



Greetings Oblate Directors,

I trust you are well and enjoying the last few days of spring. We are hot and dry. Our temps are in the high 90s. Yes, we are experiencing the “Heat Wave” that is encompassing much of the country. We have a chance for rain this week. I am hoping that this prediction is correct. Although we had a lovely wet spring, things are drying out quickly with the heat.

As many of you know already, **NAABOD 2017** will be hosted by the Benedictines of St. Scholastica in Duluth, MN. The dates for the conference have been determined, **June 14-19, 2017**. “**Benedictine Values & Practices: Tools for Living, Tools for Life**” is the theme of our conference. I am in the process of securing our keynote speakers. When I have these, I will send out another newsletter. But, I want you to mark your calendars, reserve these dates so that you and your associate/affiliate oblate directors and two of your oblates will be able to attend. Some of you will drive to the conference; however, some of you may need to fly. As you begin your planning, I suggest that you fly into the Minneapolis, MN airport and then take the shuttle to Duluth. This is cheaper than flying directly into Duluth, MN.

As the date for NAABOD 2017 draws near, please remember to send me the list of oblates who have died since NAABOD 2015. Or, if your list of deceased oblates was not included in NAABOD 2015, please provide me with your lists from previous years as far back as is appropriate.

Remember to set up your regional meetings this summer. We have much to share together. Sr. Celine Schock & Sr. Catherine Schiltmeyer of Immaculata Monastery in Norfolk, NE will be coordinating our area meeting. We are considering a possible retreat for our oblates and meeting for our directors. The format of each regional meeting will be different, however, the time together enriching.

Also, scholarships are available for directors (religious) for NAABOD 2017. Please contact me if you need financial assistance in order to attend NAABOD 2017 or if you need financial assistance in order to pay your annual NAABOD Membership.

Blessings & Peace,

Sr. Bonita

S. Bonita Gacnik, OSB
President, North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors (NAABOD)