



Benet Hill Monastery

3190 Benet Lane ∞ Colorado Springs, CO 80921-1509

Who Are Oblates?

Oblates are Christian adults who desire to seek God by living in harmony with the spirit [of Saint Benedict](#) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benedict_of_Nursia as revealed in the [Rule of St. Benedict](#) <http://www.osb.org/rb/text/toc.html#toc> and its contemporary expressions. Oblates associate themselves in a spiritual union with a [particular Benedictine monastery](#) <http://www.osb.org/geog/searchform.asp> so that they may share in the spiritual life, prayers and works of the community. By embracing the Benedictine way of life, they strive to live full Christian lives enlightened by personal efforts to understand Christ's teaching in the Scriptures as interpreted by [St. Benedict](#) in his [rule](#) for monks.ⁱ

Benedictine Oblates do not take vows and do not usually live in a monastic house of the community, but remain united with the community while they carry out the duties of their particular state in life. They do make promises to seek God more intensely through the principles of the Rule of St. Benedict in partnership with with the monks or sisters of the Benedictine community with which they are affiliated. Oblates are a "spiritual arm" of a Benedictine community reaching out to all areas of life and sharing what they gain as [Oblates of St. Benedict](#). <http://www.osb.org/obl/>

Benedictine Oblates, therefore, bring St. Benedict's ideals of service to God and humankind into the world where they live and work.

The word "Oblate" means offering. Therefore Oblates of St. Benedict offer themselves for the service of God and others keeping in mind the Benedictine motto: "That God may be glorified in all things." (I Peter 4:11, quoted in RB 57.9) By integrating prayer and work they manifest Christ's presence in society.

Benedictine oblates do not take on a new set of religious practices and are not required to say a certain number of special devotions. Their guide for living the Gospel is the Rule of Saint Benedict. The spiritual values that many Benedictine Oblates in the United States strive for are outlined in a [Constitution and Guidelines](#) <http://www.osb.org/obl/guidelns.html> adopted by a group of Directors of Oblates in 1972.

Oblate Life

Oblates bind themselves by an act of oblation, or "gift" to God. This oblation is a promise, not a vow, to live according to the **Rule St. Benedict** wrote in the 6th century. Oblates have a strong desire to find God and experience a fuller Christian life by living according to the spirit of the Rule as their circumstances permit. Oblates are responsible for their own Christian spiritual life. Monthly



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meetings, an annual retreat, and other activities of the community provide mutual support and guidance.

Benedictine oblate life is primarily a spiritual life. The Rule of Benedict provides the guide for oblate life. The key to this life is found in Benedict's advice, "That God may be glorified in all things" (RB 57.9). The oblate truly seeks God in every aspect of everyday life. Oblate life is centered on a reverence for prayer. Oblates practice prayer both publicly with the Liturgy of the Hours and privately.

Oblates have a love for Scripture. *Lectio divina*, <http://www.valyermo.com/ld-art.html> or prayerful reading of Scripture is central to an oblate's way of life. Part of oblate life is the desire to be obedient to the will of God. Oblates fulfill this desire with humility, by patiently bearing the everyday trials of life, by appreciating silence, by keeping one's speech under control, and by viewing all work as holy.

Oblate life is formed in and around the Benedictine community with which they are affiliated. An oblate of Benet Hill Monastery is affiliated spiritually with [this monastery](http://www.benethillmonastery.org) and thus shares in the prayer, work, love and commitment of the community. The oblates also form a community among themselves and among their family, friends and church. By being part of the Benedictine community, the oblate is supported to live more fully the Christian life. Benet Hill oblates are also part of an [international community of Benedictine oblates](http://www.benedictine-oblates.org/).

ⁱ ["Guidelines for Oblates of Saint Benedict," 2008.](#)