

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This is a heads-up email to encourage those of you who plan to attend our June 2024 Convocation in person to begin making concrete plans, especially those of you who are flying. A registration form and more details will be forthcoming on or around May 1, 2024. Be watching for that. In the meantime:

Our first gathering will be on Monday, June 10, in the early afternoon.

- If you are flying, use the Kansas City International Airport (MCI).
 - A bus will pick you up at **12:00** noon on Monday June 10 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 15, 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 15 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 Abbess Martha (srmarthaosb@yahoo.com)**, **copy to Sr. Madeleine Sophie (rsmith12jm@gmail.com) BEFORE finalizing reservations** to ensure earlier transportation to the airport is available. *Do not use "REPLY" unless you want your email to go to the entire community.*
- 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 – **you must contact Abbess Martha (srmarthaosb@yahoo.com)**, **copy to Sr. Madeleine Sophie (rsmith12jm@gmail.com) BEFORE finalizing reservations** to ensure airport transportation is available. *Again, do not use "REPLY" unless you want your email to go to the entire community.*

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 as of today (April 18, 2024) ranged from \$146-149 depending on room type, refund-ability, etc. Other travel sites may have

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different rates. Learn more about the property here: <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/mcifp-four-points-kansas-city-airport/overview/>. You are free to choose a different hotel. There are a couple in the same general area. You must make sure you can get to the Four Points Sheraton by 12 noon on Monday, June 10 to meet the bus/van. The same is true if you choose to risk flying on Monday – you still must be at the Sheraton by 12 noon for pick up for the ride to the Abbey.

One more thing. I know some of you who attended last summer have been looking forward to the possibility of staying again in Good Shepherd Hall, the student dorm. I am sorry to say that is not a possibility this summer. However, we will be staying in the newly renovated St. Joseph Hall, in the same building as the dining hall. The accommodations will be similar to Marian Hall.

Please email me directly at rsmith12jm@gmail.com (*do not use "REPLY"*) with any questions.

Blessings,
Sr Madeleine Sophie, n/OSB
Rsmith12jm@gmail.com

