

Dear Abbess, Brothers and Sisters,

This is a heads-up email to encourage those of you who plan to attend our October 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 September 15, 2024. Be watching for that. In the meantime:

Our first gathering will be on Monday, October 21, 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, October 21 at the Four Points by Sheraton KCI, for transportation to Conception Abbey. (See hotel information below). **Arrival Sunday, October 20, is strongly recommended** to avoid the inconvenience of Monday morning flight delays.
- On **Friday**, October 25, a bus will transport you from Conception Abbey back to the airport. The bus departs at **10:00** AM. In case you missed earlier emails, please note that Convocation this October is one day shorter; Monday, October 21-Friday, October 25, 2024.
- Your return flight on Friday, October 25, 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](mailto:srmarthaosb@yahoo.com))**, copy to **Sr. Madeleine Sophie ([rsmith12jm@gmail.com](mailto: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 driving, please DO NOT plan to arrive early. Only absolutely essential personnel will have housing Sunday night (you know who you are - check with me if you are unsure; [rsmith12jm@gmail.com](mailto:rsmith12jm@gmail.com)).

· 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, please be aware that you may have to secure your own transportation. Again – **you must contact Abbess Martha ([smarthaosb@yahoo.com](mailto:smarthaosb@yahoo.com))**, copy to **Sr. Madeleine Sophie ([rsmith12jm@gmail.com](mailto:rsmith12jm@gmail.com))** **BEFORE finalizing reservations** to learn whether airport transportation would be available. Please **do not** ask another member to provide transportation without verifying their availability with Abbess Martha and Sr. Madeleine Sophie. Doing so could take them away from assigned responsibilities and create extra work for others. *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 as of today (August 28, 2024) ranged from \$85-\$97 (yes, lower than last summer), depending on room type, whether you pre-pay, etc. Other travel sites may have 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.

Please note again that we are staying at Conception Abbey only Monday through **FRIDAY**, October 21-25.

Two more things. First, we will be staying in St. Gabriel's Hall. The accommodations will be similar to Good Shepherd Hall. Second, the Guest Center went to bat for us regarding food choices, but to little avail. There will be gluten free bread and non-dairy milk substitutes, but vegetarian/vegan meal choices will not be available. However, I have been informed that there is a microwave in the dining area - I had not noticed that before. We will make arrangements to have reheatable vegetarian/vegan choices available to those who have those preferences. Once I know who will have those needs, I will ask you for a shopping list and we will have those items available.

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

Peace,

Sr Madeleine Sophie, OSB

[rsmith12jm@gmail.com](mailto:rsmith12jm@gmail.com)