

Who is an Oblate?

Oblates of St. Benedict are Christian lay people of all walks of life who associate themselves with a Benedictine community to enrich their faith life.

We desire to share in the apostolic work and prayer of the community in order to share the spirit of St. Benedict in the world. Integrating prayer and work, *ora et labora*, we strive to make manifest the love of God to all we encounter.

We promise to deepen our faith and to live our lives according to the Gospel as reflected in the Rule of Benedict.

Benedictine spirituality can be adapted to the life of anyone sincerely seeking God and desiring to live the Gospel message.

*"You also are called in this way
to transform your everyday settings,
wherever you live,
by acting as a leaven in the dough,
with skill and responsibility,
and at the same time
with gentleness and compassion."*

~

Pope Francis to participants of the
Fifth World Congress of Benedictine Oblates, 2023

Benedictine Oblates



Take the first step.

St. Scholastica Monastery

Contact



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Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Why be an Oblate?

St. Benedict wrote his Rule over 1500 years ago. Since then, lay Christians have been associated with the prayer and work of the Benedictine monastic community, without leaving their homes, families, or occupations.

Benedictine oblates seek to:

- receive spiritual strength and inspiration through the Benedictine way of life,
- share in the apostolic works and prayer of the community;
- extend Benedictine values into the world by applying the teachings of the Rule of Benedict to daily life.

St. Scholastica Monastery, Chicago, has over 130 oblate members.

Groups meet regularly in Chicago and Pueblo, Colorado, as well as online.

How do I become an Oblate?

The first step in becoming an oblate is to contact the monastery to schedule a conversation regarding what the Benedictine oblate experience entails.

Enrollment

If you feel that the Benedictine path offers you direction for your spiritual journey, enrollment as an oblate would take place. The ritual of enrollment marks the start of the period of candidacy. At that time, you receive a Benedictine medal, a copy of the Rule of Benedict, and a blessing by the Prioress and the community.

Candidacy

The period of candidacy, usually a year, includes daily reflection on the Rule of Benedict and monthly orientation sessions with a mentor to talk about how Benedictine values apply to your daily life. Attendance at scheduled oblate meetings is encouraged.

Oblation

If, after the period of candidacy, you and your mentor agree, you would make your oblation, a commitment to be a faithful witness of Christ, and to live according to the values of the Gospel as reflected in the Rule of Benedict.

By the act of oblation, the oblate promises to offer themselves to God, to continue to seek and to praise the Lord, and to serve God and all people according to the spirit of the Rule of Benedict.

