

Syllabus for Novitiate Course on Pastoral Formation

- 1) What kind of work do we do as American-Cassinense Benedictines?
 - a. Manual labor
 - i. “house service”
 1. Abbot’s Chauffer
 2. driving infirmed monks to doctors appointments – “valet”
 3. hospitality with guests
 4. cleaning the monastery
 - ii. garden/lawn work
 - iii. liturgical/table service
 - b. Apostolic/Pastoral work
 - i. Education
 - ii. Pastoral ministries
 1. Preaching
 2. Retreats
 3. How to engage in pastoral conversations
 - iii. Foreign Missions, dependent Pories
- 2) How do we already form novices in the *labora* of the monastic community?
 - a. practicum – learn by doing
 - i. socius works with the novice in some communities – importance of having an “older brother” to work with and model how to appropriately engage in work.
 - ii. if not a socius, then another monk will work with the novice at any given time
 - iii. sometimes the novice works alone
 - iv. do we follow up work periods with discussion on the work?
 - v. Does the novice bring their work experience to spiritual direction?
 - vi. Does the Novice Master periodically ask about the novice’s work experience?
 - b. house customary discussions
 - c. Rule class – appropriate chapters on Benedictine work

- d. Learning the community's local history
 - i. Monastic history class
 - ii. History of our Congregation
 - iii. History of specific monastic house
 - 1. Discussion on Monastery "Vision Statement"
 - e. Should formation be a separate class/course like the other topics? Or should it be integrated into the rest of the monastic formation?
- 3) What materials do we use to form them in work?
- a. Personnel resources – work mentor – socius/capitular
 - b. *Monastic Practices*, Charles Cummings
 - c. *Consider Your Call*, Daniel Rees, English Congregation
 - i. or *To Prefer Nothing to Christ*, English Congregation updated document of *Consider Your Call*
 - d. *Renew and Create*,
 - e. *Constitutions for the Congregation*
 - f. *House Customary*
 - g. History of Local history, e.g. *Kansas Monks*
 - h. Podcasts by Prior Maritius Wilde
 - i. Selected chapters in Michael Casey, for example: *Strangers to the City*