



Monastic Formators' Program

OVER A PERIOD OF 10 YEARS,
THE MONASTIC FORMATORS' PROGRAM HAS
BEEN SERVING THE MONASTIC WORLD TO
HELP FORM THE NEXT GENERATION OF SONS
AND DAUGHTERS OF ST BENEDICT.

MORE THAN 240 MEN AND WOMEN HAVE
PARTICIPATED FROM OVER 40 COUNTRIES.
HERE ARE SOME OF THE COMMENTS THEY
HAVE MADE OF THEIR EXPERIENCE.

MFP – an experience of deep nourishment on all levels: loving, lively, richly diverse community, excellent teaching on a broad range of interesting and relevant subjects, aesthetic delight in the Rome's art and joy in the breath-taking beauty of the Apennines, Umbria and Assisi, heart-warming Benedictine hospitality from the many communities who welcomed us, and many deeply prayerful liturgies. I found a deeper faith, and returned to my community with a greater hope. Overall, a wonderful experience and one that I warmly recommend to others.

*Sr Ruth Hosker, Turvey Abbey,
ENGLAND [MFP 2006]*



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 Eghwruudjakpor OSB, St Benedict's Priory, Ewu-Isban, 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 Gethsemani, USA [2004]*

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, 2003*

The MFP provides an opportunity to deepen and pass on our experience of Benedictine monastic life. By study, prayer, pilgrimage and community, this intensive programme is a means of conversion and awakening to the great diversity of the Benedictine family throughout the world. *Br Robert Magliula, OHC, Grahamstown, SOUTH AFRICA MFP 2011.*



The Lord has planted a golden seed in my heart, hoping that he would allow me the grace to radiate it when I go back to my community. *Sr John Paul, PHILIPPINES [2011].*



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 Asbram, Kerala, INDIA [2004]*

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]*



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 [2003]*

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, Our Lady of Peace, Digos City, PHILIPPINES [2003]*



This Programme, I think, is one of the best of its kind. It is a holistic training of a formator - giving one the roots of tradition, scripture and monastic values on the one hand and on the other developing the person as a

person, and more importantly empowering him or her to help transform others in their monastic journey. *Sr M. Cielo Cortez, Vigan City, PHILIPPINES [2006]*

It lets you get in touch with the breadth and depth of the monastic project, and there to find the rock to stand on—from where you can go forth in confidence as a Formator, with a good idea of the view you need to transmit. The experience was well worth it. *Fr Steele Hartmann, Tarravarra, AUSTRALIA [2011]*



I had high expectations when I came to Rome for the MFP, but what I experienced was much more: A deeply joyful community of brothers and sisters from all over the world, a renewal of my own monastic vocation and a strong foundation for my task as formator in

terms of knowledge, spirituality, faith and hope. *Sr Ursula Wable, Benediktinerinnenkloster, Köln, GERMANY [2008]*

This is a very enriching Program in self-knowledge and experiencing multicultural monastic living. *Fr Joseph Mary, Richmond, USA [2011]*

MFP serves the entire monastic world, handing on the wisdom of the sons and daughters of Benedict to new generations and peoples. *Fr Thomas-Benedict Baxter, Polokwane, SOUTH AFRICA [2011]*



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 [2003]*

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, Christ the Word, Macheke, ZIMBABWE [2004]*



This course has been a wonderful experience because it has brought one into contact with kindred spirits: people whose love of the monastic life and involvement in formation work enable a deep sharing; places whose association with the saints or with the wider Church enables a spiritual connection with the sources of our life and faith; teachers whose love of learning has opened me to treasures of monastic wisdom and spurred me to continue learning. *Fr Francis Straw OSB, Buckfast Abbey, Devon, GREAT BRITAIN [2008]*

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 [2003]*

