Living Benedictine Values
LEARNING • PRAYER • WORK • RECREATION • COMMUNITY

Purpose: Promoting an awareness of Benedictine Values and how to demonstrate those values through everyday life

Commitment: All participants would be making a formal commitment to each other and the community for a minimum of a semester with a preference for a full academic year commitment.

Benefits:
• Residents would live together as a living-learning community
• As a community, the residents would take some responsibility to educate the greater SJU community about how students can live Benedictine values in their everyday lives
• Participation in Benedictine Studies coursework

Housing location:
• Virgil Michel, 3rd floor
• Returning Students: 10-12 beds, depending on interest

Staffing:
• Professor – Responsible for leading the semester course
• Project Coordinator – Assist professor in establishing the activities
• Housing coordinator – Assist with recruitment of students, coordinate housing placements, and establish collaboration with Residential Life staff

Benedictine Experiential Learning Experience:

Instructor(s): To Be Determined
Course Title: Benedictine Heritage and Practice, COLG XXX
Credit standing: 1 credit each term

With the readings we will cover, students will have 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 those monasteries' roles in founding Saint John's Abbey and Saint Benedict's Monastery, the early histories of Saint John's and Saint Benedict's, key historical figures in women's and men's monasticism, and key themes in applying monastic practices to one's life in college and beyond:

• Awareness of God
• Community Living
• Dignity of Work
• Hospitality
• Justice
• Listening
• Moderation
• Peace
• Respect for Persons
• Stewardship
• Care for the Environment

Where/how will the experiential learning take place?
• Virgil Michel Residence Hall -- there will be living space for 12 students and a common area for meal preparation, group discussions, lectures by monastics
• Saint John's Abbey Church and Monastic Refectory; and Saint Benedict's Oratory, Chapel and Dining Room -- Mass, prayer, and meal times with monastics
• Volunteer venues -- Big Brother program, Kidstop Kennedy in Saint Joseph, visits to Raphael Hall retirement center, prison ministry and other volunteer activities
• Saint John's Abbey -- participation in a monastic plunge weekend or similar monastic experience
• Mentorship – a mentor relationship will be established with a member of the monastic community

What will students do to reflect on the connection between practice and their learning?
• A portfolio containing items to be discussed with the professor
• Three or four short reflective essays
• A PowerPoint presentation on their community service commitment and what they learned
• Notes from talks given by monastics and other speakers
• A final integrative essay about how this learning has given them insights and a basis for their future adult lives

Administrative Requirements:
• Establish liaison to SJU Residential Life and Housing, must be one (or more) of the residents living in the established community living space
• Serve as an advisory council to Residential Life and Housing regarding ways to make all residential buildings more conducive to living the Benedictine values
• Host at least one educational program each semester for the floor/building working in collaboration with the Resident Assistant (RA)

If a resident of the community is not showing active participation in the initiatives of the community, Residential Life has the option of moving that resident to another location. Should a space in the living area become vacant, the community agrees to find a student to fill that space. A space that is not filled by the residents within 3 business days may be filled at the discretion of Residential Life and Housing staff.

Campus Partners:
• Benedictine Institute – Fr. Mark Thamert
• SJU Campus Ministry – Fr. Ian Dommer
• SJ Abbey/Vocations Office – Br. Aelred Senna
• SJU Residential Life and Housing – Dan McAvey, Tory Oelfke