



"We live the Rule of St. Benedict!"

10. Follow Me!

If you desire to explore a vowed life of monasticism, we cordially invite you to spend time on a private retreat with us.

Requirements:

1. Age 18-40. Extenuating qualifications will be given consideration.
2. Normal physical and mental health. Sound attitudes toward life and people.
3. Practicing catholic. Be able to supply certificate of baptism, confirmation, and letter from your parish priest or spiritual director.
4. Two years of college preferred. High school diploma a must for Brother or Diaconate.
5. Disposition and good nature, as well as a positive willingness to obey the *RULE* is most essential.

Our Lady of Fatima Monastery

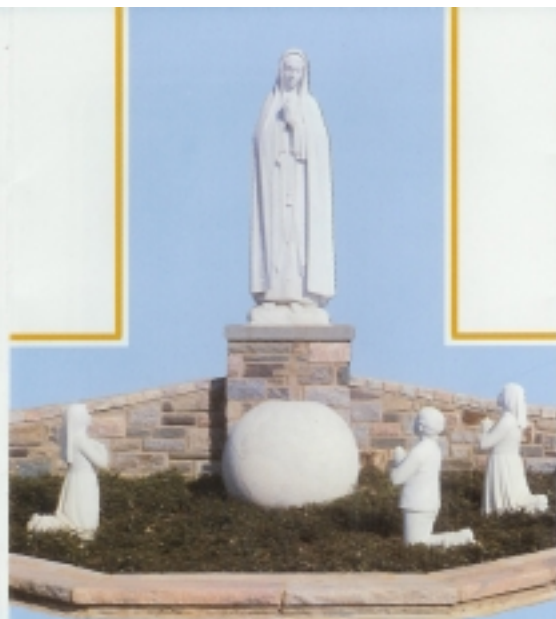
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Cistercian Monks

Contemplative and Parish Ministry

Our Lady of Fatima Monastery

Mt. Laurel, NJ

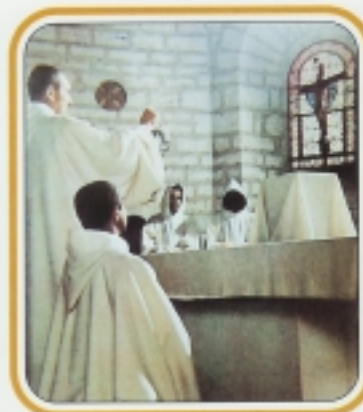


It is here in the school of the Lord, by the Rule for Monasteries, as composed by St. Benedict in the sixth century, that we learn the balance of "*ora et labora*," prayer and labor.

In our *CONTEMPLATIVE* ministry, we follow the *RULE*, the deeply rooted fundamentals of Prayer, Study and Labor, with humility, obedience and simplicity.

In our *ACTIVE* ministry, we continue to develop, in the nearness of God, by serving the needs of a growing parish, located on the same beautiful grounds as our monastery. This is our labor.

Our Lady of Fatima Monastery, Mount Laurel, NJ



2.

At the very center of the monk's existence, is the celebration of the *HOLY EUCHARIST*. It is at this moment that Christ infuses into all of us, the riches of His Divine Love. We are refreshed as an individual and as a community.



6.

Seven times a day as a community, we meet to pray the Divine Office. In the inspired words of the Psalms, we praise God and bring before him the needs of all mankind.

3. The postulant, the novice and the monk, study scripture, church history, the saints, and the fathers of medieval monasticism, thus strengthening our life long fidelity.

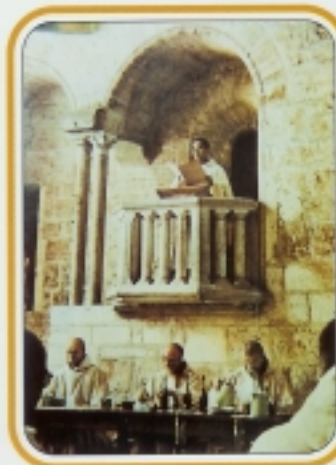


7. Essential to our monastic life, is simplicity and separation, provided by the silence of the cell, library, or enclosure. Here, we listen to the Master in the solitude of prayer and meditation.



4.

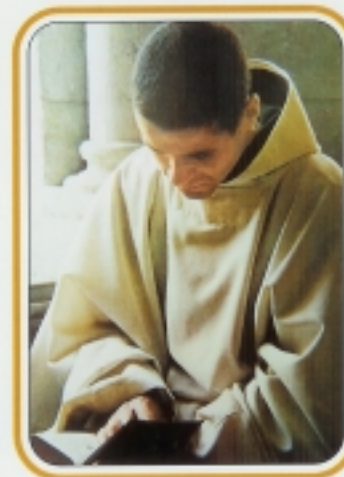
For a monk, daily labor becomes an essential part of community life, whether it be cooking, lawn maintenance or other assignments. It is by our own daily manual labor, that we enrich our penitential life in humility, and with our brothers, give support to our community.



8.

At the noon hour, we monks come together for nourishment of mind and body. In silence, during the meal, we listen to the Divine Words of the Master with sublime serenity.

5. The hour of *Lectio Divina* is a holy time of sacred reading, which emerges into prayer, meditation and contemplation. Here we find intimate union with God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, in the depths of our own heart.



9. In our *active* parish ministry, the Church calls the contemplative community to be witness, intercessor and teacher. The Monk becomes the teacher to the faithful, of a deeper understanding, love and closeness to God.

