

What Being an Oblate Means to Me

How can one become an Oblate?

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When I became a Benedictine Oblate, I offered to God myself and my whole life, promising to live in communion with St. Placid Priory. I was already blessed with marriage, motherhood, and deep friendships, but God responded with a gift of even greater wholeness.

The practicality of the Rule helps me to sanctify my daily routine and to face unexpected situations. It strengthens me to pray the Psalms faithfully each day. It nourishes me to keep my Oblate's promises of stability and mutual obedience within my family life. I learn to slow down and deeply listen to the needs, spoken and unspoken, of others. Little by little, beginning again and again, I make my way toward the ideal of conversion of life, of coming to want what God wants.

My efforts are supported by the Sisters of St. Placid and by my sister and brother Oblates. They also listen deeply to me, and hold me daily in their prayers. As I continue along the Benedictine way, I find that God expands my monastic heart, shapes my ordinary life to complement the lives of my monastic Sisters, and through me, carries the spirit of St. Placid into the world.

Mary Schreiter Obl.SB

St. Placid Priory Oblates



Nathalie Karels, OSB

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Benedictine Oblate of St. Placid Priory

What is an Oblate?

Oblates of St. Benedict are individuals who are attracted to Benedictine spirituality and have connected with a specific Benedictine community in order to enrich their Christian way of life. Oblates seek God by striving to become holy through Benedictine spirituality in their own chosen way of life. Throughout the world there are thousands of Oblates praying and working in spiritual union with Benedictine women and men.

What is an Oblate of St. Benedict of St. Placid Priory?

At St. Placid Priory, Oblates are active baptized Christians who make a lifelong commitment to our Benedictine Community. We welcome women and men to be Oblates. Through relating with the life and members of St. Placid Priory, Oblates deepen their commitment to seek God and to live out Benedictine spirituality in whatever way they are able. This *lifelong* commitment to St. Placid Priory is the primary difference between our Oblates and Associates.

Oblates are invited to join St. Placid Priory for Liturgy of the Hours, for community events, and to help in our ministries. Along with living out the Rule of Benedict, we invite them to share our mission statement and direction statements. We ask them to be a Benedictine presence in their families, church community and work places.



Do you desire to be an Oblate ?

- What attracts you to Benedictine spirituality?
- Why do you desire to be in a deeper relationship with St. Placid Priory?
- Are you free and available to integrate Benedictine values into your daily life?
- How are you able to be a Benedictine presence where you are?
- How are you currently involved in your faith community?
- How would being a Benedictine Oblate enrich your faith commitment?
- In discerning these questions describe your readiness to become an Oblate at St. Placid Priory.
- Are you willing to attend monthly Oblate meetings, an Advent Retreat and a weekend retreat once a year?

After you have prayerfully reflected on these questions, St. Placid Priory asks you to meet with the Oblate director for an interview.

First Steps

You are welcome to join the Oblates as a guest. When you and the Oblate director mutually discern you are ready to become an Oblate candidate, you are asked to spend at least a year mutually discerning your call to be an Oblate with both an Oblate Mentor and a Sister Mentor.

Meetings

Usually the second Sunday of the month
from 12:30-3:00 pm at
St. Placid Priory

Or

Once a month on a weekday
for those involved in
Church Ministry

Retreats

One day Advent retreat in December

Weekend retreat in June

Private individual retreat anytime

