



Chapter 31: Qualifications of the Monastery Cellarer

1 As cellarer of the monastery, there should be chosen from the community someone who is wise, mature in conduct, temperate, not an excessive eater, not proud, excitable, offensive, dilatory or wasteful, 2 but God-fearing, and like a father to the whole community. 3 He will take care of everything, 4 but will do nothing without an order from the abbot. 5 Let him keep to his orders. 6 He should not annoy the brothers. 7 If any brother happens to make an unreasonable demand of him, he should not reject him with disdain and cause him distress, but reasonably and humbly deny the improper request. 8 Let him keep watch over his own soul, ever mindful of that saying of the Apostle: He who serves well

secures a good standing for himself (1 Tim 3:13). 9 He must show every care and concern for the sick, children, guests and the poor, knowing for certain that he will be held accountable for all of them on the day of judgment. 10 He will regard all utensils and goods of the monastery as sacred vessels of the altar, 11 aware that nothing is to be neglected. 12 He should not be prone to greed, nor be wasteful and extravagant with the goods of the monastery, but should do everything with moderation and according to the abbot's orders.

Cellarer:

Latin word for storeroom. Treasurer.

Appointed by Abbot/Abbess. *Do nothing without order of Abbot.*

Cellarer Duties:

- Father [Mother] figure to whole community. Must guard against misuse of power.
- Run the physical side of Monastery so the Abbot/Abbess can do Spiritual duties and attend to the spiritual health of each and every member of the community.
- Perform an educational role like Abbot/Abbess helping members of the community to learn and grow.
- Steward of the community's resources. Responsible for the economic viability of the community.
- All is sacred. Treat all things with respect and as vessels of the Altar.
- Clothes, tools, money and food are provided in a timely manner so as to not to offend and stress the members of the community.
- Not neglectful of one's duties. Practice discipline and orderliness.

Cellarer Qualities:

- God-fearing.
- Integrity.
- Practices and shows humility and kindness.
- Wise. Mature in conduct.
- Practices balance and moderation in all things.
- Detached from things.
- Shows respect to all persons including the sick and the poor.
- Gentle, patient and charitable with each member of community.
- Moderate and fair in dealings with others. Not excitable.
- Diplomatic and discrete. Trustful.
- Practices prudence, discipline, and care for the future of the community.
- Spiritual discernment – insight and understanding to see the larger picture.

Practical applications:

- Reverence for all of creation.
- Extend the sacred from church to home, work and everywhere.
- Show gratitude for gifts, possessions and relationships.
- Practice good stewardship of household, business and volunteer duties and resources.
- Recognize Christ in every person.
- Practice courtesy, kindness and compassion.
- Share goods with others.
- Care for the needy and poor.
- Respect and work collaboratively with others.
- Renounce excessive personal possessions.
- Separate Needs from Wants when making purchase or life decisions.
- Maintain a healthy financial and life-giving balance sheet.

Questions:

- The cellarer is obedient to the orders of the abbot. Who are we obedient to?
- Are we able to see Christ in all people?
- How do we treat or relate to difficult people?
- Is sharing our time and goods with the poor and needy a priority?
- As Oblates, give examples of how we practice discipline and moderation in all things including food, possessions, use of time and accumulation of wealth?