

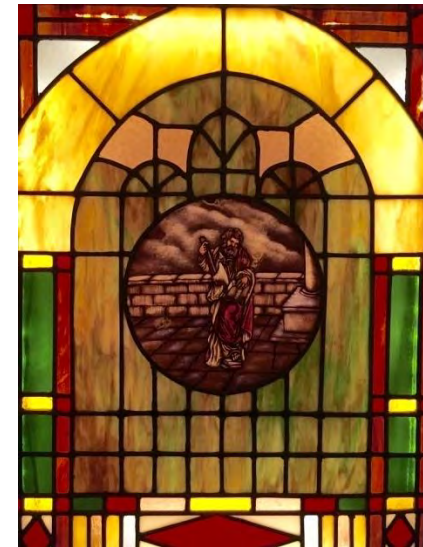


"Indeed, our affiliation with the Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross has brought tremendous spiritual blessings to us and our dear ones. The Cistercian habit has become an effective and visible sign of the healing and reconciling presence of our Lord, Jesus."

Obsculta

"Listen with the ears of your heart"

December 2017



"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
1606 Briar Lake Circle Winston-Salem, NC 27103 336 918-0975

Abbot@bellsouth.net
Skype address: abbotoscarjoseph
www.CistercianMonks.org
<http://stephenharding.college>
[Vimeo.com/Cistercian](https://www.vimeo.com/Cistercian)
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HolyCrossCistercians>



- The Global Fraternity for Christian Unity
- Postulant Burt's article on the Fraternity
- Oblate Dr. Joachim writes on Christmas
- New Year's Resolutions from Jesus Himself
- Video Reflections
- Who are we and what do we do?
- Names of monasteries
- St. Stephen Harding Seminary
- Teaching videos on Vimeo.com
- Prayer for the Order
- Contact us



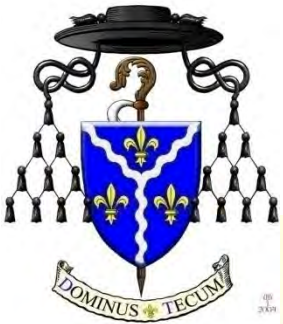
I am so absolutely grateful for the Global Fraternity for Christian Unity and its members for the thoughtful and inspiring comments on: unanswered prayers, dry prayer, sacred space in the home, forgiving others, aspirations, anger as a block to prayer, thanking the special people in our lives and the Christmas season as a hope for Christian Unity.

Additionally the information on <http://cistercianmonks.org/global-fraternity-for-christian-unity/> was a great source for education and inspiration.

Our wonderful Order is growing nicely. In the March 2018 Obsculta you will read of our exciting growth. Meanwhile keep praying for us. We have a number of members who are either very ill or are in some difficulty.

Oh, by the way your Abbot turns 71 in December. Imagine!!! Br. Brendan, OCCO shares the same birth date but he won't tell me how old he is.

A message from the Archbishop Oscar Joseph, OCCO



People of prayer have always been the spiritual fiber holding together the Church.

Heresies have torn, burned, and bloodied it's fabric but have never destroyed the faith imprinted with the image of Christ.

The old heresies remain. They wear the new faces of narcissistic pantheism, secular humanism, modernity and so on.

In our time the Church has suffered from the pervasive evil of false doctrine, pride, and division.

Yet with God,s grace the Christian Church continues limping along.

**We are pleased to sponsor The Global Fraternity for Christian Unity whose purpose is to pray and work (Ora et Labora) so: "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."
John**

Join today on FaceBook



Applying for membership is easy. Simply go to www.CistercianMonks.org, Click on the **Global Fraternity for Christian Unity** at the top of the page and complete the application form. Send it to us and we will reply shortly.

Global Fraternity



The purpose of the Global Fraternity for Christian Unity

The purpose of the Fraternity is to provide a venue of encouragement for continued spiritual formation of individuals and groups invested in the discipline of prayer (e.g. supplications, intercessions, praises, healings, confessions, and contemplation).

The Fraternity offers fellowship to encourage corporate, as well as individual prayer. An advantage of covenantal prayer lives is the coverage provided to the Church and spiritual leaders for defense, strength, and boldness to demonstrate Christ's love to others.

The Fraternity provides an avenue to develop strength to transform souls through example, instruction, and accountability. We grow our discipline of prayer by following the example of another praying. We are able to provide and receive instruction on various forms of focused prayer, bringing us into deeper communion with God. We are encouraged to develop personal prayer lives through our covenant with one another for prayer.

The broader society benefits from church families who are strengthened and blessed by the intercessions of devoted Fraternal Prayer Warriors. Our faith is deepened by our devotion to prayer.

Four concrete tenets of the purpose of The Global Fraternity Christian Unity are:

1. To seek our personal perfection through prayer and work, (Ora et Labora)
2. To pray for unity amongst all Christians
3. To prayerfully intercede for those in need and for peace in the world
4. To perform works of charity, pastoral ministry, and mission work with other Christians including other Christian churches and organizations.

Global Fraternity for Christian Unity
Oct 27, 2017 Nov 22, 2017
576 Members WOW!!!

20.2 %Women 79.8 %Men

Top Countries

United States 444

Philippines 17

India 11

Colombia 11

Brazil 9

United Kingdom 9

Canada 7

Nigeria 6

Spain 6

Italy 5

Top Cities

Winston-Salem, NC 30

New York, NY 8

Myrtle Beach, SC 5

Buffalo, NY 5

Clemmons, NC 5

Los Angeles, CA 5

Indianapolis, IN 5

Greensboro, NC 4

Tulsa, OK 4

Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India 4





Dr. Joachim Seeger, OCCO/Obi



What does Christmas mean?

Children connect Christmas with toys. For students, Christmas means semester breaks. For the merchants, Christmas means money. For mothers, the family is the most important thing at Christmas. For dads, Christmas means paying bills. For many, Christmas means stress and hustling. Christmas means different things to different people in our society. In the midst of all this hustle and bustle, it's hard to hear the soft voice: "Remember the true meaning of Christmas."

What is the true meaning of Christmas? Is the real meaning hidden in the idea: "giving is more blessed than taking"? Is the true meaning found when someone discovers that Christmas is not "Holidays" but a "Holy Day"? Or is the true meaning of Christmas simply celebrating Jesus' birthday? Well, all these ideas are good and ingredients of the truth about Christmas, but none of them hits the heart of the matter. A four-letter sentence in John 1:14 shows us the true meaning of Christmas: "The Word became flesh." That's what it's all about!

Jesus was the word! We use words to communicate our thoughts to others. Words reveal our intentions. In the person of Jesus Christ, the thoughts and the heart of God have been fully expressed.

Christmas brings a lot of difficult questions with it. How can we know that there is a gracious God when an oil crisis threatens our safety and our happiness? How can we know if there is a God who loves people, if pollution and overpopulation and the atomic bomb threaten our survival? How do you know that there is a God of Truth when honesty and morality go down the drain? We know it because God told Himself in Jesus. Although we cannot answer all these "whys," we know that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Word of God. John 1:18 God knows that we have never seen God, everything has been revealed in Jesus. The indisputable fact that Jesus embodied love, grace, and truth reveals the depth of God's heart despite the difficult issues. By making the "Word flesh," God revealed Himself as "full of grace and truth" (Jn 1:14).

"The Word became flesh." The eternal Son of God became man and lived here on earth. Incredible! Fantastic! Wonderful! Holy! True! That was the Incarnation. The baby who was born in Bethlehem and was called Jesus was a historical person and at the same time the eternal Word of God. He lived among us, and out of love he went to the cross and gave his life for us. Now He lives. Jesus, the Son of God, who became man, lives! "The Word became flesh," and this incarnation does not end with the resurrection. Jesus did not return to his father in his old form. Our Lord Jesus Christ is now glorified in heaven and one day we will see Him. That God has become human forever is the true meaning of Christmas.

Here are some New Year's resolutions

COMMANDMENTS OF JESUS IN THE FOUR GOSPELS

- 1. REPENT:** "From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'" (Mt 4:17)
- 2. REJOICE:** "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Mt 5:12)
- 3. LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS BUT GIVE GLORY TO GOD:** "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Mt 5:16)
- 4. SETTLE MATTERS QUICKLY WITH YOUR ADVERSARY:** "Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison." (Mt 5:25)
- 5. GET RID OF WHATEVER CAUSES YOU TO SIN:** "If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell." (Mt 5:29-30)
- 6. KEEP YOUR WORD AND LET YOUR WORDS MATCH WHAT'S IN YOUR HEART:** "But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one." (Mt 5:34-37)
- 7. PRACTICE NONVIOLENT RESISTANCE:** "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also" (Mt 5:38-39)
- 8. GIVING MORE THAN IS DEMANDED:** "and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you." (Mt 5:40-42)
- 9. LOVE YOUR ENEMIES:** "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous." (Mt 5:43-45)
- 10. BE PERFECT:** "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Mt 5:48)
- 11. GIVE TO PLEASE GOD, PRAY TO PLEASE GOD AND FAST TO PLEASE GOD; NOT TO BE SEEN:** "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven." (Mt 6:1)
- 12. THIS, THEN, IS HOW YOU SHOULD PRAY:** "Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Mt 6:9-15)
- 13. DO NOT STORE UP TREASURES ON EARTH:** "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Mt 6:19-21)
- 14. DO NOT WORRY ABOUT YOUR NEEDS:** "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (Mt 6:25-26)
- 15. PLACE GOD FIRST:** "But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Mt 6:33)
- 16. DO NOT WORRY ABOUT TOMORROW:** "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today." (Mt 6:34)
- 17. DO NOT JUDGE:** "Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get." (Mt 7:1-2)
- 18. GUARD WHAT IS SACRED:** "Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you." (Mt 7:6)
- 19. ASK, SEEK, AND KNOCK:** "Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you." (Mt 7:7)

- 20. DO UNTO OTHERS:** “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.” (Mt 7:12)
- 21. CHOOSE THE NARROW GATE:** “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.” (Mt 7:13-14)
- 22. BEWARE FALSE PROPHETS:** “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.” (Mt 7:15)
- 23. EXERCISE SPIRITUAL POWER WITHOUT EXPECTING ANYTHING IN RETURN:** “Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.” (Mt 10:8)
- 24. BE AS SHREWD AS SERPENTS AND INNOCENT AS DOVES:** “See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.” (Mt 10:16)
- 25. COME TO ME ALL WHO LABOUR AND ARE OVERBURDENED:** “Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Mt 11:29)
- 26. HONOUR YOUR PARENTS:** “For God said, “Honor your father and your mother,” and, “Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must surely die.” (Mt 15:4)
- 27. DO NOT DEPISE CHILDLIKE BELIEVERS:** “Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven.” (Mt 18:10)
- 28. SETTLE DISPUTES BETWEEN BELIEVERS IN THIS MATTER:** “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector.” (Mt 18:15-17)
- 29. LEAD BY BEING A SERVANT:** “but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave” (Mt 20:26-27)
- 30. LOVE THE LORD AND LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR:** “He said to him, ‘ “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mt 22:37-39)
- 31. DO NOT EXALT YOURSELF** “But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.” (Mt 23:8-12)
- 32. CARE FOR THOSE IN DISTRESS:** “Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” (Mt 25:34-36)
- 33. GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM AND TEACHING THEM TO OBEY JESUS’ COMMANDMENTS:** “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Mt 28:19-20)
- 34. DO NOT OPPOSE OTHER CHRISTIAN GROUPS:** “John said to him, ‘Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.’ But Jesus said, ‘Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us.’” (Mk 9:38-40)
- 35. HAVE COMPLETE FAITH IN GOD:** “Jesus answered them, ‘Have faith in God. Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain, “Be taken up and thrown into the sea”, and if you do not doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will come to pass, it will be done for you. So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” (Mk 11:22-24)
- 36. FORGIVE:** “Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses” (Mk 11:25-26)

37. BE MERCIFUL: “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” (Lk 6:36)

38. TAKE UP YOUR CROSS: “Then he said to them all, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.’” (Lk 9:23)

39. DO AS THE GOOD SAMARITAN DID: “ He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise” (Lk 10:37)

40. YOU MUST BE READY FOR THE SECOND COMING: “You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.” (Lk 12:40)

41. DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME: “Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.’” (Lk 22:19-20)

42. YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN: “Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You must be born from above” (Jn 3:7)

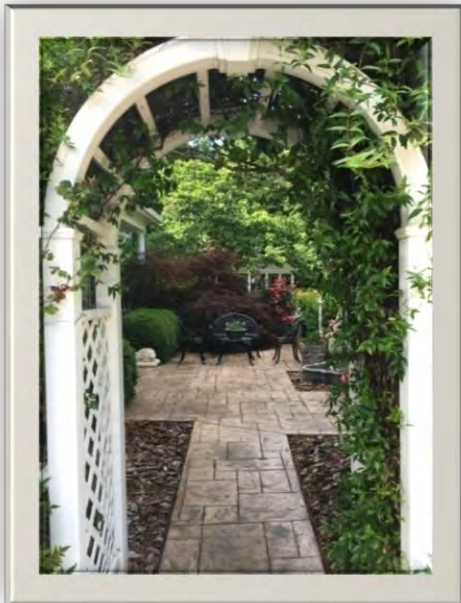
43. YOU SHOULD ALSO WASH ONE ANOTHER’S FEET: “So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.” (Jn 13:14)

44. OBEY WHAT I COMMAND: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments”. (Jn 14:15)

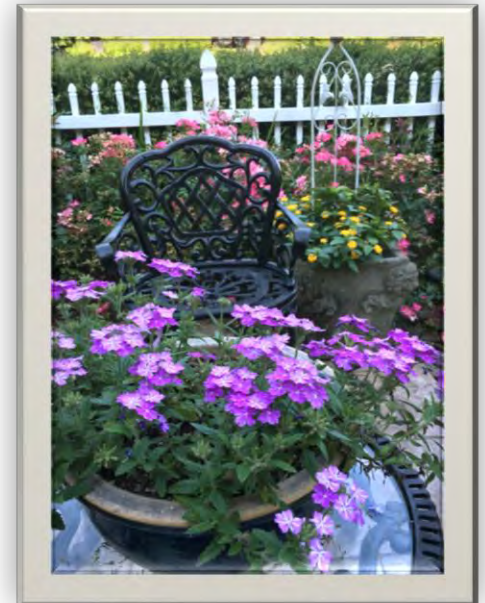
45. REMAIN IN ME AND I WILL REMAIN IN YOU: “Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.” (Jn 15:4)

46. LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU: “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” (Jn 15:12)

by Nina Allison



Come and visit the Abbot
this year in Winston Salem, NC



NEW



EXCITING



Reflections by the Abbot

Abbot Oscar Joseph gives instructions for a more fruitful Christmas

<https://vimeo.com/17981482>

Thoughts by Br. Brendan

Br. Brendan has a unique style, here he discusses monastic vows.

<https://vimeo.com/22468145>



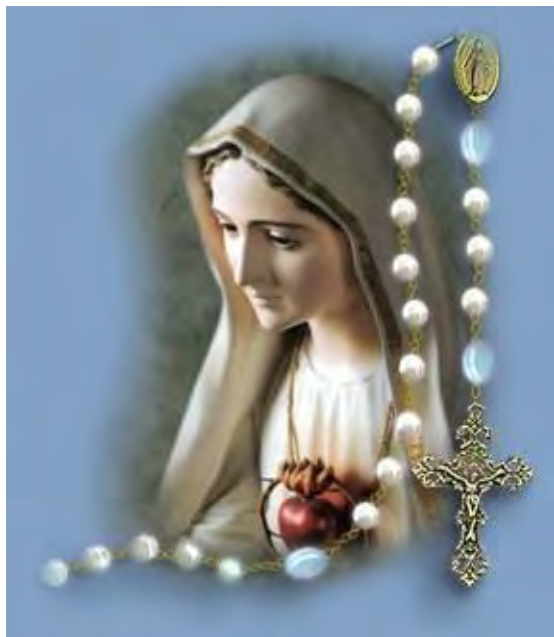
The Four Degrees of Love by St. Bernard

<http://www.soulshpherd.org/2013/08/bernard-of-clairvauxs-four-degrees-of-love/>

The Medal of St. Benedict

<http://www.osb.org/gen/medal.html>



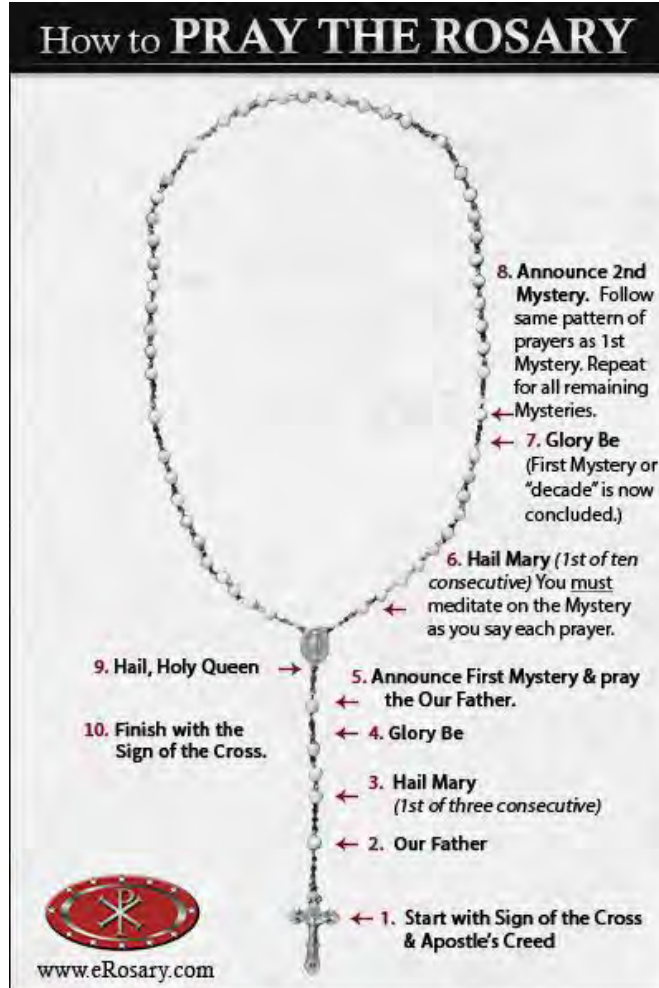


The Abbot says: These links have great and interesting information. Worth the read.

<http://catholicexchange.com/5-reasons-pray-rosary-every-day-2017>
5 Reasons to say the Rosary

http://www.catholicbridge.com/catholic/mary_rosary.php
Is the Rosary Biblical?

<http://www.ewtn.com/library/ANSWERS/ROSARYDI.HTMp://www.ewtn.com/library/ANSWERS/ROSARYDI.HTM>
The Rosary Dissected



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 are icons of hope in our communities.

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.

"Your ministry has meant a lot to me. The Prayer Retreat I attended this spring was a great blessing to me. I had come to a time in my life when I felt cut-off in my prayers, wondering if I was "saying it right" so to speak. I learned that there is no "right", if it is in your heart (whether it is original words or written words) it is your personal prayer. So now I have those talks with God thru out the day (pray without ceasing)."



Our Monasteries by Name



Holy Cross Monastery, Winston Salem, NC
Sacred Cross Monastery, Cleveland, OH
Our Lady of Covadonga's Respite Hermitage, Hopkinsville, KY
Monastery of the Waters of Shiloah, Tellico Falls, TN
Holy Cross Hermitage, Olympia, WA
Church of the Holy Cross, Philippines
Anglican Oblates of St.. Benedict, Brazil



Leslie Berry

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

leslie@KeyLimeDesigns.net (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!!!

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 36 years old. We are one of the oldest Religious Orders or our kind.

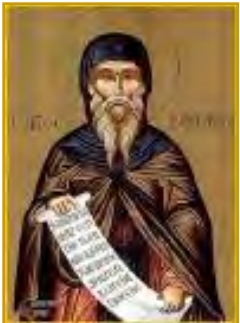
Our members come from a wide variety of backgrounds including educators, medical and mental health professionals, law enforcement, engineers, retired and disabled individuals, homemakers, and even a peanut salesman.

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.

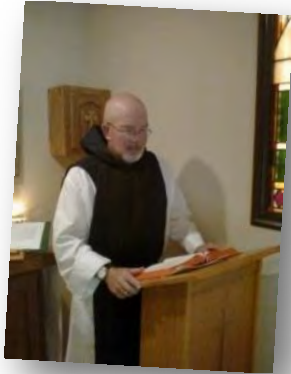
Martyrs and monks have always been the spiritual fiber holding together the Church Catholic.

Br. Columcille, OCCO writes, *"I 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.

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.



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

**You won't believe what Br. Brendan
said about the Abbot. "It will blow
your mind!!!"**

<https://vimeo.com/32063529>

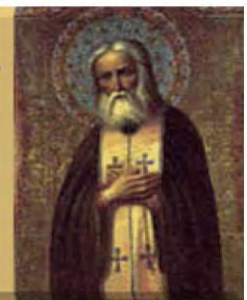
I have really enjoyed ALL of these videos and I think that this technology is blessed by your and by our intent. I think it's really difficult for many of us to "feel" like we are a community, what with distances, languages, etc. Your videos have helped me in that regard. I think of them as chapter talks 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.



The St. Stephen Harding Theological College and Seminary
and
The St. Seraphim School of Orthodox Theology



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.

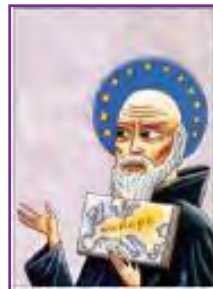
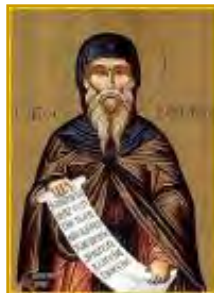
We pray for all those who have requested our prayers particularly members of our Order and those who are in union with us.

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

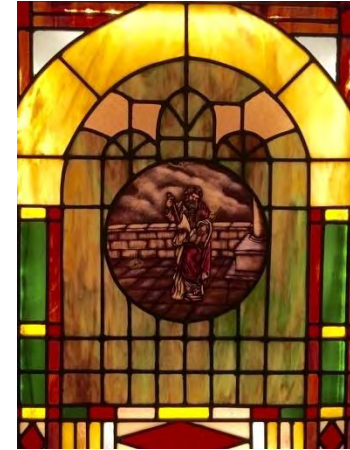
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Please pray this prayer every day.



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.*

No dues

No fees

The Global Fraternity for Christian Unity

How can I apply for membership?

Applying for membership is easy. Simply go to www.CistercianMonks.org, Click on the **Global Fraternity for Christian Unity** at the top of the page and complete the application form. Send it to us and we will reply shortly.

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
Abbot@bellsouth.net*