



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 2016

A Word from St. Benedict's Rule

MAKING SATISFACTION

"If someone commits a fault while at any work—while working in the kitchen, in the storeroom, in serving, in the bakery, in the garden, in any craft or anywhere else—either by breaking or losing something or failing in any other way in any other place, he must at once come before the abbot and community and of his own accord admit his fault and make satisfaction. If it is made known through another, he is to be subjected to a more severe correction. When the cause of the sin lies hidden in his conscience, he is to reveal it only to the abbot or to one of the spiritual elders, who knows how to heal their own wounds as well as those of others, without exposing them and making them public."

Source: The Rule of Benedict, RB 46:1–5

A Word from the Wise

ENDURING TRIALS

"A person who, knowing what faults he has committed, willingly and with due thankfulness endures the trials painfully inflicted on him as a consequence of these faults, is not exiled from grace or from his state of virtue; for he submits willingly to the yoke of the king of Babylon (Jeremiah 27:17) and pays off his debt by accepting the trials. In this way, while remaining in a state of grace and virtue, he pays tribute to the



St. Maximos the Confessor

king of Babylon not only with his enforced sufferings, which have arisen out of the impassioned side of his nature, but also with his mental assent to these sufferings, accepting them as his due on account of his former offences. Through true worship, by which I mean a humble disposition, he offers to God the correction of his offenses."

From *The Philokalia* by St. Maximos the Confessor. "Various Texts on Theology, the Divine Economy, and Virtue and Vice" (#90)

Sacred Heart Monastery News

SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM

We are happy to announce that the application process for the 2016–2018 Spiritual Direction Ministry Formation Program is beginning soon. If you are discerning a call to companioning others in their spiritual journeys, please send a note of inquiry to me at the address below. Also, if you know of someone who might benefit from this program, please forward the information to them. Thank you!

In peace,

Sr. Jeanne Ranek, OSB

Benedictine Peace Center
1005 W 8th St.
Yankton SD 57078
605.668.6292
jeanneranek@mtmc.edu

A MESSAGE FROM THE OBLATE DIRECTOR

We continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter rejoicing in the Risen Savior as we sing our Alleluias. During this season, we listen to the stories of the struggles and hardships of the early followers of Jesus. We, too, are followers of Jesus, and as his disciples, we are to dedicate and use all

CHAPTERS	DEANS	LOCATIONS
Hastings	Julienne Bryan, julienne.bryan@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Family Room, St. Michael's Church, Hastings
	Carol Barry, majorcarolb@yahoo.com	Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital
	Steve Blum, steve.blum@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Sheridan Room
Lincoln	Carol Olson, carol.olson@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	5401 South St.
	Jim Rea, jim.rea@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Lincoln
	Mary Schroer, mary.schroer@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	
Steinauer	Marcia Borchert, marcia.borchert@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org	Banquet Room, Convent House B&B, Steinauer

of our human resources for the kingdom of God. We are all part of God's plan, whether we are Religious or Oblates, to display exceptional ingenuity, but most of all to manifest our faith and that firm confidence that our human life will be transformed according to the likeness of Jesus's resurrection (Romans 6:5).

We will have times of triumph and defeat, even the empty tomb of Jesus, to distract us, but our eyes must be focused on Jesus and our hearts compassionate toward the world so our hope will help us to fulfill God's plan. "Do not be afraid! Go and carry the good news to my brothers and sisters across the world."

By Sr. Patricia Heirigs, Oblate Director. From the April Oblate Newsletter. See the entire newsletter under the "oblate" tab: www.yanktonbenedictines.org.

MEET THE SISTERS: SISTER MARIELLE

Sister Marielle celebrated her fifty years of religious profession at Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, South Dakota, on July 11, 2015, in the presence of her community, family, and friends. S. Marielle was born on June 3, 1944, to the late John and Amalia, as the youngest in a family of three girls and a boy. At the age of six, she began classes in a rural school a half mile from her farm home, the same farm where her father had been born and raised, in Bow Valley, Nebraska. S. Marielle was one of three first graders and her teacher was her oldest sister. As a student at Mount Marty High School, she came to know the Benedictine Sisters. Marielle feels she was attracted to religious life as long as she could remember. There was that desire to know God and to develop a close relationship with God and to help others. She finally succumbed to that desire when she entered Sacred Heart Convent in August 1963.

As a Benedictine Sister, S. Marielle zealously shared her love of scripture and theology in thirty-two years of teaching religious studies at Mount Marty College. Her excellent resource book, *Beginning Biblical Studies*, is a valuable tool for all who seek to improve their knowledge of facts related to biblical history and religious studies.



Sr. Marielle

Reflecting on her entrance into religious life, Sister Marielle stated, "I entered the community less than a year after Vatican Council II began in October 1962. As a result, I lived through the tumultuous years of the later 1960s and early 1970s when United States culture, the Catholic Church, and religious life were constantly undergoing monumental changes. While that made it much more challenging to discern and choose religious life, from today's vantage point, I can see that the long and sometimes very difficult process of discerning and making a commitment to monastic life in such times made me much stronger in that commitment. As St. Benedict tells us, monastic life requires lifelong, repeated transformations of life that will continue in the years to come."

Marielle made monastic profession on June 29, 1965, and now, fifty years later, she offers two quotations that summarize what that life means to her. The first is a familiar line from Scripture: "God's faithful love endures forever." The second is St. Benedict's primary instruction to monastics "Prefer nothing to the love of Christ" (RB 4:21, 72:11).

SHM'S OBLATES' RETREAT

The Oblate Retreat at Sacred Heart Monastery took place April 22-24, 2016. Nine oblates attended. Retreatants from Nebraska



were Lincoln oblates Carol Barry and Shirley Cruickshank, and Lincoln oblate novice Mary Shada. The program included talks on "Praying the Psalms," presented by Sr. Marietta, "The Body and Prayer/Spirituality" by Sr. Corinne, "The Arts and Spirituality" by Sr. Cynthia, and "Lectio Divina" by Sr. Sharon Ann, filling in for an ailing Sr. Doris. The retreatants gained many powerful insights on each topic. They enjoyed the hospitality of the Sacred Heart Sisters and the beautiful surroundings of the monastery. The retreat will be repeated in the fall.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER

On Sunday, June 12, 2016, all oblates of the Nebraska Chapters are invited to celebrate the end of another year of oblate gatherings. Srs. Phyllis Hunhoff and Patricia Heirigs from Sacred Heart Monastery will be with us for the evening.

We will meet at 4:30 p.m. at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln, beginning the celebration in the Sheridan Room with food and fellowship. Paper products and drinks will be provided. Please bring a salad, vegetable, dessert, or main dish to share. Family members are welcome! We will end the evening with Vespers in the Chapel.

This year we are introducing a book exchange at the potluck! Bring your spiritual books that you no longer need. We will have a space to display them for others to take home.

Worship Notes**OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYING THE DIVINE OFFICE**

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.

Some Lincoln oblates 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 at **8:00 a.m. on two Saturdays—May 14 and 28**. Please consider adding this prayer office to your spiritual life.

Oblates also will gather on the fourth Sunday of this month—**May 22—at 7:00 p.m.** in the Ryan Memorial Chapel by praying **Evening Prayer** together. Everyone is invited to share this time for praying the Divine Office.

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/.

SHORTER CHRISTIAN PRAYER INSTRUCTIONS

We continue in Easter Season until Pentecost, May 15, 2016. Continue to follow the Easter Season Readings and Antiphons. Prayers for Ascension Thursday, May 5, are on pp. 487–488. Pentecost is on May 15, 2016. Turn to pp. 489–498 for Evening Prayer I through Evening Prayer II for Pentecost. We are in Ordinary Time from Pentecost until Advent. On Monday, May 16, 2016, the Monday after Pentecost, we start with Week III, p. 203.

Chapter Gatherings**HASTINGS**

The Chapter Gathering will be Saturday, May 14, 2016, 9:30–11:30 a.m., in the Family Room at St. Michael's Church.

The discussion turns to Norvene Vest's *Preferring Christ*, Interlude VI, Lukewarmness and Its Remedies, Chapters 43–46.

- *Facilitator:* Kathy Schroeder
- *Reflection:* Jeanette Nordhues
- *Prayer Leader:* Sharon Connor.

LINCOLN

The Chapter Gathering will be held on Sunday, May 15, 2016, in the Sheridan Room at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital at 7:00 p.m. The chapter will reflect on and discuss Interlude VI, Lukewarmness and Its Remedies, Chapters 43–46, from *Preferring Christ* by Norvene Vest.

Following the discussions, everyone will gather in the Ryan Memorial Chapel for Evening Prayer.

NOTE: THE MEETING IS ONE WEEK LATER THAN USUAL BECAUSE MOTHER'S DAY FALLS ON THE SECOND SUNDAY.

LINCOLN CHAPTER RIDE-SHARING

Do you need a ride in order to get to the Lincoln Chapter gatherings? Are you able to give someone a ride? We'd like to match you up! Contact Carol Olson, Lead Dean, 402.486.0864 or carol.olson@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org, if you would like to be put on a list for ride sharing.

STEINAUER

The Chapter Gathering will be held on Monday, May 23, 2016, from 7:00–9:00 p.m., in the Banquet Room at Covenant House across from St. Anthony's Church. The chapter will read the "Initial Oblation" section of the Oblate Handbook.

NOTE: BECAUSE OF MEMORIAL DAY, THE MEETING IS ONE WEEK EARLIER THAN USUAL.

Consider Joining a Cell

Have you considered joining a cell group? The Hastings and Lincoln Chapters offer cell groups, small groups of oblates that meet monthly for study and fellowship. These small group meetings are considered supplemental to the monthly chapter gatherings. The small group format enables us to support one another in our spiritual journey as Benedictine Oblates. The Nebraska Cell groups are currently studying *Discernment Matters* by Sr. Mary Margaret Funk.

Please see the listings of cell groups below. The Hastings Chapter has cell groups in both Hastings and Grand Island. The Lincoln Chapter offers various cell groups, meeting at different times and days. One cell group meets in Omaha.

Cell groups are reserved for those who have made their Final Oblation in affiliation with Sacred Heart Monastery, unless other arrangements have been made. Please see Carol Olson, Lead Dean, for more information.

Cell Groups

READING FROM DISCERNMENT MATTERS

All of the cell groups across Nebraska share the same plan of scheduled readings for reflection from September through May.

Discernment Matters: Listening with the Ear of the Heart, Sr. Mary Margaret Funk

- **May:** Chapter 5—"Imitating Those Who Went Before Us?": pp. 191–212.

Full Schedule: www.nebraskabenedictineoblates.org/cells/

GRAND ISLAND CELL GROUP

Brother Lawrence Cell

This cell meets Monday, May 23, 2016, 4:30–5:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church, 2400 W 14th St., Grand Island.

HASTINGS CELL GROUP

St. Scholastica Cell

This cell meets Saturday, May 28, 2016, 9:30–10:30 a.m. in the Library at St. Michael's Church.

LINCOLN CELL GROUPS

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 22, 2016
- 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.

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 14 and 28, 2016
- May 14: **"Benedictine Monasticism and Mysticism" III**
Group *Lectio Divina: Rule of Benedict*, 42:1–4. Discussion: "Benedictine Monasticism and Mysticism," by Columba Stewart, OSB, pp. 21–30, leader TBD.
- May 28: **Discernment Matters**
Morning Prayer: leader TBD
Group *Lectio Divina: The Prayer of St. Patrick, Discernment Matters*, p. 207.
Discussion: *Discernment Matters* Ch. 5, "Imitating Those Who Went Before Us", pp. 191–212, leader TBD.

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: **Moved to June 13, 2016.**

Preferring Christ Cell

- Leader: Charlotte Liggett
- Meetings: The fourth Sunday of every month at Madonna, 7:00 p.m.
- This month: May 22, 2016.

Omaha Cell Group

- Leader: Phil Kelley
- Meetings: Fourth Tuesday of each month 7:00–9:00 p.m. at the New Cassel Retirement Center.
- This month: May 24, 2016.

Retreats: Sophia Spirituality Center

ST. BENEDICT'S STRATEGY FOR PERSONAL FREEDOM NINTH ANNUAL OBLATE INSTITUTE

- Sophia Spirituality Center, Atchison, Kansas

- Thursday, July 14, 2016, 6:00 p.m. to Sunday, July 17, 2016, 12:30 p.m.
- Presenter: Fr. Jerome Kodell, OSB

At this annual event, Benedictine oblates from communities 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, Father Jerome Kodell, is the former abbot of Subiaco Abbey in Arkansas, and a popular writer and retreat director.

About this institute, he says, "St. Benedict did not give us a law, a mandate to be fulfilled, but a rule, a guide to help us regulate our search for God. He introduces the Rule as 'advice from a father who loves you,' and wants to show us the way to interior freedom."

More information will be available in the coming months through oblate directors of the monasteries.

Details and Registration: www.sophiaspiritualitycenter.org.

Additional Retreats at the Sophia Spirituality Center

The center's full schedule for 2016 is posted on its Web site.

Details and Registration: www.sophiaspiritualitycenter.org.

Retreats: St. Benedict Center

THE WORD IN THE DESERT

- St. Benedict Center, Christ the King Priory, Schuyler, Nebraska
- Friday, June 3, 2016, 7:30 p.m. to Saturday, June 4, 2016, 4:00 p.m.
- Presenter: Kathleen Norris, OblSB.
- See Web site for commuter and resident fees.
- Early-Bird Registration through April 29.
- Friday or Saturday attendance only is possible.

The early Christian monks in the Egyptian desert spoke words of great wisdom to those who sought their assistance. In our desert experiences, we can benefit from their insights. Kathleen Norris has drawn deeply from this wisdom in her personal life, marriage, and relationship with God. Thus, her presentations will be at once intimate and historical, rich in poetry and meditations, brimming with exasperation and reverence, deeply grounded in both nature and spirit, sometimes funny, often provocative, and always important.

Details: www.stbenedictcenter.com.

Kathleen Norris:

www.barclayagency.com/site/speaker/kathleen-norris.

THE ART OF PAUSING

- St. Benedict Center, Christ the King Priory, Schuyler, Nebraska
- Saturday, June 25, 2016, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Presenters: **Sr. Kathleen Courtney and Sr. Marietta Kerkvliet, OSB, Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery.**
- Commuter Registration Fee: \$40.50.

*"What is this life if, full of care,
we have no time to stand and stare?"*

—William Henry Davies

How can I bring more awareness and balance into my life? What prevents me from taking time with God and those I love? Come share a day of learning, listening and leisure-ing.

Details: www.stbenedictcenter.com.

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.