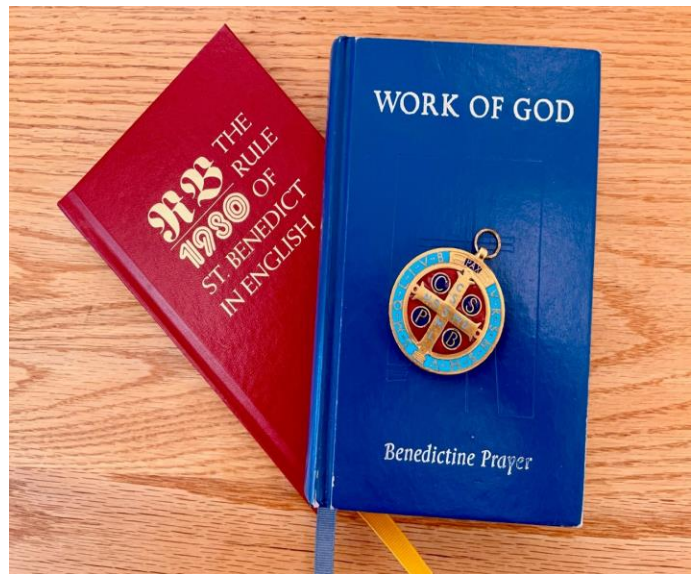




Benedictine Bits

Benedictine Oblate



The word oblate means “offering.” In the context of the Benedictine tradition, the phrase represents how a lay person dedicates or “offers” their life to God and God’s service as guided by the *Rule of St. Benedict*. This means that Benedictine oblates commit to living a life of stability, obedience, and conversion to the Benedictine way of life while affiliated with a particular Benedictine monastery. They do this within the framework of their daily lives as spouses, as parents, as employees. The role of oblates is an important part of the future of the Benedictine Order and is reinforced by the words of Sister Joan Chittister. “You are not meant to simply be consumers of the Benedictine tradition. You are meant to be carriers of the tradition.” This is particularly true today as oblates outnumber perpetually professed members of monastic communities in many parts of the world. For example, Saint John’s Abbey has about 550 oblates from 41 states and nine countries. Saint Benedict’s Monastery has 475 oblates from 37 states and six countries.