



SAINT LOUIS ABBEY



THE OBLATES OF SAINT LOUIS ABBEY

INTRODUCTION

The Oblates of St. Louis Abbey are a group of lay Catholic and other Christian men and women who seek God in a deeper prayer life through the Rule of Saint Benedict, under the patronage of the monastic community of the Abbey. The group is lay in spirit and practice, and is self-sustaining. It is independent, without ties to other groups or to others' works and practices. Oblates choose Our Lady as their patron, together with Saint Benedict and Saint Louis, and rely on her example and intercession in following Christ.

THE SPIRIT OF SAINT BENEDICT

Oblates seek to realize the spirit of Saint Benedict in their lay life situations. They seek:

- ✠ to incorporate Benedictine ways of prayer, suitably modified, into their daily lives;
- ✠ to see Christ in their family members and neighbors;
- ✠ to appreciate that their vocations in life include their daily work and prayer;
- ✠ to gain guidance from God through the daily practice of *Lectio Divina*, the daily reading from the Little Divine Office (or an equivalent), and the study of the Rule of Saint Benedict.

COMMITMENT

Oblates of Saint Louis Abbey are called to make a commitment to the Benedictine way. After a period as a candidate, a person may ask to make his or her final Oblation, but those who prefer to move more slowly may attend the meetings as Companion Members for an extended period of time. Oblate groups will number about twelve each.

Oblates and Companion Members will seek to be faithful to the weekly meetings, daily *Lectio Divina* and the Little Divine Office.

The obligations assumed at the time of Oblation are not binding under pain of sin. Freedom of spirit should be exercised in their interpretation. The Oblation may be withdrawn at any time and by mutual agreement of the Abbot and the Oblate. Oblates may, if they wish, renew their obligation annually.

APOSTOLATES

The primary apostolates of the Oblates are to be found in their own life circumstances, their home, and their work. 2/11/01; revised 12/15/04