

NAABOD Newsletter December 2015

Greetings Oblate Directors,

We are approaching the final days 2015 and we begin the holy Season of Advent, a blessed time of waiting and anticipation. I just returned from a week with my family in Colorado. I was fortunate to be able to get to and from Colorado in between snow storms. We had over a foot of snow just before I left, and the day after my return, we received around 6". Both snows were lovely, no wind, quiet and peaceful. I love snow whether it arrives in the midst of ice and wind or whether it arrives gently. Yes, I realize that I am in the minority with regard to this. ☺

Our previous newsletter was in August just after our fantastic NAABOD 2015, (July 10-15), *Nurturing Benedictine Spirituality from Theory to Practice*. NAABOD 2017 will be hosted by the oblates and directors of St. Scholastica Monastery on the campus of the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, MN. As always, our theme with nurture Benedictine spirituality and leadership among our oblates and directors. I will visit Duluth next spring. As we anticipate NAABOD 2017, consider which of your oblates (each Monastery is encouraged to bring two oblates who have demonstrated leadership potential) will accompany you. Ideally, each of the oblate directors (associate & assistant directors) of your Monastery are encouraged to attend. It is a gift to share mutually enriching experiences with regard to our Oblate Ministries. NAABOD 2017 scholarships will be available for directors who need financial assistance in order to attend.

The NAABOD web site (www.naabod.org) has been updated to include the membership form for 2016. Scholarship funding is also available for NAABOD 2016 Membership dues.

Because we do not have our national meeting/conference next summer, each region will host a regional meeting.

Announcement

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.

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.

I wish each of you a holy and renewing Advent Season and a Christmas Season that is filled with many blessings. Thank you for your special ministry to our oblates.

Blessings & Peace,
Sr. Bonita Gacnik,
NAABOD President