



This is a program in which participants meet as monastic men and women from all over the world and have the experience of being instructed by some of the important monastic teachers of our time from Rome and the wider monastic family. The course is designed to meet the needs of those called upon to work in the field of monastic formation. It was set up in 2002 and is run in co-operation with Sant' Anselmo.

Each session of the Program can take a maximum of 28 Benedictine and Cistercian men and women. The language of the course is English. So far almost 350 people have participated.

We are now taking applications for the next Program which will run for three months.

The Program is open to monks and nuns following the Rule of St Benedict who are working in formation or preparing to do so in the future. It is run with the full support and encouragement of both the Abbot Primate Gregory Polan and the Abbot General OCSO Dom Eamon Fitzgerald.

The all-inclusive fee for the Program is expected to be €6900.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters of the Program a limited number of bursaries and scholarships will be available for those communities in need of assistance.



## Further Information

Please contact us to register interest. Applications for the 2019 Program should arrive by September 2018.

Later applications will be considered according to the availability of places.

The Program will run from Sunday 17th March (arrivals) to Friday 14th June (departures) 2019.

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Rome / Assisi 2019

# Monastic, Formators, Program

A 3 month course from March to June for those of the Benedictine Tradition involved in Formation





## *Aims of the Program*

The aim of the Program is threefold:

- ❖ **ACADEMIC:** to provide a deeper appreciation of the monastic tradition and its values.
- ❖ **PEDAGOGICAL:** to reflect on how we communicate this tradition love and enthusiasm.
- ❖ **PASTORAL:** to deal with questions of discernment and human and spiritual development.

## *Character of the Program*

- This Program is unique in its rootedness in the teaching of St Benedict & the monastic tradition:
- ❖ **LECTURES** covering a range of topics related to the monastic tradition and formation today.
  - ❖ **GROUP REFLECTION** and discussion to encourage the sharing of experience, insight and expertise.
  - ❖ **EXCURSIONS** and visits to monasteries and historic Christian sites.
  - ❖ **COMMUNITY LIVING** with those from different countries and cultural backgrounds, with a regular framework of prayer.

## *Teaching Staff*

The contents of the 2016 Program is in preparation, however recent courses have brought together a wealth of wisdom and experience from the monastic world, and some of its best teachers including:

Sr Aquinata Böckmann from Rome, Abbot Bernardo Bonowitz from Brazil, Fr Michael Casey from Australia, Br Colmán Ó Clabaigh from Ireland, Fr Columba Stewart, Abbot Primate Gregory Polon, and Sister Josephine Mary Miller from Great Britain.

## *Location*

The City of Rome offers a rich experience of the universal Church rooted in the apostles Peter and Paul. Its churches, art and architecture reveal centuries of Christian tradition. Moreover we meet St Benedict in his own land, at Norcia, Subiaco and Monte Cassino.



In Rome we stay in the guest-house of the Teresian Sisters. It offers single ensuite rooms, a chapel and conference facilities and spacious gardens. There is access by bus and metro to the centre of Rome.

For the second half of the Program will enjoy the peace and tranquillity of Assisi. We will stay at the Oasi Sacro Cuore, beautifully situated amongst the olive trees on the hillside below the town.



For three months we will form a monastic community, studying and praying together, but with a sense of pilgrimage to special places of our Christian and monastic heritage.



## *Comments on Past Programs*



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, 2006*



The MFPP 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 Maghilda 2011.*

MFPP 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 2011.*

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 2003*