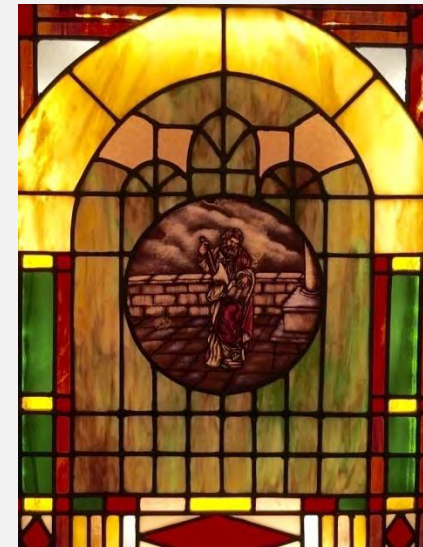




Obsculta

"Listen with the ears of your heart"

September 2019



"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."

"Persevere in prayer. Gratitude will open our souls to the unity of God, self, and others. Gratitude moves us from limitations and fear to expansion and love."

Member of the Independent Anglican Church, Canada Synod

The quarterly newsletter of

The Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross, Common Observance
Worldwide Membership of Monks Living Outside of a Monastery
Founded 1981

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

www.CistercianMonks.org

News From The Abbot General



Of Special
Interest In
This
Obsculta

- Br. Brendan visits the Abbot
- Welcome Bishop Best
- Triumph of the Cross
- The Benedict Option
- Testimonials
- Care of the Sick
- Reveal My Mother
- The Threshold of Heaven
- Memorials
- Musings on the Eschoton
- Companions of the Holy Cross
- Independent Anglican Church
- Global Fraternity for Christian Unity
- Daily Prayer for the Order
- Who we are and what we do.
- Looking for more Priests
- Contact us



Greetings Cistercians and Friends:

Well this certainly has been an interesting three months. It has been a time when we prayed that things would work out better than we would have imagined. And it did. The Holy Spirit was just plain everywhere.

In a few weeks I will be retiring from a 35 year counseling ministry. And wouldn't you know that God already has a list of things for me to do!!!

Br. Brendan, OCCO visited the Monastery. It is always a blessed and happy time when he visits.

Ted Williams died after a long bout with cancer. His story will follow. And yes the Holy spirit made that very sad event more comforting.

September is Br. Benedict's, OCCO one year anniversary of his death.

September 14th the "Triumph of the Cross" is our Feast Day. We are 37 years old and have representation in 7 countries and 9 states in the United States. We have been called one of the leaders of the Benedictine movement in the USA, Wow!



Hats, Humidity, Happiness by Rev. Br. Brendan, OCCO

I have entered into a new phase of life. The past three years have been, to say the least, eventful. Life has changed and has done so dramatically! I have recently turned 60 and with this came a time of reflection, and with this reflection I felt it was time for me to live out a dream, one I have had for many, many years. Nope, not climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, nor running with the bulls, nothing quite so exciting. My dream was to buy an RV and start seeing the country and by golly I did!

In the 9 months I have owned this thing I have been from sea to shining sea and many points in between. And of course a visit with our dear Abbot and his lovely wife Kathleen was at the top of the agenda.

My journey began in my home state of Oklahoma with a few days stopover in Arkansas to visit an old friend from my prison days. HUH! No, no no... I worked there, I WAS not in there. LOL. Then I continued my sojourn through Mississippi, seeing the birth place of Elvis Presley. On to Alabama and into Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where I was to spend 3 joyful days with the Abbot and Kathleen. I realize many, if not most, of you good folks have not had the pleasure of spending quality time with these quality folks, but if you do expect these two things: 1) expect to be loved on and 2) expect to be spoiled, because both will happen.

I arrived to Winston-Salem in mid July! Maybe not the perfect time of year for a visit because it was hot and it was humid, and our dear Abbot has this thing for walking, so we walked. Well, he walked; I just sort of slid on a layer of my own perspiration. The walk was a lot of fun and was a wonderful time spent with my spiritual mentor. What made it even more memorable were our matching hats. The Abbot had taken pity on this portly monk and had given me a very "sparkly" hat to wear, and I did so with pride. Actually the sparkles were reflectant that kept the sun off my ever aging brain. A good idea I must say.

When we were not walking, we spent time at the Monastery where we enjoyed cooking out and of course delicious meals provided by a most gracious hostess, Kathleen...wow, what a cook! Not only was I able to relish in their hospitality so was my little traveling companion, Baby Girl, my sweet little rescue dog. She loved running through the grounds and chasing all the critters, real or imagined. One evening Kathleen let her into the house to meet the monastic kitties, and you know what, they got along pretty well. My little girl may even be invited back.

One of the more memorable evenings was spent with a lovely couple, Lance and Karen Key, at a fantastic Italian restaurant, Tre Nonne. The taste of the lasagna still lingers. Delicious.

Soon, far too soon, it was time for me to hit the open road again. I went up to West Virginia for a few days to contemplate my time with the Abbot before heading to Charleston, Savanna, St. Augustine and then to the Chesapeake Bay. It was a terrific trip, but the highlight has to be hanging with the Abbot and Kathleen. Here's to many more trips back east and to the monastery, and may they be soon.

God bless, Br. Brendan, The Ramblin Monk in the Mobile Monastery



Hats Humidity Happiness



What Happens when monks visit the Monastery in Winston-Salem, NC?

Each monk usually has a unique experience sometimes depending if his arrival is a 2:00AM or 5:00PM on Friday or Saturday. Sometimes depending on the monk's agenda, depending on the weather, or depending if a particular schedule doesn't work. And above all where the Holy Spirit leads.

On every occasion the monk is greeted with a warm welcome, food (lots of food), and lots of a variety of prayer, lots of serious and fun conversations, and some activities.

When Br. Brendan, OCCO, visited he appropriately chose our theme as **"Hats, Humid, Happiness"**.

Yes, it was very hot and humid and the hats were some of the happiness. "Hats rule".

Most of all we were most happy when we prayed. God was certainly present and He moved us deeply.

Br. Brendan, OCCO thanks for the visit.



Welcome Bishop Richard Best to the Cistercians



Bishop Richard L. Best, IAC has recently become an Oblate in the Cistercian Order Common Observance.

+Richard's childhood was divided equally between eastern North Carolina and Washington D.C., but he and his wife, Jean, have lived just outside Buffalo NY for the past 25 years.

He was ordained to the priesthood in 1995 and became a bishop in 2015 but shortly thereafter became bishop emeritus due to health challenges.

He is a graduate of Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania, and he holds a Master of Divinity as well as a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies.

+Richard's primary area of interest has always been Jewish Studies and Hebrew language, and he remains very engaged in those pursuits on an ongoing basis.

+Richard has also had a strong interest over the years in Benedictine studies as well. His uncle lived a long life as a Benedictine monk at Holy Cross Abbey in Colorado, and +Richard was able to visit with him there to participate in the community life from time to time and to develop an appreciation for the Rule of St. Benedict.

Suspicious Signs of a Call to Contemplative Religious Life

Desire to grow in union with God through prayer. Love of God that manifests itself in a desire to give one's life to Him. Desire to live simply. The wish to live life with less stress and more order. Generosity. Ability to listen to others and accept direction when needed. Desire to worship God in all the moments of life.

Contact us immediately if these symptoms appear.



Triumph of the Cross

*Feast Day for the Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross
September 14th*



“O, Dear Jesus, I speak to You softly, slowly I look at You hanging on the Cross I remind myself of Your Sufferings I look upon Your five most precious wounds: Your arms outstretched The nails in Your hands, The nails in Your feet, The deep wound in Your side. And I remember how very much You Love me. I, too, suffer I, too, am wounded Dearest Jesus, I bind my wounds, my deep sufferings to Yours I beg You, dear Jesus To send the Holy Spirit upon me. Believing You have, I pray Help me to heal by finding Truth Help me to heal by placing my wounds at Your blessed, blessed feet... By placing my sufferings at the foot of Your blessed, blessed cross. Amen”

“Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world. Consider how thy Jesus, after three hours of agony on the cross, consumed at length with anguish, abandons Himself to the weight of His body, bows His head, and dies. O my dying Jesus, I kiss devoutly the cross on which Thou didst die for love of me. I have merited by my sins to die a miserable death, but Thy death is my hope. Ah, by the merits of Thy death, give me grace to die, embracing Thy feet and burning with love of Thee. I commit my soul into Thy hands. I love Thee with my whole heart; I repent of ever having offended Thee. Never permit me to offend Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.”



THE BENEDICT OPTION

A Contemporary Option from Benedictine Wisdom

By
+Brother Isaac Simon, OCCO



It is quite apparent that American society, for a variety of reasons, is in a downward spiral morally, ethically, and spiritually.

As an avowed religious person, I have decided to pattern my life in such a manner that I can find solace and strength in community, in worship, and in religious practices which strengthen my walk with God and helps me to discern God's call on my life.

I think encouraging the wider Christian communities to engage in similar practices, to a limited degree, affords them a similar opportunity. But more importantly those same Christian communities become distinct examples of what it means to be Christian in today's world; and it allows those communities to become places others may turn to for nourishment and nurturing in their everyday lives.

Being set apart, like an avowed religious, is not something everyone can do; but having a communal religious life (community of believers one can gather with) and corporate religious life (formal place of worship) both embedded in one's secular life can provide some semblance of the monastic lifestyle which imparts a Godly peculiarity and distinction that may draw others who are seeking to survive in a degraded culture. Amen.

This is the premise of the book *The Benedict Option* by Rod Dreher. He espouses the idea that Christians wherever they may find themselves become the antithesis to the morally decadent cultural practices evident in the world today. These Christians can provide a powerful apologia and a living testimony to the One Who Was, And Is, And is to Come

From The Abbot:

Rather than list the qualities of the Cistercian Charism and discuss what we can do for you I am listing below some comments from members on what we have done for them.

“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.”

“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.”

“There were certain things that prayer, study, and scriptural research have convinced me are required in my own path. It was important for me that the order be contemplative, and that it adhered to the traditional orthodox teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I was not interested in joining an order that was too easy, or that bent over too far to be politically amenable. It was important to me that I would be well guided along the way.”

“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.”

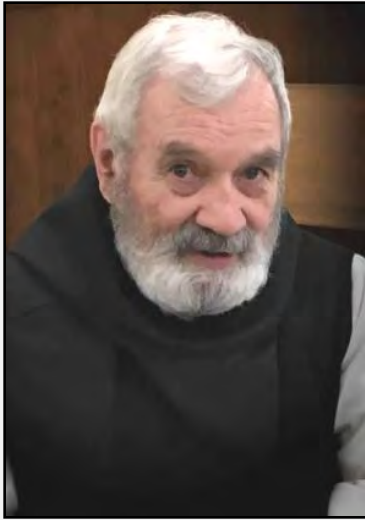
“ Each aspect of this humble expression is precious balm on hearts truly aching for closer union with the Lord. The Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross is an opportunity for a Spirit-led man or woman to become a true monk or nun in this revered tradition.”

“When I joined the Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross, the first thing that changed was my prayer life. Before, it was a life-less obligation, a burden my wife and I committed ourselves to pray at least the Morning and Evening Prayers and whenever time allows, to pray the other offices as well. This helped us to become more prayerful, teaching us to offer everything to God each day; referring to Him even the mundane things of our daily life. I started seeing myself opening more and more to my wife in terms of communication, becoming more forgiving and affirming. My relationship with the Lord started improving tremendously. Whereas before, obeying God is a duty, now it is a joy.”

Suspicious Signs of a Call to Contemplative Religious Life

**Desire to grow in union with God through prayer. Love of God that manifests itself in a desire to give one's life to Him.
Desire to live simply. The wish to live life with less stress and more order. Generosity. Ability to listen to others and accept direction when needed. Desire to worship God in all the moments of life.**

Contact us immediately if these symptoms appear.



The Care of the Sick

By
Br. Albert Joseph, OCCO

*I will bless the Lord at all times
His praise shall ever be in my mouth.
I sought the Lord, and He answered me
And He delivered me out of my terror.
I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me
And saved me from all my troubles.
Taste and see that the Lord is good,
Happy are they who trust in Him.*
Ps. 34



Br. Albert with his wife Connie

It has been an “interesting” past month and half. My wife had the second of two hand surgeries, the last being the knockout punch in that we got to see what a no hands life might be like. On top of that, during the second week of her second and toughest hand surgery recovery, my left knee started the initial process of deterioration -hello- knee replacement!

Within this context, in a conversation with a retired Russian Orthodox Abbot friend of mine, who brought me to Jesus said, among other things that are going on around you, “You’re in The Garden” and He won’t go to sleep on you.

Wouldn’t you know that the next chapter of my reading the rule and commentary of Saint Benedict would happen to be Chapter 36: The Sick - Benedict says “the care of the sick must rank above and before all else so that they may be truly served as Christ who said, ‘I was sick and you visited me’” (Matt. 25:36).

To serve the sick and be patient with the sick is to serve Christ.



KATHLEEN P. RIVEST, PH.D., D.D.

MARION SCHOLAR
PUBLISHED AUTHOR
TV AND RADIO PERSONALITY



“ REVEAL MY MOTHER

Years ago the Lord said to me, “Reveal my Mother.” I thought that Christian women would be excited to learn about the Blessed Mother as a God approved role model. With this naïve beginning I was soon surprised when people walked out of a Sunday, Mother’s Day, service because the priest was discussing the Virgin Mary’s role in the Church. The lack of education makes many unable to study the Mother of Christ and to appreciate her role in salvation history.

The fifth commandment tells us to give honor to our father and mother. Jesus came to fulfill the law, not abolish it (Matthew 5:17). At His crucifixion Jesus gave Mary to be Mother of the Church through the “disciple whom he loved” (John 19:26). As the spiritual children of the Blessed Virgin Mary we are commanded to honor her. Surely Jesus honors her.

Jesus, our Savior, Redeemer and Lord, chose to come into this world through Mary, honoring her and motherhood. Imagine having the Creator of the world in your womb, Spirit and humanity creating life. Mary was in God’s perfect plan from the beginning. She was selected to be the Mother of Our Lord before this world began. For this she deserves our respect.

Jesus’ first miracle, turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana, was performed when His Mother asked him for help. She interceded with her Son to bless others. Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and tomorrow. His mother still intercedes with Jesus on behalf of her spiritual children, still bringing Christ into the world.

Joining our prayers with the prayers of others gives them more spiritual strength. As we give the Blessed Virgin the honor due her, we ask her to pray for our intentions. We ask her to help us in our battles on earth in preparation for heaven.

Let us invite the Blessed Mother of God to intercede for our Church, nation and families. Let us draw nearer to Christ by learning more about the woman who gave Him human form.



The Threshold of Heaven by Janice Joy Ariza



Greetings to the Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross,

In November, I am hoping to take my Oblate promises. When I prayed to God to help me pass through another meaningful door in my Christian journey, He answered with this threshold to cross. My journey began at St. Luke's in the Hills at seven years old. I knew then that I was called to be a part of the Church. At seven, who would know that I would be standing on the threshold of this door? I think God might have a part in it. My son-in-law, Br. Benedict, always encouraged me to get involved and to become an Oblate. I am looking forward to this next step and excited about it all.

I work at St. Placid Priory for Benedictine Sisters coordinating their retreat center. It involves many aspects of hospitality and, therefore, my job is to serve others. When a new retreatant arrives, they look as though they are standing on the threshold of peace, solace, respect. Their expectations are often met because God waits for them to step into the part of heaven He has set aside for them. I also am standing on the threshold of heaven as I greet and receive visitors. The eagerness to have a new encounter with God fills my soul with a deep understanding of how our lives are shaped each day as we walk past our doorsteps.

An essential part of the initial introduction is a tour of the St. Placid campus. The usuals are covered like where to eat, the library and the chapel, the trails and meeting rooms. Then, we approach the cemetery. This is a threshold we all must cross, and the physical manifestation of it right in front of the peace-seeker's eyes becomes a very pensive and heavy moment. I continue on with, "Here is the cemetery where the Sisters are buried. They humorously refer to it as their last community." A little bit of laughter lightens the moment, and then I go on to explain that the Rule of Saint Benedict says to keep death ever before you. Spiritually we must live every day in alignment with our Lord as He helps us cross the thresholds.



On August 24, 2019 Ted Williams our dear friend passed away peacefully surrounded by his family.

I am grateful to have this opportunity to share with you some important moments and accomplishments in Ted's life of which you may not be aware.

First let me say that Ted and I were the closest of friends for nearly 15 years. We shared long hours in conversation, prayer, and he and I sharing wisdom and encouragement.

Several months prior to his first hospitalization he asked me to be his priest, spiritual director during the difficult times ahead. His principal goal was to know and submit himself to God. As you may know Ted was quite a thinker. His rational mind had a difficult time traversing the bridge between himself and his Creator. One day I said to Ted, "put your thoughts, efforts, and rational self aside and listen." We prayed. God spoke. Ted heard. Ted believed.

Months passed and Ted urged me to teach him how to pray and move into the embraces of his Lord and Savior. Several times later he told me that he was at peace with his death. God is Good.

Ted served on my Abbot's General Counsel as consultant to the Abbot General of the Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross, Common Observance, 501(c)(3).

He received an Honorary Doctor of Letters in December of 2009 for his contributions to the Winston –Salem community and the Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross granted by **The Saint Stephen Harding Theological College and Seminary/St. Seraphim School of Orthodox Theology.**

On July 14, 2019 Ted received the highest honor from The Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross. By Ecclesiastical Proclamation he became a member of the Companions of the Holy Cross.

I thought that you might want to hear Ted's very words.

On one occasion Ted and Janice came to the Cistercian Order's Chapel, in Winston Salem, NC. During the Eucharistic service they both renewed their Baptismal vows. It was an exciting spiritual and personal moment for all of us. After the service Ted and Janice wrote us saying:

Nov 3, 2018

Father Rivest / Abbot, I can't thank you enough for your very loving and heartfelt service this morning. I felt that God the Father and Jesus Christ were with me and protecting me. Janice said she had never felt more spiritually healed. She also said she felt like she had two new friends. Please give our thanks to Kathleen as well. She was an important part of the service and I felt like I could feel her holiness, there to support both of us as well as you.

Also, thank you for the materials you pulled together for me and for giving Janice your book.

There was a lot of love going around this morning. Thank you!

Father Rivest, I want to thank you and your lovely wife Kathleen for the warm and beautiful welcome you gave Ted and me today. But most of all I want to thank you for all you did for us. Ted asked me on the way home how I felt and I told him I had never felt so good about what I believe and my relationship with God than I did at that moment. I know Ted holds you both in high regard and considers you two of his closest friends and spiritual guides. I hope to count you both as that also. He and I have a tough road ahead of us but with God's help and your love and friendship I know our journey may be made a lot easier. Thank you again for your loving care of us today Janice.



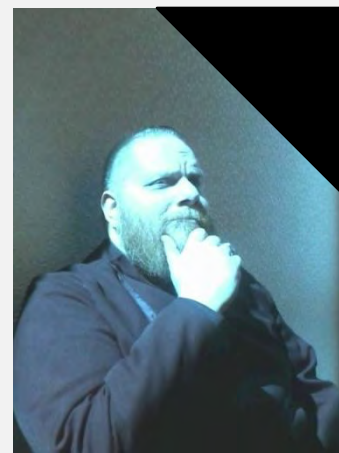
By Abbot Oscar Joseph, OCCO

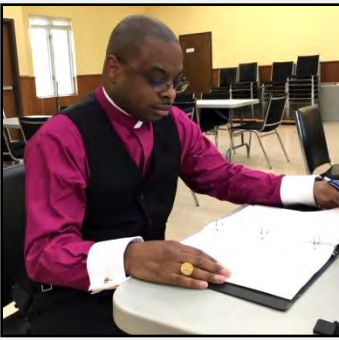
Ted Williams and I have a number of funny stories generated both inside and outside the hospital. One day I was visiting him in the hospital. Our visits contained a lot of prayer, reception of Viaticum, and our social activities. He always wanted to know what I was up to. I described that I recently joined a hiking club. He was quick to tell me of his interest in hiking and dreams of climbing Mt. Everest. So we had humorous time creating imaginative stories about hiking together.

When I returned home I put our two photos together and made a huge copy of this photo for his hospital room. He loved it and was quite descriptive of the macho the Abbot looked in the picture.

Ted was on my Abbot's counsel and gave great wisdom on how handle certain difficult Cistercian decision. I will ever be grateful for Ted's contributions to my life.

Br. Benedict, OCCO , Passed to the heavens surrounded by his family and many angels. So many angels that the hospital staff saw them. Br. Benedict and I spent many video hours together. He had been hurt and disappointed by the church. He had to figure out if I was trustworthy or not. In that process we became the best of friends. When it was time to join he went to town selling me on his Cistercian journey. "Dear Father Abbot I dreamed of being a monk when I was little. As you can see I am still in love with St. Benedict. I agreed to the obvious. So he took on a pensive look and said, " Well Abbot let me think about that." Br. Benedict was so very humorous, captivating, and a dear lover of our Lord. I miss his terribly.





MUSINGS ON THE ESCHATOLOGY OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

By
+Brother Isaac Simon, OCCO, D.D.

What is the eschatological view held by Paul, as described in his undisputed letters?

Biblical scholars have suggested that Paul of Tarsus expected the Second Coming of Christ to occur in a short period of time. It seems odd for Paul to expect Jesus to return rather quickly; when the entire known world (at that time) had not been evangelized.

Paul did not initially have an exact eschatological definition of what would happen at the end of the world. Jewish tradition does not contain stories of God being sacrificed. Jewish tradition also does not contain stories of a resurrected God/Supreme Being. The idea of a resurrected God would have been new ground for Paul as a Pharisaical Jew.

However, among Jewish tradition, there were a variety of belief systems due to the various factions within Judaism (Sadducees, Pharisees, Essenes, etc.); thus Paul could have been influenced by any number of sources prior to his conversion experience.

Post conversion experience, Paul would have needed to work out what he believed the end of the world would entail. Jews did have the concepts that the world would one day end and God would punish the bad and reward the good. These are all themes found in Paul's undisputed letters.

Paul develops and states his views in various ways:

- Jesus will not return until his enemies are destroyed: 1 Corinthians 25 - 26
- Christians will be persecuted until Jesus returns: 1 Thessalonians, 2 Corinthians, and Philippians.
- Christ's enemies can be eliminated by converting them, i.e. preaching the gospel. Romans 11, 1 Corinthians 15

But, how did Paul connect Jesus to his eschaton? What specific things needed to happen in order for the end of the world to occur? Finally, does Paul's eschatological views evolve or change as his letters are written?

His Excellency the Most Rev. Abbot General, Oscar Joseph, OCCC
Ecclesiastical Proclamation
on the day of our Savior's birth, 2018 the formation of
The Companions of the Holy Cross
Comites Sancti Crucis

As a medium for The Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross, Common Observance to give their highest honor to those individuals who demonstrate extraordinary love for the Holy Cross through outstanding qualities of character such as:

Dedication to personal or corporate spiritual growth:

Demonstration of Spiritual Giftedness through evidence of genuine Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Personal courage to overcome overwhelming odds through the use of:

Godly wisdom

Dedication to Justice

Uses temperance, humility, meekness, discipline

Self Sacrificing:

Charity (love and generosity) towards the Cistercian Order, or a specific member of the
Order, social, physical, emotional, spiritual needs of others

Generous with their time, talents and resources

Genuine care for the unlovable

Nominations

Nominations** for receiving the highest honor of companions of the Holy Cross may be given by Members (those under vows), Postulants, Oblates, leaders, Council Members, faculty, and others directly associated with the Cistercian Order.

The petitioner should send to the Office of the Abbot General:

The contact information including, mailing address and e-mail of the petitioner, and the candidate. Include several paragraphs describing the candidate's biography and reasons for the nomination.

Upon making a decision the Office of the Abbot General will advise the petitioner on further actions.

From the Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross you will receive and number of wonderful benefits.

You have an "Associate Membership" into the Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross.

We will give you a pin representing the shield of the Cistercian Order that may be worn.

You will have our apostolic benediction and spiritual covering/protection.

You and your intentions will be prayed for during the monks/Oblates morning prayers.

You will have access to The Cistercian leadership for personal prayer and spiritual guidance.

You may use the letters CHC after you name as a declaration that they are Companions of the Holy Cross. Example: Mary Smith, CHC.

You will be invited to retreats and events.

You will receive quarterly Obsculta/newsletter.

*"Associate Membership" is a non-voting participation in the Grace and Charism of the Cistercian Order

** Members (those under vows), Postulants, Oblates, leaders, Council Members, faculty, and others directly associated with the Cistercian order are not eligible for nomination to the Companions of the Holy Cross

**The Companions of the Holy Cross
Comites Sancti Crucis**

**Individuals who have received The Cistercian Order's
highest honor**

**Julie Brown
Alexia Thiessen
Bishop Peter Goodrich
Robert Ted Williams**

We Welcome your Nominations

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The Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross are Proud Members of The Independent Anglican Church, Canada Synod

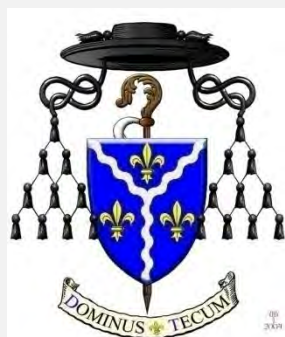
We are the **Cistercian Order of the Holy Cross, Common Observance**, an independent dispersed religious order within the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church and an autonomous member of the Independent Anglican Church -Canada Synod.

“The Independent Anglican Church, Canada Synod is proud to be traditional Anglicans. Who follow, "where the saints have trod", the old, familiar path; the path that leads, in order and dignity, to warmth and tolerance.

“The discipline and public worship of the Church are, most properly, Catholic. Our adherents will experience a spread of services and style stretching gloriously all the way from Anglo-Catholic to (Low) Evangelical. Most of our congregations would be described as being Broad Church, following a via media.”



A message from the Archbishop Oscar Joseph, OCCO



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

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 1

Every few weeks we have a topic for discussion.

Members are from all over the world.

New: Prayer for Intentions. A place where you can ask for us to pray for your needs.

Prayer for Petitions is a place where people can list their personal petitions and find spiritual support for the same.. Prayers for political, social or anything other than sincerely personal needs are not welcomed.

Join today on FaceBook

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.

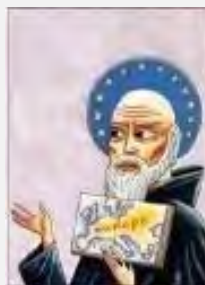
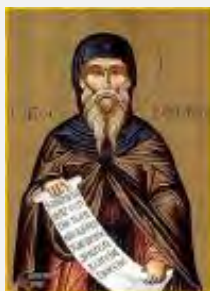
We pray also for those who may have given up hope or have forgotten to pray for themselves.

We pray that at all times and under every circumstance that every holy action, prayer, Liturgy, joy and even suffering that we experience is perpetually offered as a prayer for each of us, our intentions and the intentions of others. Let it be known that when you pray we all pray. AMEN.

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.
The Abbot has proclaimed this to be our
new daily prayer. Please join him daily to
pray this together.





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

We are an independent dispersed religious order within the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church and an autonomous member of the Independent Anglican Church - Canada Synod.

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.

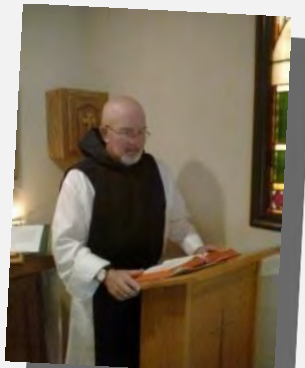
Martyrs and monks have always been the spiritual fiber holding together the Church Catholic.

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 Memorial Day for our dear Br. Paul, OCCO is June 24th. He was a true blessing to our Order.

- 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.

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
Abbot@bellsouth.net*