



Benedictine Oblates of Nebraska

October 2003

OBLATE ASSIGNMENTS

LINCOLN CHAPTER, Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital

Sunday, Oct 12, 2003, 7-9 p.m. North Commons or

Monday, Oct 13, 2003, 7-9 p.m. Flanagan Room

Text: Preferring Christ, Chapters 36-42 plus Interlude VI, pages 107-115

NOTE: The group facilitators will lead us through Group Lectio on both Sunday and Monday evenings.

ASHLAND/GREENWOOD CHAPTER, Ashland, CCD Center

Thursday, October 2, 2003, 7-9 p.m.

Preferring Christ, Chapters 46-48, pgs. 120-126

Thursday, October 16, 2003, 7-9 p.m.

Preferring Christ, Chapters 49-53, pgs. 127-133

Thursday, October 30, 2003, 7-9 p.m.

Preferring Christ, Chapters 54-57, pgs. 134-138

IASTINGS CHAPTER, St. Michael's Church, Family Room

Saturday, October 11, 2003, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Present your Personal Rule of Life

STEINAUER CHAPTER, Banquet Hall, across from St. Anthony's Church

Monday, Oct 6, 2003, 7-9 p.m.

Preferring Christ, Interlude VI, p.115 thru Chapter 46, p.120

Group Lectio

Monday, Oct 20, 2003, 7-9 p.m.

Seeking God, Read Chapter 3, review study questions, Leader: Vic

OMAHA CHAPTER, All Saints Episcopal Church, 9302 Blondo, Omaha,

Tuesday, October 14, 2003, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Handbook: The Daily Office and Living in Community.

Tuesday, October 28, 2003, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Handbook: Simplification of Life.

A TOAST TO MOTHER EARTH, Sat. Oct. 4,

2003 from 10 a.m. to 4p.m., St. Benedict Retreat Center, Schuyler. The feast of St. Francis is an appropriate time to spend the day with nature's gifts of sun, sky, water and trees. Sr. Kathleen Courtney, OSB, SHM, will assist

the retreatants through video, reflection, journaling and walking in nature to develop an attitude of gratitude for life and nature's gifts. Call 402-352-8819 or email benedict.center@alltel.net.

SPAIN & Fatima, May 9-23, 2004, a 15 day Pilgrimage, led by Fr. Odo Recker, OSB, and Oblate LaVern Hayworth of Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary. You will be visiting sacred sites ancient and modern, spending time in prayer at Montserrat, Santiago and Fatima. Enjoy a retreat, make new friends, renew your faith and have fun. Call LaVern Hayworth at 541-567-9708 or email zerny@bossig.com.

CELL GROUPS; The following are the names of the Lincoln Cell groups, the facilitators and times/places for meeting. If you are an Oblate and would like to join a Cell, call Sister Phyllis at 488-6731 or email phunhoff@ix.netcom.com

- **BEGINNER'S CELL** (RB 73: 8), facilitator - Marcia Straatmeyer. Meets the 4th Sunday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Lancaster Room.
- **GRATIA DEI (GOD'S GRACE - RB PROL: 31) CELL**, facilitator Brigid Amos. Meets the Saturday morning after the monthly meeting, at 9 a.m. in the Lancaster Room, (first meeting Oct.18) at Madonna.
- **JULIAN of NORWICH CELL**, facilitator - JoAnn Druke. Meets the Saturday morning after the monthly meeting, at 9 a.m. in the Sheridan Room.
- **PAX CHRISTI CELL**, facilitator - Jana Pentz-McBride. Meets the first Monday (first meeting Oct. 6) 7- 8:30 p.m., Lancaster Room at Madonna.
- **SAINTS PLACID AND MAURUS CELL**, facilitator - Pat Shafer. Meets on the second Wednesday of the month at Aldersgate United Methodist Church at 84th and South Streets at 7:30 PM.
- **SUBIACO CELL**, facilitator - Tim Fisher. Meets every other Saturday in the Lancaster Room at 8 a.m.

OBLATE NOTES:

- Congratulations to Shirley Cruickshank, Oblate (98) who received the "Excellence in Promotion of Resident Health and Quality of Life" Award at the inauguration of St. Jane de Chantal Extended Care at Madonna on August 18. She has been at Madonna for seven years as a CNA. She arrives early and stays late to assure all is done for her residents.
- Congratulations to Ron Naugle, Oblate, who has received the Sower's Award, Nebraska's most prestigious award. Ron's wife, Gretchen, also an Oblate says, "The Sower Award presentation and dinner went very well. It was a great time for all of us, including our daughter, Meredith."
- Special prayers for Sr. Phyllis who broker her wrist playing tennis.

"FORMING THE MONASTIC HEART WITH LECTIO DIVINA"

(From the North American Association of Oblate Directors' Meeting 8-21-03)

Lectio Divina resides in the heart of the monk, in their holy of holies.

In *lectio* the monk encounters God.

In *lectio* the monk communes with the Word—as text, as person, & as God.

The Monastic Heart begins, is sustained by, and ends in listening for the Divine Presence as it is revealed in the Word and the world.

Lectio calls a monk to a dynamic and intimate encounter with God.

Lectio is a personal way to pray... it unites our hearts with the heart of Jesus.

Lectio is conversational. Friendships, all friendships are nurtured in conversation.

Lectio helps the monk form a heart of welcome, welcoming God, others and our true selves.

Lectio voices the fundamental call of discipleship: to place ourselves in the service of God and others.

Lectio invites us to be still, so too does God. It helps us with patience.

In *lectio* the monastic heart hears God call out: "Trust me!"

The Monastic Heart, having heard the Word, learns to love tenderly, act justly and walk humbly with God.

The Monastic Heart embraces *conversatio* and *lectio* and is built on the cornerstone of *conversatio*.

The Monastic Heart is firmly rooted in the Word of God. *Lectio* is the catalyst that helps it take root.

A PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

(Submitted by Jane and Ken Johnson, Oblates)

--Rabbi Harold S. Kushner

Let the rain come and wash away
the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds
held and nurtured over generations.
Let the rain wash away the memory
of the hurt, the neglect.

Then let the sun come out and
fill the sky with rainbows.

Let the warmth of the sun heal us
wherever we are broken.

Let it burn away the fog
so that we can see beyond labels,
beyond accents, gender or skin color.

Let the warmth and brightness
of the sun melt our selfishness
so that we can share the joys and
feel the sorrows of our neighbors.

And let the light of the sun
be so strong that we will see all
people as our neighbors.

Let the earth, nourished by rain,
bring forth flowers,
to surround us with beauty.

And let the mountains teach our hearts
to reach upward to heaven.

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