SPRING CONVOCATION 2021

Conception Abbey

June 14-19, 2021

Dear Abbot, Brothers and Sisters:

In less than three short months, many of us will be gathering in-person for Spring Convocation. Much has happened since we last were together in person in October 2019. The pandemic has taught us all much, most importantly the need to stay connected and in touch.

I have revised the registration for to include name, address, email, phone number and emergency contact. This is required by the Abbey Guest Center for contact tracing and was one of the stipulations upon which they could reopen. Providing it for me on the form will increase my efficiency by ensuring I have correct information.

Your form is due back to me via email (srmarthaosb@yahoo.com) **no later than May 1, 2021.** For simplicity, you only need to complete the form if you **are** attending. For those unable to attend, a courtesy email to me for my records would be appreciated even if you have previously notified the Abbot.

Please be assured that every precaution is being undertaken to ensure safety. Masks will be required in all public spaces when not eating or drinking, except in your rooms. Hand sanitizer and wipes will be available in the Oratory and Marian Hall, and you are encouraged to bring both for your room if desired. Social distancing will be practiced in the Oratory. Paper copies of documents will be kept to a minimum. You will be sent PDF’s of the breviaries for Matins and Mid-Day Prayer and of Eucharist service bulletins. You are encouraged to read them from a tablet or smart phone. A wi-fi “hot spot” will be available for this purpose in the Oratory. Brother Joseph Florian will have more information about this as we get closer. **You will still need a prayer book and hymnal or copies of the hymns.**

Our first gathering on Monday June 14 will be at **2:00 PM.**

* If you are driving, please plan accordingly to ensure time to find your room, change to habit and be on time. If you would like to arrive at Conception on Sunday evening, that can be arranged; please be sure to indicate that accordingly on your reservation form. **As close an estimate as possible is required as Conception conducts temperature screening so they need to have someone meet you.**
* If you are flying, use the Kansas City International Airport (MCI).
	+ A bus will pick you up at **12:00** noon on Monday June 14 at the Four Points by Sheraton KCI, for transportation to Conception Abbey. (See hotel information below). Arrival Sunday evening is strongly recommended to avoid the inconvenience of Monday morning flight delays.
	+ On Saturday June 19, a bus will transport you from Conception Abbey back to the airport. The bus departs at **10:00** AM.
	+ Your return flight on Saturday June 19 should depart no earlier than 2:00 PM. It is approximately a 90-minute trip to the airport. Arriving there around 11:30 allows ample time for check in, baggage handling, getting through security and getting a bite to eat before your flight if desired. It also allows for unexpected delays.
	+ If a 2:00 PM or later flight departure causes undue hardships, please contact Sr. Martha **before** finalizing reservations to ensure earlier transportation to the airport is available.
* If you are not staying the full week, please be specific as to arrival and departure on your reservation form. If you must fly and cannot stay the full week – again – please contact Sr. Martha **before** finalizing reservations to ensure airport transportation is available.

The recommended hotel is the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel. They have a complimentary shuttle from the airport, and a restaurant that serves a breakfast buffet and dinner. Rates on their direct website in mid-March were about $90 for June 13 depending on room type, refundability, etc. Other travel sites may have different rates. Learn more about the property here: <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/mcifp-four-points-kansas-city-airport/>

For those who have not been to Conception Abbey, we are housed in Marian Hall, a dormitory-style guest house. Each member will have a private room or, in the case of couples, with your spouse/partner. A ½-bath (sink and toilet) connects with an adjoining room. Depending on our final numbers, I have been advised by Conception that they will try to leave the connecting room empty. Showers will be assigned so the same 2-3 people will use the same shower all week.

When you arrive at Conception, stop at St. Raphael Hall right off the circular drive to get your room key and for temperature screening. For those on the bus, it will stop there before driving you around to Marian Hall.

If you have been clothed in habit, you will be expected to wear it. Members who are also ordained clergy are asked not to wear collars except when serving at Eucharist. Black is the color of the day under your habit.

I believe this is all for now. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me directly via email to srmarthaosb@yahoo.com or phone/text at 913-709-3195.