The Benedictine Living Floor
Learning Goals
February 19, 2014

The propose of the Benedictine Living Floor (BLF) at Saint John's University is to give a group of about twelve to twenty students the opportunity to form a student living community centered on Benedictine values, learning about Benedictine history and spirituality, volunteer work, regular prayer, lectio, and community-building activities.

Learning Goals

Upon successful completion of two semesters of living on the BLF, participants will have:

1. gained a knowledge of the most important aspects of Benedictine history, including pre-Benedictine monastic practices, the life of Benedict as portrayed by Gregory the Great and in subsequent literature and art, the spread of Benedictine monasticism worldwide, historical reforms of Benedictine monasticism, the history of Metten and Eichstätt and their roles in founding Saint John's Abbey and Saint Benedict's Monastery, the early histories of Saint John's and Saint Benedict's, and key historical figures in women's and men's monasticism.

2. gotten to know about 15 monastics who will have served as mentors, teachers and speakers, discussion leaders, meal preparers and guests, and regular visitors to the floor.

3. had significant experiences of group lectio, prayer, and Mass as well as private lectio and prayer.

4. participated in volunteer activities like a big brother program, Kidstop Kennedy in Saint Joseph, visits to Raphael Hall, prison ministry and other volunteer activities.

5. participated in a monastic plunge weekend or similar monastic experience.

6. thought about, discussed, and written about how the Rule of Benedict and Benedictine spirituality may play a role in your future lives as students and in your adult lives.

The instructor and/or the coordinators will:

1. prepare syllabi for two one-credit courses which members of the BLF will take in the fall and spring terms for a total of two credits.

2. teach classes and conduct discussions – and arrange for several other monks and sisters to do the same.

3. prepare an annotated bibliography of basic articles, books and chapters of books to be used as required readings for the BLF curriculum.

4. conduct – and invite monks and sisters to assist with – daily or weekly prayer services, meal preparations, volunteer opportunities, and other community-building activities.

5. accompany BLF participants when the group attends monastic prayers and Mass.

6. assist in the process of recruiting eligible students.
Bibliography of possible articles and chapters from books for discussion


