



Some Views from Past Programs

I would enthusiastically recommend the MFP for courses that offer the best of current teaching on monastic life and formation; visits to churches and monasteries where Catholic and monastic traditions were born and took form; and for fellowship with monastics from all over the world in an experience of the universal church that is challenging and formative.

Fr Alberic Farbolin, New Melleray, Iowa, USA [2004]

I find the Program very thorough and comprehensive, enriching and challenging; it was refreshing as well as reclaiming our monastic heritage by journeying into the past with an eye on the present and the future, not leaving out modern trends and heading such as Spiritual Direction and Human Development. The community experience itself was a miracle-formative and transformative while the lecturers are all men and women already taken over by the fire for Christ and for the monastic life. *Br Peter Eghwuradjakpor OSB, St Benedict's Priory, Ewu-Ishan, NIGERIA [2004]*

This Program is a refreshing way of developing a global monastic consciousness. Just as true solitude leads to communion so our sharing on the level of lived experience and prayer has opened my sense of oneness in Christ.

Fr Michael Casagram, OCSO Abbey of Gethsemani, Kentucky USA [2004]

This Program is so helpful that I wish to urge every community to prepare making some sacrifices in order to send at least a few members of the community to have this experience.

Fr Barnabas Pham OSB, Macheke, ZIMBABWE [2004]

This Program is a must for those working in formation, especially those coming from small communities and do not have access to centers of learning like my own community. Studying in Rome gave us the opportunity to meet and learn from great teachers of our tradition and church and to visit the sites of our Benedictine heritage.

Sr M. Benedicta Serna OSB, Monastery of Our Lady of the Desert, New Mexico, USA [2004]

I regard this Program as an excellent opportunity for spiritual and monastic RENEWAL. I can see its fruits flourishing for a long time, in months and years to come. *Fr. Pablo Antonio Medina Corral OSB, Abadía del Tepeyac, MEXICO [2004]*

MFP is a real boon for formators in the Benedictine tradition. A warm and open learning atmosphere...It is no exaggeration to say that it not only informs but transforms as well. A big thank you to all who support it and made it possible for me! *Br Augustine OCSO, Kurisumala Ashram, Kerala, INDIA [2004]*

For men and women preparing to take on the role of formators, and those already engaged in this ministry, this three month course is an opportunity to deepen their understanding of the process of formation within the Tradition, to engage in cross-cultural dialogue around formation issues and perspectives, to attend to any "gaps" in their own formation, to acquire skills, methods of communicating the tradition to others, to sit at the feet of some "wisdom figures"; to be enriched personally to be "stronger" monastics. *Sr Bernadette Corboy, Good Samaritan Community, Kiribati, Central Pacific. [2002]*

I would recommend this course because it gives formators around the world the opportunity to share their experiences and learn from each other. The course gives me more confidence in my task as a formator. MFP is an experience of joy, prayer and community life! *Fr Bernardus Peeters OCSO, Abdij Koningshoeven, The Netherlands [2002]*

MFP Program Views from the Participants



“ I would not hesitate to highly recommend the MFP to men and women preparing to assume the role of formators as a profound and essential experience. The quality of content and wisdom shared out of “lived” experience by masters of the monastic tradition moved and inspired me, giving me confidence for the task ahead. The experience filled up gaps in my own formation and offered valuable tools and methods for communicating the tradition. The Program leads to personal renewal, offers valued interaction with a diverse group of monastics and a unique experience of community life and lifelong friendships. Don't miss it! ”

*Sr Colleen Leonard, sgs
Victoria, Australia*

MFP was a feast of riches for the mind and heart! Living, working and praying with Benedictine women and men of different cultures and “flavours” brought me to a deeper love of my vocation and a fuller vision of formation work. I feel very blessed.

*Br Andrew Colquhoun OHC,
Grahamstown, South Africa*

I highly recommend the program because it has enriched me so much with the input and sharing of each other’s experiences. It has broadened my understanding of the monastic life, and I appreciate more the monastic tradition and my own vocation.

*Sr M. Caroline Porio OSB,
O.L.of Peace, Digos City, Philippines*

This Program is really necessary. It helps the formators to renew themselves in the knowledge of the monastic tradition, to learn how to transmit it and to even discover some mistakes they have been doing without knowing.

*Fr Jacques Mulamba OSB,
Mwimwa Abbey, Tanzania*



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This international group of formators was a very positive experience both from the standpoint of learning valuable information and interacting with each other.”

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*Br Daniel Sokol OSB,
Prince of Peace,
Oceanside, USA*



MFP 2003 has blessed me with deeper convictions, better understanding of the monastic tradition and introduced me to a wider monastic world. It challenged my role as a formator, encouraged me for this sacred task, empowered me with grace and confidence. I pray with gratitude, love and joy for all who made this possible for me.

*Sr Arpitha Nellissery OSB,
Ashirbhavan Priory, Bhopal, India*

The whole Programme is about spiritual transformation and renewal. I am happy I am going home renewed.

*Sr Maureen Ndubuisi OCSO,
St Justina’s, Abakaliki, Nigeria*

A most encouraging and rewarding experience: really helpful for our formation work and greatly enriching for my personal renewal.”

*Fr Luke Jolly OSB,
Worth Abbey, England*

This formators course helps us acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to make us effective formators. It instills in us a deep appreciation of the Rule and gives us a love of the early Fathers of the Church.

Fr Joseph Matthew Parambukattil OSB,

I highly recommend this Program because most formators are appointed to their task without a solid base and background of this nature, therefore finding themselves at a loss in executing a well-balanced formation Programme: something I have personally gained. It was a revolution for me - spiritually, psychologically, socially and monastically rejuvenated!

*Fr John-Paul Mwaniki OSB,
Prince of Peace, Tigoni, Kenya*

The Monastic Formators’ Programme enabled me to understand monasticism as a culture, not just the practice of a particular monastery. It enabled me to take stock of my vocation and recentre it on a biblical spirituality, making more sense of liturgy and lectio.

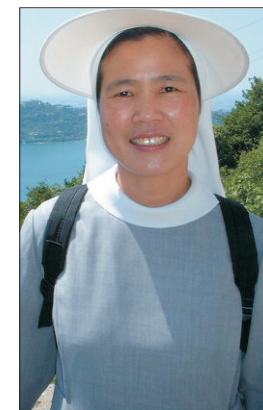
*Fr Bonaventure Knollys OSB,
Ampleforth Abbey, UK*

This course gives a true sense of community life. It broadens the mind. It is worth experiencing!

*Br Michael Ilo OCSO,
Mount Calvary, Awlum, Nigeria*

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God works through individuals, so the better the formators is prepared the more he or she can help those in formation. The MFP is especially designed for formators in the Benedictine tradition. Through it we can prepare ourselves not just as formators but as Benedictine Formators.



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Sr Marie Song-Mun Lee OSB, Daegu, Korea