Benedictine Sojourner Reflection Questions

Please respond to the following questions with your own written reflections. Please complete your reflections as a separate document. Your responses will help us to know a little more about you. Please answer fully and number each of the responses to correspond to the questions. Completed reflections may be submitted as a Word document attachment sent to lwsmith@benedictinewomen.org or may be sent by mail to: Lynne Smith, Holy Wisdom Monastery, 4200 County Road M, Middleton, WI 53562**.**

1. **Please compose a brief autobiography** (3-5 page). Topics to address include:
   a. Persons and experiences that helped to shape who you are today
   b. The biggest challenge you and your family have faced and how you worked through it
   c. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of your personality
   d. Describe your relationship with family and friends
   e. How does celibacy influence your relationship with God and others?
   f. How does becoming a Benedictine Sojourner fit into who you are and who you see yourself becoming? Include any future plans, hopes and dreams you may have. What about becoming a Benedictine Sojourner appeals to you and fits with what you are seeking?

2. **Please compose a personal statement** covering the following topics (typically 2-4 pages):
   a. **Community Living:** Discuss your understanding and motivation for living in Christian community. Include any previous experience of Christian community that you may have had.

   b. **Spirituality:** Describe your relationship to your faith community. Please include in your response how you have lived this relationship in the last few (4-5) years and what growth has taken place in that time. What can you tell us about your own struggles with developing a prayer life? Of what personal importance is prayer to you?

   c. **Service:** Please discuss your reasons for wanting to become a Benedictine Sojourner. What skills and gifts do you hope to use in the community's mission of weaving prayer, hospitality, justice and care for the earth at Holy Wisdom Monastery, what do you hope to gain through this experience?