



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 + May 2015

A Word from St. Benedict's Rule

PRAYING ON THE ROAD

“The brothers should serve one another. Consequently, no one will be excused from kitchen service unless he is sick or engaged in some important business of the monastery, for such service increases reward and fosters love. Let those who are not strong have help so that they may serve without distress, and let everyone receive help as the size of the community or local conditions warrant. If the community is rather large, the cellarer should be excused from kitchen service, and, as we have said, those should also be excused who are engaged in important business. Let all the rest serve one another in love.”

Source: *RB 35:1-6*

Reflection

TEACH ME TO SEEK YOU

Come now, you poor creature, turn your back on your busyness for a little while. For a few moments leave the tumult of your thoughts; throw off the burden of your cares and put aside your wearisome occupations. Make some time for God; rest in God for a while. Enter into the chamber of your mind; exclude everything but God, and what will help you find God; shut the door and search for God. Now say how you long to see God's face. Say to God: *Lord, it is your face that I seek.* Say it with your whole heart.

Come then, Lord my God, come and instruct my heart where and how to search for you, where and how to find you. Where shall I look for you, Lord, if you are absent and not here? And if you are everywhere, why are you not visible to me? But of course, your dwelling is in light inaccessible. Then

where is this light inaccessible, and how can I approach it? Who will guide me and conduct me into it so that I may see you? And then, by what signs, by what visible form shall I know you? I have never seen you; I do not know what you look like, Lord my God. What am I, this exile of yours, to do in a far off land, O most high God, what am I do? Banished far from your presence and distressed by my love for you, what shall your servant do? With burning desire I strive to see you, and your face is very far from me. I long to come to you, and your dwelling is inaccessible. I wish to find you, and have no idea where you live. I want to search for you and I do not know your face

O Lord how long? How long, Lord, will you forget us? How long will you avert your face from us? Look upon us, Lord, listen to us, enlighten us, show yourself to us. Give yourself to us again so that all may be well with us, for without you everything goes wrong for us. Look kindly upon our labors, our strivings to come to you, for apart from you, we can do nothing. Teach me to seek you, and to the searcher show yourself; for I can neither seek you unless you teach me how, nor find you unless you make yourself known. Let me seek you by my desire and grow in desire by seeking you. Let me find you by loving and grow in love by finding you.

From the *Proslogion* of St. Anselm (1033-1109 AD)

Sacred Heart Monastery News

RESIDENTIAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM FOR SINGLE WOMEN

The Purpose of our Volunteer Program is to provide single women with the opportunity to enhance their lives by sharing in the life, prayer, and ministries of our Monastery.

| 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>Lancaster 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> |

Ministry Opportunities

Work/ministry assignments are based on the volunteer's experience, interests, talents, and the needs of the Monastery. A variety of opportunities are available in areas such as: office work, computer work, reception desk, liturgical ministries, various household tasks, gardening, nursing care, cooking, baking, and more.

Are You a Woman Who ...

- Is looking for a meaningful work experience that enriches others?
- Is between jobs and not certain what the future holds?
- Is pursuing your education but in need of a break from the books in order to re-focus and re-direct your education?
- Is finished with school (for now) but not professionally committed?
- Would like some time and a place to do some serious reflection on your life?
- Is a professional who would like to share your talents and experiences in a monastic setting?
- Would welcome some time in a monastic setting in order to deepen your spirituality?
- Is at a crossroads in life and would like some time for discernment?
- Desires to experience the rhythm of life in a monastic community?
- Has thought about religious life and would like to live with our Community for a period of time?

A Volunteer ...

- Is someone who wants to serve others and enjoys the mutual enrichment of a religious monastic community.
- Is 21 years of age or older (or at least a junior in college) without dependents.
- Has a desire to experience Benedictine monastic life.
- Is in good physical health.
- Will be responsible for personal expenses (room and board are provided).
- Will provide for own financial, medical and personal needs.
- Has a willingness to commit to a specific period of time (one month to several months to a year or longer) Commitments are renewed annually.
- Will work around 30 hours a week (4-6 hours/day).

- Will provide the information requested on the application.

For more information:

www.yanktonbenedictines.org/center-events.

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.

OPPORTUNITY FOR MORNING PRAYER

Two of the Lincoln cell groups begin their gatherings in the Ryan Memorial Chapel with Morning Prayer. Everyone is invited to pray with them. This month, Morning Prayer will be held on three Saturdays—May 2, 16, and 30—beginning at 8:00 a.m. Please consider adding this prayer office to your spiritual life.

EVENING PRAYER

Those interested are invited to meet for vespers on the fourth Sunday of the month at 7 p.m. in the chapel at Madonna Rehabilitation. Currently, two cell groups meet on that day and join each other in the Chapel at Madonna for Vespers before splitting up for their cell gatherings. If anyone would like to come for group Vespers at that time, please join us!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SHORTER CHRISTIAN PRAYER

We remain in Easter Season until Pentecost on May 24, 2015. Continue to follow the Easter Season Readings and Antiphons. Prayers for Ascension Thursday, May 14, are on pp. 487-488. Pentecost is on May 24, 2015. Turn to pp. 489-498 for Evening Prayer I through Evening Prayer II for Pentecost.

We are in Ordinary Time until Advent. On Monday, May 25, 2015, we start with Week I, p. 54. The Sunday after Pentecost Sunday is the ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, p. 511.

MONASTERY AND CHAPTER GATHER PETITIONS

If you would like to send your prayer requests to the monastery, please use Sacred Heart Monastery's prayer request form.

On the Web:

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.

On the Web:

www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org/contact/.

Chapter Gatherings

ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER

On Sunday, June 14, 2015, all oblates of the Nebraska Chapters are invited to celebrate the end of another year of oblate gatherings. We will meet at 4:30 p.m. in the Chapel at Madonna in Lincoln. We will begin the celebration with Vespers in the Chapel, then move to the Sheridan Room for our annual potluck. Paper products and drinks will be provided. Please bring a salad, vegetable, desert, or main dish to share. Family members are welcome! Unfortunately, Sr. Phyllis will not be able to join us this year for the festivities due to a prior commitment.

CHAPTER READINGS

Readings for the monthly chapter meetings come from Norvene Vest's *Preferring Christ*. Since several editions of this book are in print, the references give the chapter and section listings, but not page numbers, which change, depending upon the edition.

- **May:** Chapter 7:51–70.

Web: www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org/gatherings/chapter-gathering/

HASTINGS CHAPTER

The general meeting will be Saturday, May 9, 2015, 9:30–11:30 a.m., in the Family Room at St. Michael's Church.

- Reading from *Preferring Christ*: Ch. 7:51–70
- Facilitator: Kathy Schroeder
- Reflection: Juliene Bryan
- Prayer Leader: Sharon Connor.

LINCOLN CHAPTER

General Gathering

General gatherings will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2015, 7:00–9:00 p.m., in the Sheridan Room at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, and Monday, May 18, 2015, 7:00–9:00 p.m., in the hospital's Lancaster Room. These meetings are one week later than usual to avoid conflicts with Mothers' Day.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Sr. Pia Rottinghaus, sub-prioress of the Missionary Benedictine Sisters at Immaculata Monastery, Norfolk, Nebraska, will be our special speaker, giving a talk about living by St. Benedict's *Rule* in the consecrated life. This talk helps the chapter to mark 2015 as a Year dedicated to Consecrated Life, as proclaimed by Pope Francis.

- Reading from *Preferring Christ*: Ch. 7:51–70.

OMAHA CHAPTER

The Omaha Chapter will gather on Tuesday, May 12, 2015, 7:00–9:00 p.m. at the New Cassel Retirement Center.

- The Reading is from *Preferring Christ*. The Omaha Chapter discussion will begin in Chapter 2, following Group Lectio and Vespers.

STEINAUER CHAPTER

The general gathering will be held on Monday, May 25, 2015, from 7:00–9:00 p.m., in the Banquet Room at Covenant House across from St. Anthony's Church.

- Reading from *Preferring Christ*: Ch. 7:51–70.

Nebraska Cell Groups

CELL GROUPS

The Nebraska Chapter has a variety of cell groups.

Web: www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org/cells/

READING FOR MAY

Reading this Month: *Discernment Matters* by Sr. Mary Margaret Funk, OSB. Chapter 2: The Practice of Self-Abandonment to the Present Moment: Attributed to Jean-Pierre De Caussade. The Practice of the Cloud of Unknowing: As Taught by the Unknown Author of The Cloud of Unknowing, pp. 71–80.

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.
- This Month: Saturday, May 23, 2015.
- Reading this Month: See above.

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.
- This Month: Monday, May 25, 2015.
- Readings this Month: See above.

LINCOLN**Beginners' Cell**

- Leader: Marti Fritzen
- Meetings: Monthly on the fourth Sunday at 7:00 p.m., beginning with Vespers in the Ryan Memorial Chapel at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. The group then moves to the Platte Room for its discussion.
- This Month: May 24, 2015.
- Readings this Month: See above.

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.

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.
- This Month: May 4, 2015 (**Changed because of Memorial Day.**)
- Readings this Month: See above.

Preferring Christ Cell

- Leaders: Paul Blotkamp and Charlotte Liggett
- Meetings: The fourth Sunday of every month at Madonna, 7:00 p.m.
- This Month: May 24, 2015.
- Readings this Month: See above.

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: May 2, 16, and 30, 2015.
- Readings this Month: See above.

Hildegard von Bingen Cell

- Leader: David Frye
- Meetings: Every other Saturday beginning at 8:00 a.m. with Morning Prayer in the chapel at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital.
- This Month: May 2, 16, and 30, 2015.
- May 2: ***Lectio Divina*** and **"Living by the Rule"** *"But as we progress in this way of life and in faith, we shall run on the path of God's commandments, our hearts overflowing with the inexpressible delight of love."* (RB Prol. 49)
Morning Prayer: Mary Schroer, Leader
Group Lectio Divina: RB Prol. 45–50, Steve Blum, Leader (Carol Brewer, Backup)
Discussion: With a few months of shared experiences in our cell, we will talk about the direction and focus of our cell gatherings. Please bring ideas for how we might structure our cell gatherings. If you have ideas for discussions, please bring those to share. We will set aside *Discernment Matters* during the summer months, so that we remain in step with the other cell groups.
Discussion Leader: David Frye
- May 16: **Discussion of *Discernment Matters***
Reading: See Above
Leader for Morning Prayer: Subiaco Cell
Discussion Leader: To be decided on May 2.
- May 30: **To Be Decided**
Morning Prayer: Member of the Hildegard von Bingen Cell.

Retreats**EXPLORATIONS IN CREATIVE PRAYER**

- Knowles Mercy Spirituality Center, Waterloo, Nebraska
- Thursday, June 11, 2015, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Glenda Dietrich Moore, artist and event leader
How can your own creativity support your listening and responding to the Spirit? Through visual expression we can learn to be true to our own voice, our own pace, and our own choices while listening to and being guided by God's Spirit. This day will awaken and celebrate the creative process in your life through a variety of prayer forms, scripture, reflection, and hands-on expression with art materials. You will be invited to be playful in your prayer life while partnering your own creativity with God's creative Spirit. Very

simple art materials (paint, collage, and clay) will be used in a non-threatening manner while focusing on the process rather than the end product, and *no* previous art experience is necessary. The creative prayer explorations practiced in this workshop also lend themselves to be used by participants at future times and places.

Location: Knowles Mercy Spirituality Center, 2304

Campanile Rd, Waterloo, NE 68069

Phone: 402.359.4288

Email: kmscenter@mercywmw.org

Website: www.kmscenter.org

Fee: \$40 includes lunch and art supplies.

EIGHTH ANNUAL OBLATE INSTITUTE:

THE PSALMS BELONG TO YOU

- Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, Kansas
- 6:00 p.m., Thursday, July 16, through 12:30 p.m., Sunday, July 19, 2015.
- Presenter: Sr. Irene Nowell, OSB

At this annual event, Benedictine oblates from across the country have an opportunity to hear prominent speakers and to share the experience of Benedictine spirituality in everyday life.

This year's speaker, Sr. Irene Nowell, OSB, is a Benedictine sister of Mount St. Scholastica, a renowned scholar, and an engaging speaker. She served on the translation team of the revised Old Testament of the New American Bible and the Committee on Illuminations and Texts for the Saint John's Bible. She is the author of *Numbers; Sing a New Song: The Psalms in the Sunday Lectionary*, and several other books, the latest of which is *Pleading, Cursing and Praising: Conversing with God Through the Psalms*. Her presentations will include: telling your story, crying out your pain, giving thanks to God, and singing your praise.

Details: Registration, costs, and information

for this and other retreat offerings:

www.sophiaspiritualitycenter.org or 913.360.6173.

PODCAST: THE RULE OF BENEDICT

Fr. Mauritius Wilde, OSB, Prior of Christ the King Priory in Schuyler Nebraska, presents a podcast on the *Rule of Benedict*. With host Kris McGregor, Fr. Mauritius provides commentary on various verses from chapters of the Rule.

Web: www.discerninghearts.com.

News

SPIRITUAL PAUSE RETREAT:

SEEING WITH THE EYES OF THE HEART

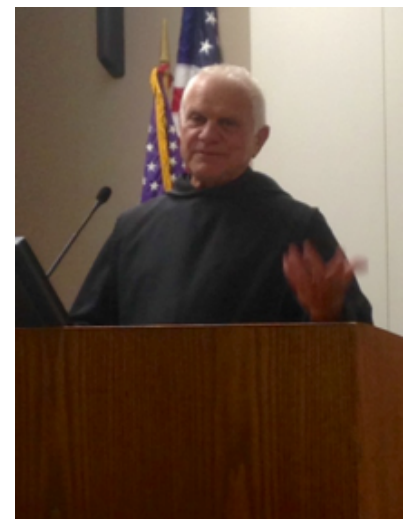


Charlotte Liggett and Charlene Gondring, Lincoln Oblates

On Saturday, April 25, Lincoln oblates Charlotte Liggett and Charlene Gondring presented a retreat on *Visio Divina: Seeing with the Eyes of the Heart* at Serenity Acres in Bennet, Nebraska. Retreat topics included a discussion of icons, praying with icons, contemplative photography, and use of visual stations as contemplative tools.

GUEST AT LINCOLN CHAPTER'S APRIL GATHERING

In honor of Pope Francis declaration of 2015 as the year of the Consecrated Life, the Nebraska Oblates have invited speakers from several monasteries to address our chapter meetings on the topic of living out the consecrated life



Fr. Tom Hillenbrand

according to the Rule of St. Benedict. Fr. Tom Hillenbrand, who will celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of his Priesthood on May 31, 2015, with a Mass and Reception at St. Benedict Center, Schuyler, Nebraska, gave an inspiring

autobiographical talk at our chapter meeting on May 12, 2015.



He spoke about how he has lived out his consecrated life, from the impact of his godly parents on his life, through his years at Blue Cloud Abbey, where he eventually served as Abbot for Blue Cloud, and the recent transfer of his stability to Christ the King Priory in Schuyler when Blue Cloud Abbey closed. He discussed some

significant trials he has experienced, and how his “Lodestar,” Jesus Christ, and his faith, saw him through these trials. His love of God and his compassionate heart toward others were evident in his story.

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.

SUGGESTED READINGS LISTED ON WEB SITE

The chapter’s Web site now includes a list of suggested readings focusing on Benedictine spirituality and prayer. You can find the list under “Resources” on the page with the title “Readings.”

David Frye, Lincoln oblate, is the Web Porter.

On the Web:

www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org/resources/readings/