

# Monastic Life

## Table Reading:

- Papal Encyclicals.
- Histories of Monastic Communities (especially houses of the American-Cassinense Congregation.
- *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown: This book is about the University of Washington eight-man crew that represented the United States in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, and narrowly beat out Italy and Germany to win the gold medal.
- *The Sisters of Sinai: How Two Lady Adventurers Discovered the Hidden Gospels* by Janice Soskice. Reads like a novel and details the experiences of two Victorian-era Scottish sisters who traverse the Middle East in search of the earliest known Syriac biblical manuscript.
- *Light of the World: The Pope, the Church and the Signs of the Times* by Peter Seewald. An interview with Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.
- *I Will Be Called John: A Biography of Pope John XXIII* by Lawrence Elliott.
- On the topic of table reading: We also welcome input regarding the actual practice of table reading. How long does it last (a few minutes, the whole meal, etc.); during which meals does it take place; is it accompanied by necrology, readings from the Rule, or various commemorations; what sorts of readings are most edifying or interesting?

## Visitation Preparation:

- Revisit the community's "mission statement" for reflection and discussion.
- Review the community's customary as a point of departure for study and evaluation.
- Would communities be willing to share their mission statements in order to help others compose or refine their own?

## Retreat Masters:

Feel free to add any names here that you would like.

## Ongoing Formation:

Topics, presenters, other ideas.

## Tailors:

Please indicate if your community has anyone available and willing to make habits and vestments for other communities.

## Online Discussion Groups:

Is there any interest in forming a discussion group on any given topic or among any cohort of monks among our communities?

## Monastic Products:

Do any monastic communities produce enough from their local industries to sell in other monastic gift shops? Are we willing to advertise for other monastic communities for items that can be purchased online?

To submit further recommendations and suggestion to these topics or others not listed, please contact Brother Alban Petesch, OSB: [alban@assumptionabbey.com](mailto:alban@assumptionabbey.com).