

APPLICATION AS A REGULAR BROTHER or SISTER
(cenobitic; semi-eremitical expressions; and for Oblate status)
(Confidential)

THE BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY OF SAINT ANTHONY

(An ecclesial and *abbacy nullius* community

in association with the Evangelical Orthodox Old Catholic Church in America)

Saint Anthony House;

The Monastery of Mary in the Wilderness;

P.O. Box 24

Nashua, Montana 59248 (USA)

Please submit this application by regular mail with three letters of reference enclosed to the address above. Make your letter of application to the address above

We require *three letters of reference* that should be from --

1. From your parish priest or a clergyman that makes a statement about your character from his perspective and his observation of your potential for religious life. (If you are a Priest, you should furnish proof of your ordination from your Bishop)
2. From two close Catholic friends. (Priests may omit this requirement, but a letter must accompany the priest from the bishop)

PLEASE NOTE ALL APPLICANTS WILL NEED THE FOLLOWING ~~ A Criminal Background Check *is required* with the Application including any confirmation letters which you can obtain from you local law enforcement agency, to indicate that you have "no" outstanding warrants or police records. [We are sorry that we need to make this a requirement, but the signs of the times require this measure. Please understand this. Your application will not be considered without this criminal background check. We ask also that you be honest with us in matters that are questionable. This will enhance and not impede your application].

Note -- before making application... please read this and understand:

1. We are a public association and Community under the protection of a Bishop. We have been in existence since 1998. We are an *abbacy nullius* community, an independent foundation in ecclesial association with the Evangelical Orthodox Old Catholic Church in America.

2. We are seeking serious prospective religious brothers to join us in a new and emerging community of Brothers and Sisters. You are required, therefore, to agree as a Candidate and Postulant before coming to visit us to simple obedience to Superior and Prior of the Saint Anthony House during your stay. If you are applying for the semi-eremical or Oblate status ~~ Obedience to the [Regula Benedicti](#) and the Superior and his appointed leaders of the Community is the key matter to consider as a part of the religious community life. You will be required to adhere to the spirit and practice of the evangelical counsels (gospel poverty, chastity and obedience, conversion of life and manners, stability and hospitality) during your Novitiate until you are Temporarily Professed under Private Vows. This is further explained in the *Regula*.

3. There are no health benefits that we provide for you associated with the community. We are not able to afford health benefits for our members at this time. NOTE: Each brother is responsible for his own health insurances at this time. This must be clearly understood before coming to the community. Eventually, when we are able, the Community will enroll in a group health benefits plan for those in cenobitic residence with us as we grow in numbers, if financially able to do so.

4. Some part-time work outside the community will be required (no more than 16-20 hours per week on average) to lend support to a Brother's health benefits and food and lodging costs monthly. The Community needs on average \$300 per month income per person to make ends meet for food and utilities, thus, the purpose for the part-time employment. We recommend night work two days a week as these hours, usually 11pm-7am allow for the greatest solitude. [Each person will be considered on an individual basis.]

5. The habit(s) will require an allowance of approximately \$300 into a general fund. Normally, the community acquires these for the Postulant and they remain the property of the community. The habit may be worn after the candidacy and during the postulancy upon entry into the Novitiate the full habit with official acceptance into the Community. We recommend that the Candidate and Postulant might contribute (or have designated donations contributed to this fund) located under Saint Anthony's Retreat, Inc. The full habit may be worn outside of the compound as authorized by Superior. A Secular Habit may also be authorized by the Superior.

6. We are not involved with New Age methods of spirituality... ours is a community committed to orthodoxy in study and praxis and contemplative prayer consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

7. NOTE~~ It is understood that you as an applicant will show proof that you have the funds necessary to re-locate yourself at no expense to the Community, if you find that this community is not the vocation God intends for you. We ask that you provide this proof to the community prior to your arrival and residency with us.

8. The MISSION Statement of the Benedictine Community of Saint Anthony is:

We are a house of religious brothers located on the beautiful High Plains in Eastern MT. Our purpose is to seek the face of God in prayer, to find Christ in community, and to live the vowed life of the evangelical counsels in work, prayer, solitude, contemplation, and study.

We seek to be still and know that God is God.

We seek to find places of apostolate periodically to help others experience closeness to God alone through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in communion with other Catholic communities of like Faith and practice. Among these periodic apostolates include ecumenical outreaches of evangelism, catechesis, counseling, and various works of charity.

We prayerfully support the parishes within the diocese and our Bishop with the whole Church.

We are in sum a community that seeks to Love God without boundaries and others unconditionally.

Our website states --

The *Benedictine Community of Saint Anthony* orients itself within the Catholic-Benedictine and eremitical traditions.

As Catholic Benedictines, we seek the face of God by following the Rule of St. Benedict and We grow as a Christian community through the monastic practices of obedience, stability, *conversatio*, work and prayer.

Our Catholic orientation places us within the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of God, whose Head and Chief Priest is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

We hold as sacred the Holy Scriptures, the ancient creeds of the Church, the seven sacraments and governance through valid *episcopal* orders.

While we revere the Pope in his historic role as the "first among equals" we do not look ~ north, south, east or west for governance or validation. Rather, understanding the example of both our progenitors and contemporaries we follow the commission of our Lord to "go forth and teach."

It is our hope that by being attached to nothing of this earth we might better open our arms to all. We welcome and embrace our brothers and sisters in Christ, especially those from other Catholic bodies, whether they be Roman, Anglican, Orthodox or Old Catholic as we do all Christians everywhere.

We open our hearts in dialogue to men and women of good will from all faiths everywhere.

We would expect that you represent the community always in a positive light according to the Rule, which is based upon the Rule of Benedict and others.

I have read and desire to make this commitment of simple obedience:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Printed Full Name: _____

Please print legibly using a blue or black ballpoint pen

Date: _____

1. Print in Full (Your Last, First and Middle names)

2. Your Desired Religious Name and Why?

3. Your full mailing address include your zip code:

4. Your telephone number: _____

5. Your e-mail address: _____

6. Please describe your conversion experience, that is - please tell us how you became a Catholic Christian and how this relates to your relationship with God through our Lord Jesus Christ? (Use separate page(s) as necessary)

7. What is your health status at the time of this application? (Please provide details of any chronic ailments)

8. Please provide proof of your Christian baptism and Catholic confirmation...
(Attach photocopies please.)

9. Please describe fully the religious vocation you sense that you might have within our community... (Before you answer this You must have read the Regula (Rule) and have a sense of what our goals are as a community of semi-eremitic brothers) - (Attach separate pages if required)

10. What are your feelings regarding poverty, chastity and obedience?

11. How do you feel about contributing a small amount monthly financially to the Community's needs for health insurance and food? (Recognizing this is a temporary measure until we are able to produce apples or other products for our local support?)

12. Do you understand that Private Simple Vows are valid before God?

13. What skills would you bring to the Community?

14. Educational experience?

Degrees?

Special Interests?

Special Skills?

Special Certifications?

15. DO You Agree to render appropriate and lawful Christian OBEDIENCE to Superior as a Guest (Candidate or Postulant) with the Benedictine Community of Saint Anthony and will you abide by the spirit of the Regula of Community?

Yes___ No _____

Signature:_____

NOTE~~ It is understood that you as an applicant will show proof that you have the funds necessary to re-locate yourself at no expense to the Community, if you find that this community is not the vocation God intends for you. We ask that you provide this proof to the community prior to your arrival and residency with us.

Date:_____

Grace and peace... as you discern your vocation from God alone...

"Love does not consist in feeling great things but in knowing great deprivation and great suffering for the Beloved." -- St. John of the Cross

Other comments you wish to make:

In addition... agreement with the following is required; and by your signature, you have agreed to be in compliance.

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER IN THE BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY OF SAINT ANTHONY

Recent events in our country and society here in the United States and other parts of the world have made it necessary to publish and provide a clear understanding within the ranks of all of the clergy and the faithful, (and prayerfully we pray, eventually within each and every jurisdiction of the Church), that ZERO tolerance will and must be the standard operating guideline for issues of inappropriate misconduct by the clergy.

This will also be the standard operating understanding and procedure for the clergy of *The Benedictine Community of Saint Anthony*.

We have adopted, herewith, a working and official policy of, and for, *The Benedictine Community of Saint Anthony* regarding the sexual misconduct of clergy, employees, regular volunteers, seminarians, and candidates for ordination and/or incardination.

The permanent Canon of our Constitution will be our policy.

Ethical Standards

Standards of Conduct for Clergy and Religious follow the basic guidelines of the Roman Catholic Canon 285, and seek to further specify appropriate Clerical conduct and, in accordance with Canon 77, to provide more specific norms to Clergy for conducting themselves with due prudence. We feel these principles apply to all Religious members of BCSA. It is understood that acts already condemned by the Law of the Church or by Moral Teaching of the Church are always and everywhere forbidden; therefore it is not necessary to reiterate them in this document. Given the suspicious atmosphere that prevails today, even perfectly innocent activities may not be viewed as compromising, ambiguous or imprudent it is in this reality that these standards seek to address.

These standards apply to the membership of the Benedictine Community of St. Anthony at all times and every place. They apply to all Religious and Extern Priests, Deacons who exercise any Ministry under the authority or oversight of the Community. They apply, "Mutatis Muntandis", to Laypersons in positions of trust exercise in an authorized ministry as Employee or Volunteer for the benefit of the Community of St. Anthony, its Offices, Agencies, Parishes, Institutions and Organizations.

All Clergy and insofar as applicable and other persons in positions of trust shall;

A) Ensure that their activities and interactions with other people, particularly youth, shall be as open as a situation allows, and shall avoid any interaction that gives the appearance of being secret or clandestine.

B.) Make a clear distinction between the Public and Private areas, and make Private areas generally inaccessible to Visitors.

C.) Meet with individuals only in Public areas, Church or School, and, insofar as possible, never be alone with a Minor, especially in circumstances that are concealed from public view (i.e. behind closed doors or in an automobile). The Confessional or an other location where the Sacrament Of Reconciliation is being properly celebrated according to approved rite is exempt from this provision. Another exception are those that hold Licenses in Professional Counseling. They may see Clients in private as required. Care must also be exercised whenever a Minor requests a Private, Confidential Conference.

D.) Avoid spending excessive amounts of time with the same person. While social interactions are encouraged with Laypersons imprudent boundaries can be misconstrued.

E.) Avoid forming purely personal relationships with Minors. Young Persons should not be the focus Adult social activities, nor should Adults share inappropriate personal information with youth or pursue purely social, recreational or interpersonal activities along with them. They should never visit their homes when Parents or other responsible Adults are not present.

F.) Remember, we are role models who must always reflect the values of the Catholic Church in Word and Action in all circumstances, Public and Private; on and off duty. In particular, speak and act gently and respectfully and with discretion in any mode of communication; avoid all coarse, the demeaning or suggestive language in conversations or discussions.

G.) Never request or permit young persons to accompany you on vacation trips or overnight or day trips unless there are proper Adult Chaperones present.

H.) Never invite young persons to a private residence or other private dwelling, be it a family home, vacation cottage, rental condominium or any other place, which is not then and there being used as a venue for a Church sponsored gathering.

I.) Always strive to act with utmost Professionalism, to develop a keen sense of propriety and ability to sense and avoid potentially problematic situations.

J.) Behave in such a forthright manner as if every action were being observed by an unseen third party.

**Failure to comply with the standards may result in disciplinary action, which could include criminal reporting. **

This statement is approved and confirmed for use and distribution within: *The Benedictine Community of Saint Anthony*.

Given under our hand and seal, this ____ day of _____, in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ _____, from our See City in Stevensville, Montana - this being the 1st year of our episcopate

X _____

STATEMENT OF LEGAL STATUS

Between the Church, its Clergy and Faithful (Monastic Houses and Houses of Prayer)

Be it known that:

The Benedictine Community of Saint Anthony is a part of SAR, Inc., a non-profit organization organized under the laws of the state of Montana. Its governing body is by Board of Directors and the Abbas has an Advisory Council, chaired by the Abbas (i.e. Presiding Bishop).

It does not seek to own any property nor does it have any employees. Its operations are financed solely through donations and the private employment of the resident Brothers in the Monastery. It retains only that amount of money necessary to meet current operating expenses and distributes the rest to the costs of the cenobitic Motherhouse.

All of the clergy ordained by the Church are responsible for their Houses. They organize their Houses of Prayer, or a Monastic House of cenobites according to the Regula Benedicti and other documents, as they and their members deem appropriate, become legally responsible for apply for tax-exempt status as necessary and are further legally responsible for all their own assets and debts.

The relationship between the Motherhouse and the Houses in association with it is strictly spiritual in nature and essence, in authority and obedience, consisting of its priests, deacons and members (i.e. faithful Brothers and Sisters), and is based upon their shared beliefs within the One Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of our Lord, Savior and God Jesus Christ.

NOTE PLEASE ~~ There is "no legal relationship" between the Church (i.e. SAR, Inc. and The Benedictine Community of Saint Anthony) the independent, but spiritually cooperative Monastic Houses or Houses of Prayer and their clergy.

The Board of Directors of SAR, Inc. and the Advisory Council of The Benedictine Community of Saint Anthony has voted to adopt this policy (as part of the documentation for the Community) at the request of The Most Reverend (Anthony) Ronald Curley, OSB/BCSA, Th.D., D.D., +Abbas of the Community.

It is further declared that this policy represents an accurate description of the relationship between The Benedictine Community of Saint Anthony and its membership, both clerical and faithful alike.

Given under our hand and seal, this ____ day of _____, in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ _____, from our See City in Stevensville, Montana - this being the 1st year of our episcopate

X_____

ATTESTATION (3 copies ~ member retains one; Motherhouse; SAR, Inc.)

MEMBERS (WHO ARE CLERGY) ARE ASKED TO SIGN BELOW AS A WITNESS TO THEIR CONCURRENCE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THESE DOCUMENTS.

I have read and understand the provisions of this document and will follow these understandings as stated in this document to the best of my ability.

I will provide by their provisions and become familiar with the contents and spirituality of the Regula Benedicti, the Constitution of the BCSA and the Declaration of Monastic Life.

I understand that the relationship between the Motherhouse and individual members of the BCSA and other Monastic Houses or Houses of Prayer that will be formed under the Regula Benedicti, the Constitution of the BCSA and the Declaration of Monastic Life of the BCSA are SPIRITUAL and not LEGAL in their nature.

I hereby attest by my signature and title in the presence of the witnesses ~~

_____, Dated: _____

Address and phone number

Witnessed: _____, Dated: _____

Address and phone number

Witnessed: _____, Dated: _____

Address and phone number

Filed by the Motherhouse and SAR, Inc.