

## **RB 1 Community**

<sup>1</sup> There are clearly **four kinds of monastics**. [cenobites, anchorites, sarabites & gyrovagues] <sup>2</sup>The first are the **cenobites** [belong to a community], who live in monasteries and serve under a rule and a prioress. (RB is written for those in a community.)

<sup>3</sup>The second kind are the **anchorites or hermits**. [built up their strength, self-reliant, solitude is essential] Their observance is no mere novice-fervor, but the result of long testing in a monastery. <sup>4</sup>Community support has taught them how to battle the evil one and this excellent training enables them to venture out to the single combat of the desert. <sup>5</sup>Relying on God's help, they are able to grapple against vices of flesh and thought, relying on their own hand and arm rather than relying on the help of others.

<sup>6</sup> Third, there are the **Sarabites**, [manifest free will and self-determination: No rule, no experience to guide them, willful, define monastic life in their own terms, lack the kind of confrontation & challenge which encourages them to challenge selves] the most detestable kind of monastic. They have been tested by no rule based on the criterion of experience. Unlike gold tested in the furnace (Prov 27:21), they have a character as soft as lead. <sup>7</sup>Still loyal to the world by their actions, they clearly lie to God by their outward religious symbols. <sup>8</sup>They live in twos and threes, or even alone, without a shepherd and in their own sheepfolds, not those of God. The craving of their appetites is the law for them. <sup>9</sup>Their own opinions and desires they call holy; what displeases them they say is not permissible.

<sup>10</sup>The fourth kind of monastics are called **gyrovagues**. [always on the move, they never settle down; are slaves to their own wills & gross appetites; on the go outside their monasteries & within selves; live thinking about the future; only do the things they have to do drifters]. They spend their whole lives wandering through various provinces, staying in the cells of different monastics for three or four days at a time. <sup>11</sup>They are ever on the move and never stable. Slaves to their own wills and the delights of the palate, they are in every respect worse than the sarabaites.

<sup>12</sup>It is better to be silent than to speak of the wretched lifestyle of these monastics. [Remains silent about anchorites, sarabites & gyrovagues] So, putting these aside, <sup>13</sup>let us with God's help turn to arranging a way of life for that most vigorous monastic, the cenobites. [Draw up a plan for cenobites]

**In our Oblate sessions how do I contribute to creating community?  
How am I a Sarabite or a Gyrovague that deters community from happening?**