2020 Reflection Questions for Renewal of Oblate Promises

Please consider the reflection questions attached below as you discern your choice of status as an oblate of the Benedictine Women of Madison at Holy Wisdom Monastery. You do not need to submit your responses to these questions. You may wish to share them with your spiritual guide if you have one. **Once you have made your decision, record your response at: https://benedictinewomen.org/oblates-of-holy-wisdom/choice-of-status/**

As outlined on p. 10 of the Oblate Handbook*, "Oblates decide annually if they wish to reaffirm their commitment to the oblate community. As they discern this choice, they re-examine their personal rules, reflecting again on the meaning of oblation for themselves.

Over time, oblates may decide to refine their personal rules, choosing to focus on a different Benedictine value or virtue for a particular year, committing to express it by some specific practice. Reviewing a personal rule is quite appropriately done at the time of yearly recommitment."

You may find the following sections of the Oblate Handbook* helpful in your discernment process:

- On-Going Spiritual Formation (pp. 10-12)
- Oblate Community Participation (pp. 12-13)

Discernment questions which may help with your reflection include:

- How have I integrated the Rule of Benedict into my life in the past year? How can I integrate the Rule more fully into my life in the coming year?
- How have I lived out the mission and values** of Holy Wisdom monastery in the last year? How can I more fully live out this mission and these values in the coming year?
- How have I maintained my relationship with the monastery in the last year? How can I strengthen my relationship with the monastery in the coming year?
- How have I maintained my relationship with the oblate community in the last year? How can I strengthen my relationship with the oblate community in the coming year?
- How is God calling me to change my personal rule for the coming year?

**The Oblate Handbook can be found under the Resources tab of the Oblate website. You can access it directly at the following URL:*

https://oblates.benedictinewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Oblate-Handbook-July-2019-revision.pdf

Contact Chris Todd (cmtodd@comcast.net, (217) 352-0166) if you need the password for the oblate website or have any problems accessing the information.

*****Holy Wisdom Monastery Mission/Values:***

> *Mission:* Holy Wisdom Monastery, home of Benedictine Women of Madison and a community of ecumenical Benedictine communities, weaves prayer, hospitality, justice and care for the earth into a shared way of life.
>
> *Values* drawn from the Rule of Benedict that shape the HWM mission: beauty, balance, simplicity, silence and respect for all of creation.