Dear Bishop, Abbot, Brothers and Sisters, and Guests

It is hard to believe that in just a few short days many of us will gather at Conception Abbey for our Spring Convocation. Here are a few last minute reminders:

1. Please bring your Book of Common Prayer. We are not singing this year, so no hymnal required.
2. Please bring a smart device (such as I-Pad or Kindle, etc.) if you have one. We will be using our *Opus Dei* app for Matins, Noon Prayer and Vespers. A copy of Compline is attached that you may wish to print, as we will be praying before the app switches to this Office. Wi-Fi will be available in the Oratory and dormitory.
3. FOR THOSE FLYING – when you arrive in Kansas City, locate an airport courtesy phone and contact the FOUR POINTS by SHERATON KCI AIRPORT HOTEL. They will pick you up and bring you to the hotel. A bus will pick everyone up at 12:00PM Noon SHARP central time on Monday for the trip to Conception Abbey. Sr. Toni has agreed to be the bus coordinator. Her cell # is 803-261-1825.

I believe everyone on the bus is arriving Sunday, but if you are arriving on Monday morning and your flight is delayed to the extent you cannot be at the Sheraton by Noon central time, please notify her as soon as you can so she knows to wait for you if possible, or so we can make other arrangements to get you to Conception.

1. FOR THOSE ARRIVING SUNDAY AND STAYING AT THE SHERATON – It has become a tradition to share dinner about 6:00PM. Meet at the entrance of the restaurant ; if you arrive later feel free to join us for a drink and/or dessert. I won’t be at the hotel this year, so if you wish to gather Monday morning for Matins, you’ll need to coordinate among yourselves at dinner and get the word out.
2. KEYS – All keys will be on a table in St. Raphael Hall (the building where the gift shop and bookstore is located). I will ask Sr. Toni to have the bus stop there first before driving you around to Marian Hall. Those driving will need to stop as you arrive. For those not familiar with the campus, St. Raphael Hall is right off the circle drive as you enter the property.
3. The ROTA and schedule is attached. Please review it and make note of your assigned ministries. I tried to the best of my ability to honor everyone’s requests, but remember that The Rule instructs we may sometimes be called upon to perform outside of our comfort zones. If you are Officiant or doing a reading for Mass or an Office, be sure to become familiar with the text in advance. **Please also read the liturgical notes at the end. It contains reminders and information about some of our rubrics that are different for a community setting.**
4. HABIT – If you have been clothed in a cassock, remember that you should only wear black tops, bottoms, and shoes underneath. Midwest weather has been quite finicky lately. Please search for Conception, MO 64433 on your favorite weather website or app and plan accordingly.
5. ACCOMMODATIONS – For those who have not been to Conception Abbey, most of us will stay in Marian Hall, which is a dorm setting. Each member will have a single room (except for the couples who have requested doubles). Given that Conception has relaxed some of its COVID restrictions, it is possible some may share a ½ bath with an adjoining room. There are several showers shared by all on the floor. I will have these assigned so the same 2-3 people use the same shower all week. Bed and bath linens are provided but you will want your own toiletries.
6. WI-FI/CONNECTIVITY – We will have access to campus WI-FI during our stay. The user name and password will be provided on Monday. Also, Brother Florian will have a hot spot available in the dorm and in the Oratory. He will provide that sign on information on Monday as well. If you have a device with mobile data or that can function as a mobile hotspot, or if you bring a mobile WI-FI hotspot, you should get a reasonable signal. Although there is a cell tower near campus, this is a remote area so phone and/or data signals still tend to be intermittent. The Library will be open and has several computers with internet access available for guest use.
7. GIFT SHOP/BOOK STORE – Conception Abbey is well known for The Printery House, which makes an array of greeting cards and religious gifts. In addition to books for sale, the Gift Shop has a nice selection of Printery House merchandise.

I think this is all for now; if I’ve forgotten anything or you have any questions, please let me know. General questions can be asked via the list serve—because if you’re thinking it someone else probably is too. Personal or more specific questions should be addressed to me directly via email to srmarthaosb@yahoo.com or via phone/text to 913-709-3195. Can’t wait to see many of you next week.