

St. Placid Oblates 2001 – 2021

What keeps you coming back to meetings?

I've always thought the reason I've kept coming back for 9 years is because I've loved the trails through the woods, birds and forest creatures, flower garden, Stations of the Cross, and gazebo. I've discovered that I feel the same peace, love, acceptance, and presence of God meeting on Zoom. I've learned that the real reason I keep coming back is because this community helps me to see and experience the presence of God in us all. It is my refuge and sanctuary because I find God in the fellowship of our gatherings.

Bonnie Westmark oblate 9 years

I've been an Oblate for 12 years (2008) and I've been "coming to the Priory" for 18 years.

I return because

- I love the community and our dedication to creating a better world.
- I love The Rule of St. Benedict and the wisdom it offers for my daily life.

Pamela Sampel

Since 2015, the Priory is mentoring me about ORA ET LABORA. It is encouraging me to treat the community I live in to be my monastery. There I intentionally develop to be a person: a) living with a mission; b) serving others; and c) relating with God through daily prayers.

Carlos Brosas oblate 5 years

I experience such an abundant grace in gathering with other oblates as we learn about the rule of Benedict and Benedictine spirituality. All this has practical and profound application for daily living as we aspire to be rooted in Christ in the spirit of inclusivity, peace, justice, and love.

Laura Tenisci oblate 4 months

I have been an oblate for about 10 years. I attend the meetings because they bring me a sense of connection and belonging to my Benedictine community. Sharing with other Benedictines brings me much joy, peace, and gratitude.

Dawn Meyer

I am fully committed to living Benedictine Spirituality! I am always amazed at the excellent quality of people with which I make connections as a Benedictine Oblate! I have never been disappointed by living the Rule of Benedict.

Cheryl Gudger oblate 8 years

I've been an Oblate Candidate since June; but visited the Priory since the early 80's. Sr. Lucy is the reason for both. Here are others willing to be quiet, speak, listen, and pray about/ to God. I deeply appreciate the sacred space and welcome for big questions and creative responses.

Kathryn Rickert

I keep coming to the Oblates as a guest
Where else can I find this enveloped love?

Joanne Grosso

I've been an oblate for a year, since 2019. I keep coming back because the Benedictine Rule invites one into a sustained and sustaining global community, a way of being part of a relational community grounded in the forgiving love of Christ.

Suzanne Johnson

I come mostly for fellowship and to see friends I've missed over the prior month(s)- I would like the Oblate meeting to be a support environment where we can discuss and encourage each other on our triumphs and trials as we try to follow the Rule in a secular lifestyle.

Tess Sutton Oblate 19 years

Participating in prayer and study with the Priory is an encouragement to deeper engagement in life. I always feel welcomed and included. I have been an Oblate with the Benedictine Sisters of Erie for many years. I moved to Olympia and have been a guest Oblate at St. Placid Priory.

Saima Scott

I love my fellow Oblates and love all the St Placid sisters. You all inspire me to be a better me. God bless you all!

Valerie Kolarik Oblate 10 years

2007, my spiritual director and two soul companions were out of the country when I needed them, I realized I needed a larger spiritual community. I became an oblate of St Placid in 2009. Being part of such a spiritual community gives me strength to carry on .

Chris Lubinski Oblate for 11 years

I began the oblate journey many years ago at a different monastery. My life took a different path, until I made a retreat at St. Placid three years ago. The hospitality, communal prayer and ease of being here drew me back, and I knew I was called to be part of this community.

Denise Anderson candidate

The one all-encompassing feeling that I come away with whenever I find myself in the company of you all is the profound feeling of acceptance, love and just being in the right place at the right time in my life. Being a part of the Benedictine community, I feel that my own contemplative nature has a home and that I will continue to be encouraged and nurtured by your words and by your example.

Ann Cacciari Oblate for 4 years

I have attended St. Placid Priory's oblate meetings for a year, first as a guest, and now as a candidate. I keep coming back in gratitude for the warm welcome into a gentle, humble, prayerful, compassionate, generous, hospitable community of sisters and oblates. I feel like I have come home.

Susan Johnson

I was attracted to St. Placid Priory in several ways... the mission statement, the unique location, the gentle enthusiasm of the Sisters and my 2019 Art Fair participation. Here, I feel drawn to explore the call to something deeper within and learn more about Benedictine life.

Maria Slizys 2nd year Oblate Guest

In the six years I have been a St. Placid oblate, thanks to visiting at our meetings, sharing small group lectio experiences, and partnering on programs, I have come to cherish many of the other oblates. We are all so different, and yet united by Benedictine hospitality-openness to the "other".

Rosemarie Oliver Oblate for 13 years

Oblate since 2002. The community blesses me with guidance and structure, through words and examples. It also helps facilitate the ongoing conversion of the heart that I want so much. And I love the stability and harmony present whenever I see and hear (and hug) a fellow oblate and the Sisters.

Roy DeLeon Oblate for 18 years

The Oblates and the Priory provide a safe space to explore my faith. I especially appreciate the way our small groups can laugh together and cry together as we support each other. I learn from the presentations and appreciate sharing the journey.

Barbara Williams Oblate for 4 years

The oblate meetings invite me to study, reflect, listen, pray, and share insights about the Rule of Benedict with others. The Rule is one response in our world history when a major civilization (Roman Empire) was collapsing. There is critical wisdom to glean from the Rule.

Sharon Pikula, Oblate Candidate

In a world of work, family, Covid, and distractions, it's easy to lose focus on the Rule and the Office. Oblate meetings bring me back to my Christ-centered core, community, and contemplative prayer enabling me to better discern relationships and daily situations with prayer, compassion, and hope.

Linda Fredericks Oblate 10 years.

The community is my first, immediate response. I learn the dailyness of the Rule from the lives of the Sisters of St. Placid, and with the Oblates I share struggles and wisdom to build, through the Rule, a God-centered life in my own, very noisy world. I am sustained by the prayers I share with the community, knowing that when I pray, when I struggle, I am always beginning again, and never alone.

Anne Nelson Oblate for 12 years

I love the contemplative practice of lectio divina in community - that communal practice combined with my ever-deepening engagement with the Rule of St. Benedict are what draw me back to the oblate meetings again and again. I became an oblate, officially, in 2016.

Marilyn Freeman