



This is a program in which participants meet as monastic men and women from all over the world and have the experience of being instructed by some of the important monastic teachers of our time from Rome and the wider monastic family. The course is designed to meet the needs of those called upon to work in the field of monastic formation. It was set up in 2002 at the request of the Benedictine Abbots' Congress to serve Benedictine and Cistercian communities throughout the world. It is run with the full support and encouragement of both the Abbot Gregory Polan and the Abbot General OCSO Dom Eamon Fitzgerald.



Each session of the Program can take a maximum of 25 men and women. The language is English. The Program is open to monks and nuns following the Rule of St Benedict who are working in formation or preparing to do so in the future. So far over 360 people have participated. The all-inclusive fee is expected to be €6900 (Euros). Thanks to the generosity of supporters a limited number of bursaries and scholarships will be available.

The Director is Fr Brendan Thomas of Belmont Abbey, England, with Associate Director Fr Mark Butlin. In 2019 Fr Javier Aparicio, a St Ottilien monk from Spain will join the team.

Further Information

Applications for the 2021 Program are now being received. They should arrive by the end of September 2020

Later applications will be considered according to the availability of places.

The Program will run from March to June.

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Rome/Assisi 2021



Monastic, Formators, Program

A 3 month course from March to June for those of the Benedictine Tradition involved in Formation



Comments on Past Programs

This Programme, I think, is one of the best of its kind. It is a holistic training of a formator giving one the roots of tradition, scripture and monastic values on the one hand and on the other developing the person as a person, and more importantly empowering him or her to help transform others in their monastic journey.

Sr M. Cielo Cortez, 2006



The MFP provides an opportunity to deepen and pass on our experience of Benedictine monastic life. By study, prayer, pilgrimage and community, this intensive programme is a means of conversion and awakening to the great diversity of the Benedictine family throughout the world. *Br Robert Maghula 2011.*

I highly recommend this Program because of the lived experience of the teachers and the sharing of their wisdom enriched me. It has broadened my understanding of the monastic life. The experience filled the gaps in my own formation, leads to personal renewal and gives me more confidence to take up the task as a formator. *Sr Rakkini Anthoniappan, INDIA, 2010*



I would not hesitate to highly recommend the MFP to men and women preparing to assume the role of formators as a profound and essential experience. The quality of content and wisdom shared out of "lived" experience by masters of the monastic tradition moved and inspired me, giving me confidence for the task ahead. Don't miss it!

Sr Colleen Leonard, ss, Victoria, AUSTRALIA, MFP 2003



Monastic Formators' Program Rome & Assisi

Character of the Program

This Program is unique in its rootedness in the teaching of St Benedict and the monastic tradition. It is composed of:

LECTURES on a range of topics related to the monastic tradition and formation today. **GROUP REFLECTION** and discussion to share experience, insight and expertise. **EXCURSIONS** and visits to monasteries and historic Christian sites. **COMMUNITY LIVING** with those from different countries and cultural backgrounds, with a regular framework of prayer.

Program Contents

The Program brings together a wealth of wisdom from the monastic world.

Recent contributors have included: **Sr Aquinata Bockmann OSB** from Rome, **Abbot Bernardo Bonowitz OCSO** from Brazil, **Fr Michael Casey OCSO** from Australia, **Br Colmán Ó Clabaigh OSB** and **Sr Brenda Dolphin** from Ireland, **Fr Bernhard Eckerstorfer** from Austria, **Br John Mark Falkenhain**, **Fr Columba Stewart OSB** and **Abbot Primate Gregory Polon OSB** from the U.S.

Location

The City of Rome offers a rich experience of the universal Church rooted in the apostles Peter and Paul. Its churches, art and architecture witness to centuries of Christian tradition. Moreover we meet St Benedict in his own land, in Umbria, Subiaco and Monte Cassino.



For the first half of the Program we will be based at Sant' Anselmo on the Aventine Hill, in the heart of Rome where we share in the life of the international Benedictine community.

Then we move to enjoy the peace and tranquility of Assisi, staying at the Oasi Sacro Cuore, beautifully situated amongst the olive groves on the hillside below the town.



For 3 months we will form a monastic community, studying and praying together, but with a sense of pilgrimage to special places of our Christian and monastic heritage.