SPRING/SUMMER CONVOCATION 2021

Conception Abbey

June 13-18, 2022

Dear Abbot, Brothers and Sisters:

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

The registration form continues to include emergency contact information. While it began as a pandemic requirement, it is helpful information for CSL leadership to keep on file.

Your form is due back to me via email (srmarthaosb@yahoo.com) **no later than May 15, 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.

In order to be good stewards of the environment, paper copies of documents will be kept to a minimum. We will use our on-line *Opus Dei* for offices. You will receive PDF’s of the bulletins for Eucharist. 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 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 13 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.
* If you are flying, use the Kansas City International Airport (MCI).
	+ A bus will pick you up at **12:00** noon on Monday June 13 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 18, 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 18 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-April were about $120 for June 12 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. Showers are located in the center of each wing on all floors.

If you have guests who would like to join you for all or part of the week, I must submit their names with our rooming list to ensure they receive our contracted rates. Please either include their names and travel information on your registration form or a separate one.

Conception will bill the community for their charges, so we ask that you or they reimburse us through PayPal, a snail mail check or whatever method you use to make your pledge.

Rooms in Marian Hall are $45 per person per night single or $40 per person per night double. **(Please note this is an update from the email I sent April 6. I made a mistake in quoting the double room rate and I humbly apologize.)** Meals are $8.50 each. If you need help calculating your guests' costs or have questions, please let me know.

If you have guests who would like to stay at a hotel instead, there are a number of properties in Maryville, about 30 minutes away. If they are joining us for meals, I need to know that and again, we ask that they handle those charges by reimbursing CSL.

When you arrive at Conception, stop at St. Raphael Hall right off the circular drive to get your room key. 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.

If you have not been clothed in a habit (this applies to incoming Postulants and incoming and existing Novice Oblates) please wear black as well.

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.