

Appendix E

THE VALUE OF OBLATES TO A MONASTIC COMMUNITY

Benefits of Oblates to a Monastic Community:

(At the July 1997 North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors' Conference of Oblate Directors and Oblates, held at Saint Meinrad Archabbey, these ideas surfaced during a discussion regarding involving oblates in the work of the monastery.)

1. Oblates bring a spiritual strength.
2. Because most communities are not growing by large numbers, oblates expand the presence of and participation with the work and prayer of the community.
3. Oblates serve as a link between the religious community and parishes.
4. Oblates and the community provide mutual affirmation of the commitment to the Benedictine way of life.
5. The community is enriched by the interaction with oblates.
6. Oblates bring culture and insights (and expertise in many areas) to the community.
7. Oblates remind the community of its goodness and uniqueness.
8. The witness of the oblates living Benedictine charisms in the secular world strengthens community members' love and appreciation for the Benedictine way of life.
9. Oblates bring professional and personal talents to the community (most especially in an advisory capacity).
10. Oblates help spread the word of Benedictine spirituality.
11. Oblates help dispel myths about monastic life and help educate the public about the benefits/value of religious life.