Greetings Everyone,

I trust that this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the final days of summer. Our summer has been very mild and we have been blessed with needed moisture. The fields are lush. The harvest will be abundant (assuming we avoid the storms).

It was delightful to see some of you at the ABA at Conception Abbey a few weeks ago. I found the presentations insightful and informative.

The speakers have been confirmed for our conference next summer.

**NAABOD 2015 July 10 - 15, 2015**

**Nurturing Benedictine Spirituality: From Theory to Practice**

Abbot Jerome Kodell, OSB, Subiaco Abbey, Subiaco, AR
Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB, St. Scholastica Monastery, Fort Smith, IN
Karen Joseph, OSB, Monastery of the Immaculate Conception, Ferdinand, IN

Many of our NAABOD regions have met. Our region met last Sunday. Thank you, Sr. Celine Schock of Immaculata Monastery, Norfolk, NE.

To this email, I have attached an amendment to the NAABOD Constitution submitted by Fr. Meinrad. Please take a moment to read this. I have asked Sr. Antoinette Purcell if she would also like to submit an amendment.

I sincerely hope that you, your assistant/associate directors along with two of your oblates are planning to attend NAABOD 2015. We have an excellent program prepared. Our biennial conferences/meetings is designed to educate, renew, and enrich the oblate leadership and the our oblate chapters. Please plan to bring oblates of your monasteries and abbeys who are already assisting in your local chapters.
If finances will prevent your attendance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Financial assistance is available to assist with NAABOD membership dues and with NAABOD 2015 registration fees.

Oblate directors, please remember to forward this NAABOD newsletter to your assistant/associate directors. This email is only sent to the oblate directors, not to the assistants. Thank you.

**Upcoming Events:**

Sacred Heart Monastery, Cullman, AL [http://www.shmon.org/retreat-center-upcoming-programs.html](http://www.shmon.org/retreat-center-upcoming-programs.html)
Subiaco Abbey, Subiaco, AR [http://www.countrymonks.us/](http://www.countrymonks.us/)
Our Lady of Guadalupe Monastery, Phoenix, AZ [http://www.olgmonastery.com/Events_Calendar.html](http://www.olgmonastery.com/Events_Calendar.html)
St. Scholastica Monastery, Chicago, IL [http://osbchicago.wordpress.com/](http://osbchicago.wordpress.com/)
Monastery Immaculate Conception, Ferdinand, IN [http://www.thedome.org/](http://www.thedome.org/)
St. Gertrude Monastery, Ridgely, MD [www.osbbridgely.com/](http://www.osbbridgely.com/)
St. Paul Monastery, St. Paul, MN [https://www.stpaulsmonastery.org/Calendar.aspx](https://www.stpaulsmonastery.org/Calendar.aspx)
Christ the King Priory, Schuyler, NE [http://www.missionmonks.org/](http://www.missionmonks.org/)
Queen of Heaven Monastery, Warren, OH  http://www.shmlisle.org/
Queen of Angels Monastery, Mount Angel, OR  http://www.benedictine-srs.org/whatsnew.html
St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, PA  http://www.saintvincentarchabbey.org/
Queen of Angels Monastery, Mount Angel, OR  http://www.benedictine-srs.org/vocationevents.html
St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, PA  http://www.stvincentmons.com
Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, SD  http://yanktonbenedictines.org/
St. Benedict Monastery, Canyon, TX  http://www.osbcanontx.org/
Good Shepherd Monastery, Rio Grande City, TX  http://starrcb.com/wp/news-and-events/
St. Martin’s Abbey, Lacey, WA  http://www.stmartin.edu/abbey/
Holy Wisdom Monastery, Middleton, WI  http://benedictinewomen.org/
House of Bread Monastery, Nanaimo, Vancouver, BC Canada  http://www.houseofbreadmonastery.com/

Amendment offered by Saint Meinrad Archabbey to Constitution of NAABOD:

At each biennial convention every Oblate Director will be permitted to bring two oblate delegates. Exception to the number of oblates will be granted by the President.

This amendment is to replace:

ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES
Section 2. Biennial Convention Program Planning Committee
Paragraph 3
At the discretion of the directors at their biennial convention, oblates may be invited to attend the next convention, with two (2) oblates accompanying each Oblate Director. Exception to the number of oblates will be granted by the President.

We see the necessity of Oblates attending the NAABOD meeting due to the following reasons.

1) Oblates bring a fresh new set of perspectives on Oblate life and community to the NAABOD.
2) Oblate Directors and Oblates should be working together to help deepen their communal relationship with God and Spirituality.
3) Any material or conferences given at a NAABOD meeting can enrich both Oblate Directors and Oblates.
4) Important to remember that the monastic movement was originally a lay movement in which the Spirit drew them together into the desert to train and learn from each other in preparation for individual encounters with God.
5) Separating the Oblates from NAABOD or having separate national meetings could lead to a loss of shared identity with the monastic houses. Already separate Benedictine interest groups exist not attached to monastic houses such as Friends of St. Benedict.
6) Previously, NAABOD hosted separate meetings for Oblates and Directors at the national meeting that proved fruitful for both and provided an opportunity for each of the groups to interact in a familiar manner.
7) Maybe the Oblate Directors could arrive at a NAABOD meeting a day earlier and thus have a whole day to accomplish many tasks and interact socially.
8) It is important, however, to remember not all Oblate Directors are professed religious of their respective houses, some of the monastic houses have lay Oblate Directors.
9) NAABOD has benefited from the inclusion of Oblates in the meetings and the general feeling of community has deepened through their presence.
10) Oblates should be appointed by the Oblate Director.