

Greetings Oblate Directors,

We are approaching the final days of summer once again. Our weather has been a mixture of hot, dry, cool, and wet. We have Riverboat Days here in Yankton this weekend. This event usually more than doubles our population. The weather forecast looks ideal. I will help with the 5K Run and then I will walk in the parade as a part of Mount Marty College. Will wear our school colors and hand out candy. It is always a fun weekend. Lots of arts and crafts booths, food booths, games, competitions, and entertainment. I will be back in my office at our college on Monday. So, the summer will be over for me.

NAABOD 2017 (July 10-15), *Nurturing Benedictine Spirituality from Theory to Practice*, was a fantastic success!!! Approximately 70 attended representing approximately 40 different monasteries. A heartfelt THANK YOU to Fr. Mark Stengel and the monks, staff, and oblates of Subiaco Abbey, Subiaco Arkansas. We had four keynote addresses presented by:

- Fr. Jerome Kodell, Subiaco Abbey, Subiaco, AR,
- Sr. Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB – St. Scholastica Monastery, Fort Smith, AR,
- Sr. Karen Joseph, OSB – Monastery of the Immaculate Conception, Ferdinand, IN,
- Jane Tomaine, Episcopal Priest, Mountainside, NJ

During the conference, we visited Mount Magazine, St. Scholastica Monastery, Fort Smith, AR, the Post Winery and St. Mary's Church in Altus, AR. The swimming pool became popular gathering space in the evenings after the socials and the tours. Jane Tomaine gifted each monastery represented at the conference with the revised edition of St. Benedict's Toolbox: The Nuts and Bolts of Everyday Benedictine Living, available through Morehouse Publishing.

At the business meeting, the following amendment to the NAABOD Constitution was approved:

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.”

In addition, Sr. Bonita Gacnik (Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, SD) was reelected to a second term as NAABOD President. The second term is a two-year term. Fr. Mark Stengel (Subiaco Abbey, Subiaco, AR) was elected to serve a two-year term as NAABOD Vice-President. And, Sr. Priscilla Cohen (Sacred Heart Monastery, Cullman, AL) was appointed to continue to serve as NAABOD Secretary and Treasurer. Thank you, Fr. Mark and Sr. Priscilla.

At NAABOD 2017, a new NAABOD Administrative Team will need to be elected. As we prepare for NAABOD 2017, prayerfully consider possible candidates for president and vice-president.

Also, if your monastery is able to host NAABOD 2017, please contact me. As soon as the location has been determined and conference dates will be established.

Announcements

- Please forward the NAABOD newsletters to each of your assistant and associate directors. This newsletter is only sent to the primary oblate director for each monastery. You may also wish to share this newsletter with your oblates.
- We are already beginning to plan NAABOD 2017. The location has yet to be determined. As you plan to attend NAABOD 2017:
 - remember to bring each of your assistant directors and two of your oblates.
 - If you are not able to attend, remember to send your assistant directors and two of your oblates.
 - If none of your oblate directors are able to attend, please remember to send two of your oblates.
 - If you need financial assistance to attend NAABOD 2017, please contact me. Scholarship funding is available for directors (and assistant directors) who are members of monastic communities.
 - Scholarship funding is also available for NAABOD Membership dues.

For spiritual enrichment opportunities for your oblates, please review the websites of the Benedictine Monasteries listed at: <http://www.naabod.org/map.htm> This link lists Benedictine Monasteries with oblates.

The Oblate Director's Handbook is now available on the NAABOD website: <http://www.naabod.org/HANDBOOK.pdf> If you do not have a printed copy of the handbook and would like one, please contact me and I will mail one to you.

To this email, I have attached the articles used by Fr. Jerome Kodell for his NAABOD 2015 keynote and the text of Sr. Macrina Wiederkehr's keynote address.

I wish each of you blessings on the remainder of your summer. Thank you for your special ministry to our oblates.

Blessings & Peace,
Sr. Bonita Gacnik,
NAABOD President