



Obsculta

–Listen with the ears of your heart”

July 2016



“Indeed, our affiliation with the Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross has brought tremendous spiritual blessings to us and our dear ones. The Cistercian habit has become an effective and visible sign of the healing and reconciling presence of our Lord, Jesus.”

“The Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross serves God in a variety of ministries throughout the world. Our union with each other, developed through common prayer also unites us to Jesus Christ, whom we ultimately serve with joy.”

The quarterly newsletter of
The Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross, Common Observance
Worldwide Membership of Monks Living Inside and Outside of a Monastery
Founded 1981
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<http://stephenharding.college>

[Vimeo.com/Cistercian](https://www.vimeo.com/Cistercian)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HolyCrossCistercians>

News From The Abbot General



Oscar Joseph, OCCO
Of Special
Interest In
This Obsculta

Our 35th anniversary Issue

- Who are we and what do we do?
- Cistercians serving their community
- Articles from our Monks and others
- Our foundation, the early years, 6 pages
- St. Stephan Harding Seminary
- Teaching videos on Vimeo.com
- Prayer for the Order
- Brief news items
- Contact us

Greetings Brothers, Oblates and Friends:

Thirty-five years can you imagine!!!

I am so honor and privileged to be a part of this history and to give God the glory. Being a Cistercian has given me a spiritual richness and personal identity that previously I could only have imagined.

I want to thank all of those who have contributed in large and small ways.

A unique aspect of our Religious family is inviting those who are homebound to this contemplative life. I sincerely believe that they are our resident saints. I covet their prayers and appreciate them beyond measure.

This December I will be turning seventy. I am rather excited about the new adventure that will come. God has not yet revealed the details but He is certainly preparing the way. These past few months have been breathtaking to say the least.

I believe that part of my personal new adventure will be played out as our wonderful Order develops beyond imagination. Let us all get on our knees and prepare for God's Good Graces.

God is pressing me lately to create a monastic group in Winston-Salem NC. We are looking for married couples and singles, clerical or lay, who would like to help get us started. Please contact me for more information.



The Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross, Common Observance is an independent dispersed contemplative Religious Order that consists of laymen and women, single or married and male Diocesan clergy, from Anglican, Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Old Catholic traditions who live in the world as well as in monasteries or hermitages.

Our Cistercian roots date back to the eleventh century.

We live the Cistercian charism in our love of solitude, contemplation, work, and study as well as living under the Rule of St. Benedict, our Constitution and vows of Conversatio, Stability, and Obedience.

Our purpose is to:

- a) seek perfection.
- b) praise and worship God

Our work is to:

- a) produce educational materials.
- b) host retreats.
- c) found autonomous religious communities.
- d) prayerfully intercede for those in need and for peace in the world.
- e) perform works of charity, pastoral ministry and mission work



The Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross is 35 years old. We are one of the oldest Religious Orders or our kind.

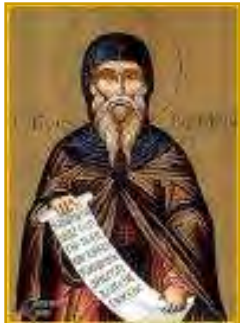
Our members come from a wide variety of backgrounds including educators, medical and mental health professionals, law enforcement, engineers, retired and disabled individuals, homemakers, and even a peanut salesman.

Our monks and oblates give sacrificially to their communities.

Additionally the Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross operates The St. Stephen Harding Theological College and Seminary and Saint Seraphim School of Orthodox Theology. They currently have 5 Certified Degree Granting Academic Institutes and provides education for a worldwide student body and several Diocesan jurisdictions.

Martyrs and monks have always been the spiritual fiber holding together the Church Catholic.

Br. Columcille, OCCO writes, *“+believe Cistercians, and all contemplatives to be the heart of the Church. Our intentions, made perfect through the Holy Spirit, support all of the apostolic work around the world. Perhaps the stars would fall from the sky were it not for men and women dedicated to a life of prayer and sacrifice. We are a part of something holy, and are being made holy in the process.”*



We, the Cistercians of the Holy Cross, are embedded icons, living sacramentals; who sustain, grace, and hold together the fiber of our communities.

We, The Cistercians of the Holy Cross, are embedded icons, living sacramentals; who sustain, grace, and hold together the fiber of our communities. Our martyrdom is conversatio, stability, and obedience. We live in and are influenced by the heretic nature of our culture. However, while clothed in our holy habits we become sacred icons. When people gaze upon us they look into their hope and see reflected back the Source of all Hope. We become sacred signs, living sacramentals.

The Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross is a contemplative Order that is also active in ministering to the world.



We pray for the world and individual intentions.

We pray for the living and the dead.

We are counselors, medical professionals, law enforcement, executives, ministers, educators, and consultants.



We conduct seminars, chapter meetings, healing services, conduct Bible studies, administer the sacraments, visit the sick, jail ministry, hospice, go to hospitals, nursing homes; and give alms, medical aid, food and comfort to the poor and suffering.

We conduct retreats for teens, motor cyclists, and local parishes.



We provide training and education for others to minister to The Kingdom of God by way of our College/Seminary.

We also provide Spiritual Direction to individuals

We develop monks and oblates. We ordain priests and deacons.



Monks can also be deacons and priests



Deacon Monks can

- Develop local faith communities
- Do religious services
- Preach
- Baptize
- Marry
- Bury

Priest Monks can also

- Celebrate the Holy Eucharist
- Hear confessions
- Give The Sacrament of the Sick



- The Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross is happy to receive male applicants for Holy Orders, e.g., Priest, Deacon. We would also consider incardination for other rightfully ordained clerics.
- While there are traditional qualifications for ordination/incardination, the principal interest is discerning a true vocation and developing Priests or Deacons who are fruitful ministers. Therefore, educational requirements may be individually tailored.
- We celebrate valid apostolic lines of succession, the seven sacraments and liturgical worship consistent with the historical churches. While some practices may differ, e.g., married clergy, we adhere to the dogmas constituted by true apostolic teaching.
- If you are interested in ordination or incardination, complete the application found on our website and forward it to the Abbot General. His office will then contact you.

Mini Retreat April-March 2016, “Lord Teach Us How to Pray” Facilitated by Abbot Oscar Joseph, OCCO



The retreat was planned well and efficiently. Each session was mapped out for time to be used in a very productive manner.

Our knowledge of prayer was greatly expanded through the teachings of the Abbot as well as the supplemental studies.

We had many of our questions answered about prayer. Tools were given to help answer our questions. Each person in the group was fully committed to the learning experience.

The six week retreat was a valuable use of time spent in a well-planned and followed study of:

- Growing toward a more holy life style**
- Praying the Scriptures**
- Importance of scheduled prayer time and place**
- Blocks we put up that prevents meaningful prayer time with God**
- Developing a life that includes time for meditation, stillness and quiet**
- A Life Changing Prayer using contemplation and Lectio Divina**
- The importance of developing a Rule of Life**

Our two hour study time covering these topics used the teaching methods of lecture, group projects to make the topic memorable, Bible guidance, meditation and prayer.

I personally will take away from this study time together with the class a renewed sense of who God is to me in my life dedicated to spiritual growth, and who I am to God. I plan to work on the things we talked about to strengthen my faith and prayer life. I especially plan to work on special times and places for prayer and study.

One thing in particular I will use in my prayers will be a start my time with God by saying “your will be done, “ Here I am Lord, use me”. Simply things but worthwhile, and sometimes I had not thought about before this class.

Abbot Oscar is a good teacher brings good information, seriousness, and laughter all in one session. It keeps the class time interesting and easy to return the next session.

Anyone interested in taking this class would, in my opinion, find their time well spent. It opens up new thoughts about God’s word. I highly recommend this class to anyone interested in their Christian growth.

Retreat continued

The mini-prayer retreat has been very thought provoking for me personally. I have received a lot from all the printed materials and also the videos.

The session being broken down into teaching, group meditations and homework brought different aspects to the time, small groups and then group sharing was a good thing to give other members ideas and thoughts.

By making meditation last and leaving in silence it made the whole session more meaningful because you left holding what you had heard in your heart instead of ending on a social note.

Thank you for all the information provided for this retreat.

I have just taken a six week class with Abbot General Oscar Joseph, OCCO and it has been the best time I have invested in learning in a very long time. The wealth of information and the videos and the suggested reading materials have really helped to put my feet back on the right path. This will change my study habits, my teaching habits, and most importantly the way I live the rest of my life. Thank you Abbot General Oscar Joseph, OCCO

Please continue to hold these retreats and things like them. Your teaching, presentation, resources and obvious love for our Lord have made a deep impact on this group. Thank you for your willingness to share.

Abbot:

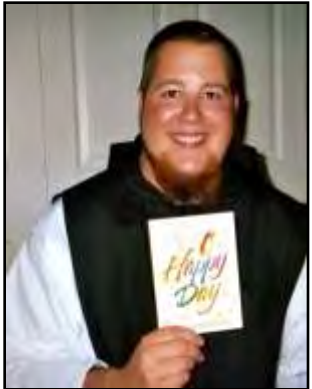
Clearly God's hand was guiding us for this retreat, at this time, in this place, and taught by you. Thank you again for bringing this opportunity to Pine Grove UMC..

Pastor Marilyn



We shared in the privilege of helping UMC members package 13,000 meals.

A Different Kind of Ministry Rev. Br. Columcille, OCCO+



On April 9th, 2006, I had the distinct honor of becoming the first monk, drawn from the ranks of the Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross, to be ordained to the holy priesthood of Christ.

I enjoyed the whole process, as well as frequent talks with ++Abbot Oscar Joseph, OCCO.

I progressed in the Order, still content with the theology of the Anglican/Episcopal church...until I began reading the works of the Doctors, Fathers, and saints of the Catholic tradition.. Being a rather "intense", philosophical man, I was actually losing sleep.

I called the Abbot, who patiently listened throughout more than an hour of what must have been an amusing, if manic, philosophical/theological rant. When I had exhausted myself, he said that the only way I could achieve the satisfaction of certainty that I was demanding would be for me to complete a seminary education and be ordained. Honestly, I thought he was joking. Once I stopped sputtering and laughing, he explained to me that the monastic model of the priesthood was an entirely different type of calling, and that he had been thinking about such a role for me for quite some time.

With tremendous generosity, the Abbot always made time for me. His leadership and friendship were instrumental as I completed my studies. In his role as Archbishop, he ordained me to the priesthood in front of my family and friends. Concelebrating my first Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with him was the greatest moment of my life. Under his protection, I continue to serve the Order and Jesus Christ with a lasting joy and fulfillment.



Jimmy Allen, Postulant

The Cistercian Order Of The Holy Cross accepted my application to become an oblate. This opportunity afforded me with many new possibilities. My prayer & spiritual connection had become mundane at the very least, prior to my affiliation with The Order.

The Abbot became invaluable in my pursuit of a more meaningful connection with The Divine and gently guided me into a much clearer understanding of The Rule and spirituality. A Brother Brendan, OCCO quickly became a mentor and both have directed my efforts through reading and my feeble attempts at following The Rule. They directed me to additional resources giving me an even greater appreciation for The Order.

A retreat hosted at the monastery resulted in accepting the invitation and taking postulancy vows. Opus Dei, Lectio Divina, Holy Rosary prayers, studies of The Rule of St. Benedict, homilies, Eucharistic celebration, as well as outstanding meals, fellowship and recreational activities made for an exceptional experience.

The Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross has restored faith placing me on a very hopeful path, inspiring an increased love for The Sacred Heart, The Immaculate Heart, Holy Mother Church, The Abbot, and a community of Brothers and Sisters. The Abbot, and The Order have been gracious and very patient in standing with me to ensure I have the necessary supports for success.



Oblate: Rev. Fr. Joachim Seeger, OCCO/Obl

Associate Dean and Faculty, St. Stephan Harding Theological College and Seminary

Hallo, I am Joachim Seeger from Germany, an Oblate in the Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross. I am fifty years old, married and father of three children. I have studied theology and other several subjects and at the moment I am a Priest in the Old Roman Catholic Church. From childhood I was always interested in religious subjects and I was educated in a religious way by my parents. I am thoroughly convinced that the faith must be the basic of the human life and if there is not enough faith, life cannot be successful at all. I think, science and faith must come in a fruitful connection for welfare of people. So I looked for a spiritual activity and I have found it in an excellent way in the Order of the Holy Cross. I think, the Order is modern, ecumenical organized and at the same time he refers to the beautiful tradition of the Cistercians. The time being an Oblate would be a great adventure and challenge in my life.



Article For the Obsculta June 2016

By: Canon Paul K. Hubbard

I wanted to write briefly about the contribution of the Abbot and his order to me and to my jurisdiction, which is the Orthodox Anglican Church. Abbot Oscar Joseph has been a friend to the OAC for many years now, and he has also been a friend to me and to my family, giving leadership, support and guidance in especially difficult times. He has also been a good friend of St. Andrew's Theological College and Seminary, of which I am the president, volunteering as visiting, adjunct professor of pastoral counseling, again giving a presence of leadership and counsel to this school.

For me, though I am not a member of the order, Abbot Oscar Joseph represents the monastic ideal to which I aspire: to become an embedded icon and living sacramental in my family, in my church and in my community. Many priests only wear their clericals when they are engaged in official business; I attempt to follow the monastic ideal of trying always to be in habit, even when working in the garden or doing heavy manual labor (wearing all black, but no collar).

One of the most important aspects of the Cistercian Order is that it provides the institutional mechanism which produces not only structure and fellowship and guidance to individual Christians lacking in the general zeitgeist of Protestant nominalism; they also demonstrate a true and effective expression of broad catholicity that our parochial jurisdictions cannot easily achieve – supplying the religious fraternity necessary for a well-balanced spiritual life.



History of the Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross Page 1/6

In the beginning...

Our early history is quite interesting

Fr. Veal and Bishop Mote



On February 17th, 1981 the statutes and rule governing the Oblates of the Order of St. Benedict were presented to six postulants by Sister Eileen Waddle, OHT (Order of the Holy Trinity) in the presence of Rt. Rev. James Mote, Bishop of the Diocese of the Holy Trinity, Anglican Catholic Church (ACC). Present at this meeting were: Flora Runyon, Jenny Moon, Larry Gomez, Evelyn Bartree, Sally Farrow and Bernice Reed. The date of investiture was set for March 19, 1981, St. Joseph's Day, in St. Mary's Church, Denver, Colorado. The Rev. Eric W. Veal was the receiving priest.

Novices were instructed to wear habits at all meetings, synods, processions and any major feasts as directed by Sister Eileen, Directress of Oblates. Habits for Oblates consisted of a full scapular, black in color, with the symbol of the double Trinity in white on the breast, a white cincture, and for women novices, a white veil. Under the clothing a jubilee medal of St. Benedict was to be worn at all times; on the outside a crucifix and attached to the cincture a rosary. One year and one day after investiture of novices, Oblates presented themselves for final profession, renewing this oblation once each year on the anniversary of their profession.

Candidates Larry Gomez, Bernice Reed and Flora Runyon were received after Mass during a simple ceremony as the first Oblates of the Order of St. Benedict.



By the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene 1981 there were eleven Oblates. See Bishop Mote in center background.

Right foreground is Bernice Reed. Years later she will become Mother Superior Benedicta. It was she who passed the leadership on to Abbot Oscar Joseph, OCCO. Abbot General of the Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross. Consequently the leadership of the current Order goes back to the very beginnings although the names and the people have changed.

“Uphold me, O Lord, according to you word, and I shall live: and let me not be confounded in my hope.”



Sister Eileen Waddle, OHT was formerly a nun in the Sisters of the Mother of God, a religious order (ECUSA) in Arizona. She later founded the Order of the Holy Trinity that was the monastic association for the Oblates.

The Oblates of St. Benedict grew over the next several months to twenty postulants, seven of whom made life professions. One year later on St. Joseph's Day 1982 Sister Mary Benedicta (Bernice Reed) made her life profession (far right of picture, last person on right.)



Sister Mary Patrick (Sally Farrow) was Denver's first Chapter Chairperson. On July 11, 1982 Rev. Ronald Greeson, ACC, now Father Michael, made his final oblation. Father Michael was the first priest in the order to be followed by several others.



It is important to note here that although Fr. Michael was the first priest in the Order he was not assigned to the Order nor ordained by a bishop of the Order. That would not happen until April 2006.

Through the next several years of Episcopal Church USA (ECUSA) suffered theological, political and social confusion resulting in several splits. The Order suffered much during this time as it shared the pain of Mother Church. The Order of St. Benedict favored the Anglican Catholic Church although many of its members came from other jurisdictions including the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1983, the Prioress of the Oblates, Sr. Eileen, was received into the Order of St. Augustine, Roman Catholic, by their Prior General Rt. Rev. Tilman B. Williams, OSA. This left the fledgling Oblates without a monastic association and they temporarily transitioned to a Fellowship.

"Uphold me, O Lord, according to your Word, and I shall live: and let me not be confounded in my hope."

History of the Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross Page 3/6

By February 1984 new hope and strength came upon the Order as Archbishop Louis Falk, ACC regularized the Oblates as the Society of the Common Life, Preserving the Rule of St. Benedict. Rt. Rev. William O. Lewis, ACC agreed to be the Episcopal visitor.



Archbishop Louis Falk



Rev. W.B. Parry, OC

In autumn of that year the Rev. W.B. Parry, OC became the new Father Prior General. Once again the oblature was a part of the Order of St. Benedict. Father Parry was a Cistercian monk from a monastery in Canada. Enthusiasm was high and efforts were made to establish a Benedictine Priory.

A new Southern Chapter was forming in Atlanta, GA under the direction of Rev. Harry Fletcher, consisting of four oblates. This chapter was additionally under the leadership of the Denver Chapter.

The ongoing division in the Anglican churches continued to take its toll on the Oblates. Although now well organized, some did not want to follow a strict observance of the Rule of St. Benedict.

Sr. Mary Benedicta



This is the first time we were called Cistercian. Sr. Mary Benedicta was instrumental in protecting the Congregation from the perils of the church and human frailty. Years later after her retirement Abbot Oscar Joseph, OCCO gave her the official title "Mother of the Congregation".

Consequently, in 1985, six members of the Society left and incorporated in the state of Colorado as the Primitive Rule of St. Benedict, Cistercians. Sr. Mary Benedicta (Bernice Reed) was among this group. Father Parry remained its Prior General.

The new Cistercians grew in number during the latter part of 1985 through the spring of 1987. There were five Oblates in Denver, seven in Atlanta—three of whom were priests. There were now chaptered Oblates living in Illinois, Iowa, Washington, Florida, New Mexico and Pennsylvania.

History of the Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross Page 4/6

The years from 1988 were relatively peaceful and the Oblates of St. Gregory the Great grew in number. There was continued concern over division within the church. In 1988 Fr. Lawrence Kern became the new Spiritual Director and Rt. Rev. Robert Wilkes the Episcopal visitor. Fr. Bruce Parry, OC of Harwood, Canada continued as Prior.

By 1991 the Oblates had members from Ontario, Canada, Colorado Springs, CO; and Panama City, FL; Denver; Springfield, IL; Enumclaw, WA and Warrensburg, MO.

The Oblates continued to be torn over strife in the Anglican Church. Over the next two years many members died, retired or resigned. In December 1995 Sr. Benedicta was appointed Mother Superior by Fr. Bruce Parry, OC. Mother Benedicta was part of the original Oblates of the Order of St. Benedict founded in 1981.

On October 3, 1996 Fr. Michael from Winston-Salem, NC was accepted as a postulant.

Fr. Michael took his oblation as novice on March 19, 1997 at St. Michael's Chapel, Winston-Salem and assumed the name Fr. Oscar Joseph, OCCO.



The Order's first Chapel in Winston –Salem, NC

Effective June 16, 1997 Father Oscar Joseph, OCCO was appointed Oblate Prior General by Mother Benedicta. Fr. Superior Oscar Joseph, OCCO ordered that Mother Benedicta be given the perpetual title, ~~M~~“Mother of the Congregation.”

In June Father Oscar Joseph, OCCO instituted the congregation's newsletter called ~~N~~“obis” meaning ~~to~~ “us”; published a trifold brochure describing the Oblates and produced several teaching audiotapes. By September a more detailed Constitution and Manual was published. The new Constitution gives Protestants access to the Oblates as Confraters.

The Cistercian Oblates of St. Gregory the Great also established formal ties to New Creation Monastery located in Boonville, NC.

History of the Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross Page 5/6



A Retreat House was established at 3634 Vest Mill Road in Winston-Salem where daily Mass, liturgical hours, healing services, Christian counseling and Marian studies were offered and opened to the public.

Fr. Oscar Joseph, OCCO made his life profession on April 24, 1999.

On July 2, 1999 the Oblates took a pilgrimage to Denver, Colorado to meet with Mother Benedicta, their first face-to-face meeting. *We were very impressed with her wisdom and ability to apply The Rule of St. Benedict to daily life.* We had several meetings with her and celebrated Mass together.



Fr. Oscar Joseph and
Mother Benedicta

We moved into the Monastery in April 2001 and remained busy for sometime getting things in order, including the beautiful private chapel on the second floor.

November 2001 was the month that The Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross, Common Observance was born. During the month of long intense prayer our Good Lord spoke clearly, precisely, and in a most encouraging way.

God had given me the image of what the Cistercians were to become, in detail. What He gave me was so far out of my paradigm that I could not comprehend it. My mind was too small. My consultants were enthusiastic and supportive.

Our Good Lord said, *“The Cistercian Order will last more than 100 years and will be the bearer of the faith as were the ancient monks of Europe.”*

The image He gave me, born out of prayer, birthed our Constitution and sustains the Order today.

About that same time it became clear that for the Order to grow and have the protection from the church that so nearly destroyed it in the early years we needed our own bishop. In October, 2003 I was elected by the membership to be the Order’s first bishop and consecrated on Nov. 9th in Hollywood (*holy wood, holy cross*). Florida.

In February 2004 I was consecrated Archbishop and received the Apostolic lines of Archbishop Peter Paul Brennan, OCR.

May 5, 2004 we received our 501 (c) (3) designation.



At this time The Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross became a Religious Order with first and second order Monks. Oblates were also welcomed.

After a year of birthing Saint Stephen Harding Theological College and Seminary was officially opened in Dec. 2005 with a 68-page catalog and 175 courses! The University of North Carolina Board of Governors approved the College Seminary.

The Western Regional Chapter Meeting held on April 8-9, 2006 at Casa Grande, AZ was more than we could have imagined. **The ordination of Br. Columcille, OCCO to the diaconate, was followed the next day by his ordination into the holy priesthood. This was an historic event. In the Order's 25 year history Br. Columcille, OCCO was the first monk ordained from the Order to the Order by the Order's own bishop.**

For the first time the Order's official Eucharist Liturgy was celebrated at the deacon ordination Mass for Br. Columcille, OCCO on April 8, 2006.

The Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross was formally brought into full communion with the Orthodox Anglican Communion on Sunday, April 21, 2013, during a Holy Communion Service at Good Shepherd Anglican Cathedral in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.



We will end our historical presentation here.
A complete history can be found in the member section.



Great videos for all occasions and needs. Good for personal study and group discussions. Can be used to introduce others to the Cistercian charism. Check them out.

There are several new videos available. Check them out.

The Abbot is really funny in some of these videos.

Can you believe it?

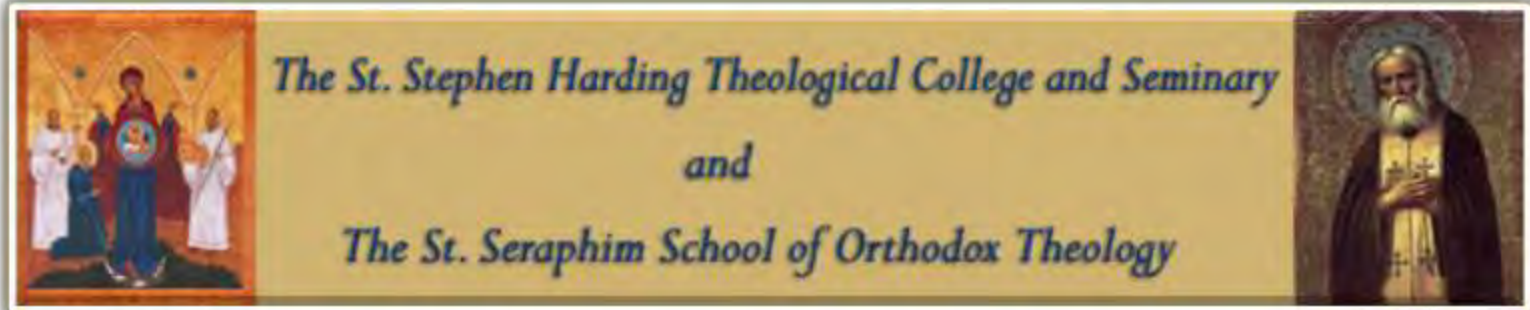
www.vimeo.com/Cistercian

Two NEW teachings on Sexuality

I have really enjoyed ALL of these videos and I think that this technology is blessed by your and by our intent. I think it's really difficult for many of us to "feel" like we are a community, what with distances, languages, etc. Your videos have helped me in that regard. I think of them as chapter talks and pray for my brothers and superiors in relation to what you have said. I am honored to be part of such important work.

Br. Columcille, OCCO

Technology gives our worldwide community one more way of coming closer together. I have produced a number of videos to provide personal messages and teaching opportunities for our members. I hope that they will be both enjoyable and inspiring.



St. Stephen Harding Theological College and Seminary welcomes students to a wide variety of degrees, programs, licensing, and continuing educational opportunities. Check it out <http://stephenharding.college> for more information and application.

Daily Prayer for the Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross.

C. Let us pray

C. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

R. *Who made heaven and earth.*

C. Holy Lord, Holy Mighty One,

R. *Incline your ear towards us.*

C. St. Benedict, Father of our Order

R. *Pray for us.*

C. Mother Mary, Queen of Heaven

R. *Pray for us.*

C. All the Angels and Saints

R. *Pray for us.*

All. O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we give you praise and thanks.

May we respond to Your call in charity and courage and grow in numbers and holiness.

Bless our Abbot General Oscar Joseph with good health, growth in wisdom and grace. Help him to see the world as you do.

May our Beloved Order be blessed with leaders, both monks and clerics, who will carry forward our charism.

May our Beloved Order be blessed with the material and financial resources necessary to fulfill its mission.

We ask you, Lord, to bless us with a residential monastery in Winston-Salem where we can live as brothers and host others in a spirit of hospitality as taught by our Father, Benedict.

Holy Father Benedict help us to bring a contemplative balance to everyday matters, to cultivate the daily disciplines of work and prayer, to persevere in our vows of obedience, stability and daily conversion.

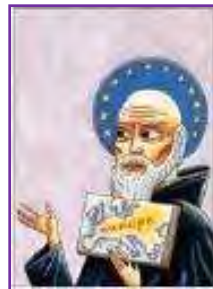
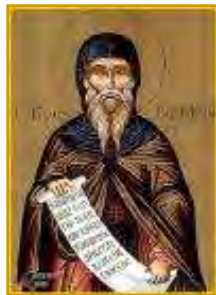
We pray for all those who have requested our prayers particularly members of our Order and those who are in union with us.

We pray also for those who may have given up hope or have forgotten to pray for themselves.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Please pray this prayer every day.



Bishop George Stenhouse

March 28, 1923 - June 25, 2016

Was a supporter and friend to me and the Order. We were blessed to have known him.



Rev. Br. Brendan, OCCO
Vicar General

Broke his leg this June and later had it operated on. Now he is all together again.

Leslie Berry

Owner/Designer at Key Lime Designs, Winston Salem, North Carolina

leslie.r.miller@gmail.com (828) 234-3673

Leslie is a graduate from Appalachian State University in graphics and printing, She started a graphic design business, Key Lime Designs, directly after graduating in 2005.

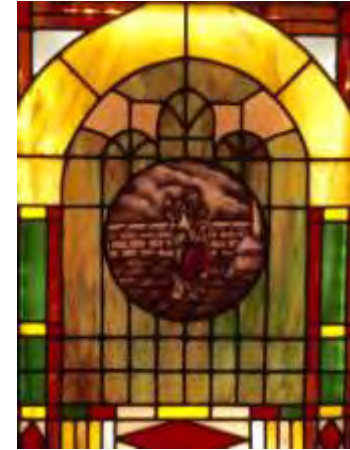
Leslie has also worked at Keiger Graphic Communications as project manager, web designer and developer/builder of cross-media campaigns and web-to-print stores.



The Abbot General says: The above is a moment of gratitude for Leslie's professionalism and creativity.

Leslie has produced and maintained our Cistercian and Stephen Harding webs sites and two other sites for us personally. We have experienced the torture of dealing with *other* webmasters/designers. Leslie does what she says in a timely and efficient manner. What I like best is that she speaks English not webanise. Not only can I understand her but she is a delight to work with. You can also work with her near or far. So give her a call today!!!

CISTERCIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY CROSS, COMMON OBSERVANCE



We serve men and women, clerical or lay, married or single by:

- *Helping them grow in perfection through the use of the Rule of St. Benedict, our Constitution and Manual, and community life.*
- *Consecrating to a first or second order religious life those who want to live either in community or outside community.*
- *Third order oblate program.*
- *Validating and assisting those already living the religious life but not living in a formal community.*
- *Supporting men with a call to the diaconate and priesthood through ordination, incardination.*

The Cistercian charism is a refuge for ardent lovers of God. The adherence to the Holy Rule of St. Benedict and focus on contemplating God in prayer is a precious balm on hearts aching for closer union with the Lord. The Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross is an opportunity for men or women to become a true monk or nun in this revered tradition."

*For more information contact
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