

Syllabus for Novitiate Course on the Vows

The monastic vows

- I. What is a vow?
 - a. definition
 - b. Lay terms
 - c. Canonical understanding.
 - d. Short understanding of a promise
 - e. difference with the monastic solemn vows
 - f. Historical understanding of the vows.

- II. Explain what the Benedictine vows are as we live them in the 21st century.
 - a. Understanding how we live the evangelical councils in the monastic setting.
 - b. Difference between simple and solemn vows.
 - c. Understanding the moral and theological consequences of monastic vows.

- III. Obedience, stability and conversion of life.
 - a. What is obedience?
 - b. Why obedience to a superior?
 - c. Why mutual obedience?

- IV. What is stability in the monastic life today?
 - a. Stability to a place or spiritual rooted to one place no matter where my residence is?
 - b. Spiritual understanding of stability in our culture.(USA, Canada, Mexico and Puerto Rico)

- V. Conversion of life
 - a. The external view of our vow and the inner significance of conversion.
 - b. How the vow is lived in a particular community and how the individual lives this life long experience.
 - c. Our vows are not independent from each other but the three of them work together in our search of perfection.

Vows Resources

I. Constitution and directory

Website: (<http://www.osb.org/amcass/const/index.html>)

II. Canon Law

Website: (http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG1104/_INDEX.HTM)

Citation: *Code of Canon Law*, c. 279, sec. 1, in *Code of Canon Law: Latin English Edition* (Washington D.C. : Canon Law Society of America, 1999), 89.

III. Vita Consecrata (Apostolic Exhortation)

Website: http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_25031996_vita-consecrata.html

IV. Perfectae Caritatis

Website: http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decree_19651028_perfectae-caritatis_en.html

V. Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church 2015

Website: https://nrvc.net/ckeditor_assets/attachments/2882/identity_and_mission_of_the_religious_brother_in_the_church.pdf

Centered on Christ: A Guide to Monastic Profession, Aug. Roberts, OCSO

Citation: Roberts, Augustine. *Centered on Christ: A Guide to Monastic Profession*. Kalamazoo, MI: Cistercian Publications, 2005. Print.

VI. An Unexciting Life: Reflections on Benedictine Spirituality, M. Casey, OCSO

Citation: Casey, Michael. *An Unexciting Life: Reflections on Benedictine Spirituality*. Petersham, Mass: St. Bede's Publications, 2005. Print.

VII. Seventy-Four Tools for Good Living: Reflections of RB 4, M. Casey, OCSO

Citation: Casey, Michael. *Seventy-four Tools for Good Living: Reflections on the Fourth Chapter of Benedict's Rule*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical, 2014. Print.

VIII. The Road to Eternal Life: Reflections on the Prologue of RB, M. Casey, OCSO

Citation: Casey, Michael, OCSO. *The Road to Eternal Life: Reflections on the Prologue of Benedict's Rule*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical, 2012. Print.

IX. The Love of Learning and the Desire for God, Jean Leclercq

Citation: Leclercq, Jean. *The Love of Learning and the Desire for God: A Study of Monastic Culture*. New York: Fordham UP, 2014. Print.

X. Monastic Practices Charles Cuning OCSO

Citation: Cummings, Charles. *Monastic Practices*. N.p.: Cistercian Publications, 2015. Print.

XI. Vocation, Consecration (Religious Profession) and the Evangelical Counsels:
Apostolic

XII. Exhortation of John Paul II

Articles

- I. In praise of stability by John Laclereq (Monastic Studies)
- II. Stability and Change: What Benedict's Rule Can Teach Us Sheila Garcia (ABR 1989)
- III. How ought Novices to Be Formed in Stability Today? Adelbert de Vogue, OSB
- IV. Autonomous Obedience Helen Peixotto (ABR)

Digital

- I. Mission and Charism of Religious Brothers, John Mark Falkenhain 2017 VIDEO

Citation: <http://www.yearforconsecratedlife.com/brothers-symposium.html>

- II. T4 VIDEO Sr. Aquintata Bockmann OSB
- III. Monastic Profession : Baptism Kenosis, and Growth in Christ John Klassen Monastic institute 2016 T4 VIDEO
- IV. Benedictine Obedience Fr. Jerome Kodell T4 VIDEO
- VI. Stability Sr. Genevieve Glen T4 VIDEO (in process)
- VII. The Prophetic Dimension of Obedience Always a Challenge Ever a Sign Sr. Joan Chittister

T4 VIDEO

Staying at Table Sr. Karen Joseph

Conversatio and Stability in the Rule of St. Benedict Ambrose Wathen (Monastic Studies)

General Resources

- I. American Benedictine Review
<http://www.osb.org/abr/>
- II. Monastic Studies
https://www.csbsju.edu/sot/academics/courses-by-focus-area/sot_monscourses
- III. Cistercian Studies Quarterly
<https://www.cistercian-studies-quarterly.org/>

People

- I. Michael Casey OCSO
- II. John Mark Falkenhain OSB
- III. Adelbert de Vogue OSB
- IV. Sr. Aquintata Bockmann OSB
- V. Abbot John Klassen OSB
- XIII. Abbot Jerome Kodell
- XIV. Sr. Genevieve Glen
- XV. Sr. Karen Joseph (St Benedict MN retreat talks year :?)
- XVI. Anselm Grun OSB

Some Abbots and formation directors might already have conferences on this and other topics that could be shared

