

Benedictine Companions of Saints Patrick and Brigid



We are the Benedictine Companions of Saints Patrick and Brigid, a federation of autonomous monastic communities. As a monastic order, we follow the ancient, yet ever new Rule of St. Benedict. We attentively listen to the instructions of our founder and “attend to them with the ear of our heart.” Additionally, we are rediscovering something that is more ancient than Benedictine monasticism by

exploring a monastic lineage that goes back to the early Christian foundations of the Christian Celtic world. Therefore, our experiment is to integrate Benedictine monasticism with the early Celtic monastic practices and principles, many of which are written about by many Celtic saints and ancient Christian writers of the Church. Similar to the early Celtic monastic communities, we are a community of monasteries without walls. The heart is where we discern our monastic vocation to the world. The heart is our enclosure and where we listen for the very heart beat of God as we pray, worship, live and work among the people of God.

Our communities are diverse and ecumenical. We accept men and women who are single, married, in a committed relationship/partnership, LGBT, or from various ethnic backgrounds. We are ecumenical in so far as we accept all baptized Christians from most all Christian Church Traditions or denominations. Find us on Facebook – Benedictine Companions of Sts. Patrick and Brigid. For more information contact Father Michael Kieran Seger, OSB, Prior of Anamchara in Christ Monastery at lakeside66@toast.net or call 304-839-5321.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I welcome you to this place., a canonical religious order of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion. It is by God’s grace that you have found us and we invite you to spend some time exploring what we have to offer you.

In all actuality, we are engaged in a new monastic experiment. On the other hand, we are rediscovering something that is ancient with a monastic lineage that goes back to the early Christian foundations of the Celtic world.

The very first Celtic monastic communities were monasteries without walls. There were no barriers or enclosures that separated a community of monastic persons from the village of common folk. The early monastics lived in a cluster of huts. There was a constant interchange between the monastics and the villagers as they created a local economy together and worshiped as a common community of faithful believers. Monastic communities were multi-functional. They served as education, mental health, cultural, spiritual and hospitality centers for everyone, including hospices for the ill and dying. These early monastics had great compassion toward the poor and homeless, and they understood that it was their calling to care for them, sometimes

feeding up to a 1,000 hungry people per day. The Celtic prayer to “see Christ in the stranger” reflects their hospitable spirit.

Monastic communities were comprised of male and female monastics that lived a vowed life, clergy, and married people. They lived either in some form of housing, which could include rooms for extended families of monastics. Celtic monasteries were established on main highways, near large bodies of water, or large populated areas with the intention to penetrate the world and extend the “monastic church” to new and unevangelized areas of the world, eventually evangelizing what became known as the European continent.

In addition, we are Benedictine. We follow the Rule of Saint Benedict. Thus, as a community, we listen to the instructions of our founder and “attend to them with the ear of our heart.”

Therefore, our experiment is to integrate Benedictine monasticism with the early Celtic monastic practices and principles, many of which are written about by some of the great Celtic saints. Like the early Celtic monastic communities, we are a community of monasteries without walls. The heart is where we discern our monastic vocation to the world. The heart, which is our enclosure, is where we listen for the very heart beat of God as we pray, worship, live and work among the people of God.

Our communities are diverse and ecumenical. We accept people who are single, married, or in a committed relationship / partnership regardless of gender, sexual preference, or ethnic background. We are ecumenical in so far as we accept all baptized Christians from most all Christian Church Traditions or denominations.

Concerning myself, I attended Catholic seminary at Saint Meinrad in southern Indiana, a Benedictine monastery that established a college and school of theology with the sole purpose of educating men for the Roman Catholic priesthood. I attended Saint Meinrad for eight years and worshiped hundreds of times with the Benedictine monks in the Archabbey Church during the daily office and Eucharistic Liturgy. I was immersed in Benedictine spirituality, which has always been the very foundation of my spiritual life. Truthfully, monastic spirituality is in my blood, and it will always be.

Therefore, I invite you to explore a vocation with us. You may contact me using my email address, frmichael@stspatrickandbrigid.org. I am eager to hear from you. Again, welcome.

In Christ our Companion,

Fr. Michael Kieran Seger, OSB

Prior and Monastic Soul Friend
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