



September 12, 2021 – Pentecost 16 (B)
Meet Our Religious Communities:
The Order of the Holy Cross

Meet the Order of the Holy Cross (OHC), a religious order for men in The Episcopal Church:

What is the Order of the Holy Cross?

We are a Benedictine Community founded by the Rev. James Otis Sargent Huntington in 1884. The community is currently made up of 22 monks living in four houses: Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, N.Y.; Holy Cross Priory in Toronto, Ontario; Mount Calvary Monastery in Santa Barbara, Cal.; and St. Benedict's Priory in Volmoed, South Africa.

What are your ministries?

All of our houses include some form of ministry to guests. At our motherhouse in West Park, our guesthouse welcomes around 3,000 guests each year on individual, directed, and group retreats. Our ministry to guests is the natural extension of the life that we live as Christian monastics. In his Rule, St. Benedict urges the monastic community to receive all visitors as Christ. Without guests, our ability to seek and serve God would be impoverished. Because of this conviction, we welcome all who seek rest, beauty, quiet, respite, and fellowship, from any faith or none at all.

Do you take vows?

We make a threefold vow of Stability, Conversion to the monastic way of life, and Obedience. Stability is a commitment to our



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common life of work and prayer. It expresses the belief that the monk will encounter God in the community God has given. The search for God then becomes a shared one. Conversion to the monastic way of life is an expression of our willingness to be drawn deeper into relationship with God. It includes celibate chastity and holding all possessions in common. Obedience is the promise to listen to God with an open heart and with the willingness to act on what we hear. It binds us to listen attentively to what God is making known in Scripture, in the Rule, and through our brothers in community.

How do you understand the relationship between contemplation and social justice?

As monks and Christians, we are not called to remove ourselves from the world. And, indeed, the world flows through the monastery. We believe that the witness of our monastic life is vital to this historical moment as an antidote to the division and violence that plague our world. We do not accept the fallacy that contemplation and action are opposed to one another; rather, we see contemplation as the foundation of social action, and social action as the natural result of the life of prayer.

How can I get involved with the Order of the Holy Cross?

Visit us! Learn more at <https://holycrossmonastery.com>. If you'd like to explore our Associates Program or explore the possibility of discernment towards monastic life yourself, write to our Associates and Vocations Director, Br. José R. Martínez-Cubero, at josep@bcmnet.org.

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