



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 + June 2018

A WORD FROM ST. BENEDICT'S RULE

On hearing the signal for an hour of the divine office, the monk will immediately set aside what he has in hand and go with utmost speed, yet with gravity and without giving occasion for frivolity. Indeed, nothing is to be preferred to the Work of God. *Rule of Benedict Ch 43: vv1-3*

LECTIO DIVINA... A LITTLE PENTECOST

This past Sunday (May 20) was the Feast of Pentecost. As I listened to the lectionary reading from the book of Acts, I was struck by Acts 2:6-8. As the disciples spoke to the crowd each one in the crowd heard these Galileans speaking "in their own native language." Later on in the day, I led our community gathering in Lectio Divina. I shared a verse from 1 Peter, and as those in the community listened to the repeated readings for our group Lectio, the Holy Spirit spoke to each one of us, impressing upon each of us a word or phrase that spoke uniquely to us. **How like Pentecost!** Though everyone was hearing the same passage, the Holy Spirit was speaking to each of us "in our own native language." Through the same passage, we each heard the Spirit speak a word or phrase that had special meaning for us. Each time our community participates in group Lectio Divina, we are blessed to receive a small taste of Pentecost!

Steve Blum, Lincoln Dean

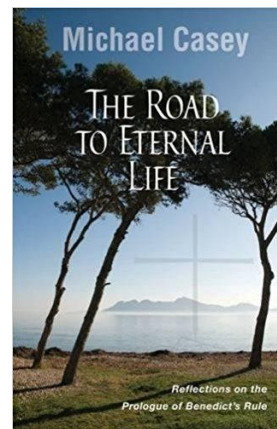
OBLATE ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER

On **Sunday, June 10, 2018**, all oblats of the Nebraska Chapters are invited to celebrate the end of another year of oblate gatherings. We will meet at 4:30 pm in the Sheridan Room at Madonna Rehabilitation center for food and fellowship. We will then move to the Chapel for Vespers. Paper

products and drinks will be provided. Please bring a salad, vegetable, main dish, or desert to share. Family members are welcome! Bring your Shorter Christian Prayer books.

This year we will again offer a book exchange at the potluck. Bring your spiritual books that you no longer need. We will have space to display them for others to take home. Any books not taken will be donated.

NEW BOOK FOR CHAPTER MEETINGS



For the next two years, the Chapters will be studying from the book *The Road to Eternal Life: Reflections on the Prologue of Benedict's Rule*, by Michael Casey, OSCO

In the Prologue of his Rule, St. Benedict maps out the road that leads to heaven;

he lays the foundation for life in a community that seeks God. The themes that are present throughout the Rule - obedience, humility, prayer, fear of the Lord, eternal life - are grounded in the Prologue.

By reflecting on the Prologue one verse at a time, Michael Casey, OCSO, delves into the richness of meaning that can be found in Benedict's words. These reflections, first given as talks and made available on his community's web site, build a bridge between the sixth-century text and

CHAPTERS	DEANS	LOCATIONS
Hastings	Juliene Bryan, juliene.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

twenty-first-century Christians. In *The Road to Eternal Life*, Casey invites readers to reflect on the Prologue in light of their own experiences, to seek the road that leads to salvation. A Reading Plan for this book is attached.

OBLATE REGIONAL GATHERING

The monks at Christ the King Priory, Schuyler, NE, have agreed to host the 2018 Oblate Regional Meeting on **September 8-9, 2018**, at their Retreat Center. Father Volker Futter will be the host, and he has reserved 30 rooms for religious and Oblates who plan to attend this meeting and stay overnight. The cost for a single room is \$44.00 for a night and \$37.00 per person for a double room. Meals are not included so breakfast is \$7.50, noon meal is \$8.95, and the evening meal is \$9.70. When you register for a room, you will need to tell them which meals you will eat.

The focus for the weekend will be looking into the future of Oblates and their role in Benedictine life and in society. Oblates will be carrying a vital part in religious communities as membership is declining and aging. Also, Oblates carry a powerful witness in and for society. Oblates will be the bridge of what has been or what will be. We can never underestimate the giftedness of the Oblates. The first conference will begin at 2:00 pm on Saturday, September 8, 2018, and the Regional Gathering of Oblates will end after lunch on Sunday, September 9, 2018. **Please register by August 15, 2018**, if you plan to attend. Please make your reservations soon as there are only 30 rooms available. To register contact either:

Fr. Volker Futter, OSB
Christ the King Priory
1123 Road 1, PO Box 528
Schuyler, NE 68661
402-352-2177
frvolker@benedictinemissionhouse.com

-or-

St. Benedict Center Retreat House
1126 Rd 1, Box 528
Schuyler, NE 68661
402-352-8819
retreats@stbenedictcenter.com

STEINAUER CHAPTER INVITES ALL!

"Humility & Peacemaking: How Benedict's Rule Can Guide Oblates in Healing the World"
Our world, as it was in Benedict's time, is full of chaos and conflict. Join us in learning how we, as Oblates, can move relationships in our community towards healing. The Steinauer Oblate Chapter will be the host for this retreat, on **Sunday, July 15th** from 2-4pm at The Convent House Bed & Breakfast. Carpools will be available, leaving from Lincoln (meet at Madonna) at 12:30p. Please RSVP by July 13th to carol.olson@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org to attend the retreat. Please tell us if you will be using the carpool. Guests are welcome to attend.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sr. Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB will be speaking at the St. Benedict Center in Schuyler Nebraska on **September 28-29, 2018**. Sr. Wiederkehr is the author of our current cell book, *Seven Sacred Pauses*.

NEBRASKA BENEDICTINE OBLATE ANNUAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING

The annual orientation meeting for those interested in becoming oblats will be held on **Sunday, August 26, 2018 at 7 pm** in the Sheridan rooms at Madonna. This is an opportunity to learn more about oblats and does not commit participants to join. Please consider inviting anyone you know who may be interested in learning more, and perhaps join them at the meeting as a gesture of hospitality. There is an informational handout attached, suitable for posting on bulletin boards or handing out, to help spread the word about this opportunity to learn more about our oblate community.

SHORTER CHRISTIAN PRAYER INSTRUCTIONS

We leave the Easter Season on Pentecost, May 20, 2018. On the Monday after Pentecost we start with Week III, page 203. We are in Ordinary Time from Pentecost until Advent, so we just follow the four week Psalter (no extra ribbons needed).

CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF ST. BENEDICT WITH VESPERS

The feast of St. Benedict is July 11. Join fellow oblates in praying Vespers in the James E. Ryan Chapel at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital on that day. Those who are interested will meet at the Chapel at 6:30 on Wednesday, July 11, 2018. Bring your Shorter Christian Prayer books.

OPPORTUNITY TO PRAY THE DIVINE OFFICE

Twenty years ago, Sr. Phyllis Hunhoff started the practice of meeting for morning prayer on Friday mornings in the Madonna Chapel. Everyone is invited, whenever you are able, to meet at 7:30 am for morning prayer. This is a wonderful way to start the day!

MADONNA ANNIVERSARY!

This year, Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital is celebrating their 60th anniversary. As part of the anniversary events, there will be a Feast Day celebration on July 11, 2018 from 2:00-4:00 pm.

READING ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2018-2019

**Road To Eternal Life - Michael Casey –
Reading Plan for Benedictine Oblates of
Nebraska**

2018-2019

September	Preface, Intro, Chapters 1 & 2
October	Chapters 3, 4, & 5
December	Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9
January	Chapters 10, 11, 12
February	Chapters 13, 14, 15
March	Chapters 16, 17, 18
April	Chapters 19, 20, 21
May	Chapters 22, 23, 24

2019-2020

September	Chapters 25, 26, 27
October	Chapters 28, 29, 30
December	Chapters 31, 32, 33, 34
January	Chapters 35, 36, 37
February	Chapters 38, 39, 40
March	Chapters 41, 42, 43
April	Chapters 44, 45, 46
May	Chapters 47, 48, 49, 50



Benedictine Oblate

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Benedictine Oblates are Christian men and women who yearn for a spiritual life deeply rooted in God, and who choose to affiliate themselves with a specific Benedictine Community while striving to live the spirit of the **Rule of St. Benedict** in response to this yearning. The word "Oblate" comes from the Latin *oblatus*... an offering, someone or something that is given. Oblates strive to shape their lives in accordance with Benedictine spirituality.

If you would like to hear more about our community, its values, culture and spirituality, or are just curious to learn a little more about what it means to be a Benedictine, please come join us for an informational meeting on Sunday August 26th 2018 in the Sheridan Room at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital at 5401 South Street. We look forward to meeting you!

MADONNA
REHABILITATION
HOSPITAL

SHERIDAN ROOM

5401 SOUTH ST.

SUNDAY AUG. 26
7:00 PM

WE WELCOME YOU
TO JOIN US FOR AN
INFORMATIONAL
MEETING!

For more information:

Call Senior Dean Carol Olson

402-486-0864

carol.olson@nebraskabenedictineoblates.org

or visit our website

nebraskabenedictineoblates.org