests, discover God in the ordinary events of our life. Wayne Muller says, “Stillness. This is one of our fears of quiet; if we stop and listen, we will hear this emptiness But this emptiness has nothing at all to do with our value or our worth. All life has emptiness at its core; it is the quiet hollow reed through which the wind of God blows and makes the music that is our life. Without that emptiness, we are clogged and unable to give birth to music, love and kindness. So, during Lent, we band together as we traverse the valley of life toward God.

—From the Oblate Newsletter:

www.yanktonbenedictines.org/documents/March2014Newsletter.pdf

Sacred Art Show

ART FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

“The purpose of art is nothing less than the upliftment of the human spirit.”

—Blessed John Paul II

The Sacred Art Show is an art show and sale of Catholic art by Catholic artists to enhance spiritual devotion and bring beauty into the world, all for the Glory of God!

Friday, April 4 and Saturday, April 5, 2014

Blessed John XXIII Diocesan Center

3700 Sheridan Blvd.

Lincoln, Nebraska

Schedule of Events

Friday, April 4, 5:30–9:00 p.m.

- Hors d’Oeuvres
- Wine Tasting by James Arthur Vineyards
- Sacred music by pianist Amy Flamminio and Harpist Anne Pfeifer
- Children’s Art Corner
- Silent Auction of original painting by Bishop James Conley and Sue Kouma Johnson, with proceeds from the painting donated to St. Gianna Women’s Home.

Saturday, April 5, 9:00a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- 11:00 a.m.: Talk on artwork of Christ’s Passion by Sondra Jonson, internationally acclaimed artist
- 2:00 p.m.: Sacred music performance by Seminarians from Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary, directed by Nicholas Lemme
- Artists’ Demonstrations
- Children’s Art Corner
- Continuation of Silent Auction of original painting by Bishop James Conley and Sue Kouma Johnson.

On the Web: www.sacredartshow.com.