



Benedictines (OSB)

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Responding to God's call to holiness and preferring nothing whatever to Christ, the Benedictines dedicate themselves, under a Rule and an abbot, to a life of prayer and work.

The monks of Mount Angel Abbey in Oregon is a Benedictine community founded in 1882 from the Abbey of Engelberg in Switzerland. They maintain a monastic tradition that has been a vital part of the Roman Catholic Church for more than 1,500 years. They strive to support one another in community, to serve God, the Church and the larger society. They do this as they celebrate the Holy Eucharist together, pray the Liturgy of the Hours five times daily in choir, and devote themselves to reading and silence.

The monks are priests and brothers: scholars, teachers, administrators, professionals, artists, skilled and unskilled laborers. Although their primary ministry is prayer and the monastic life in the monastery, for the last 126 years they have operated Mount Angel Seminary, the oldest and largest Seminary in the western United States training men for the diocesan priesthood. Monks come from all parts of the United States and several other countries and range in age from 19 to 89 years old, with 16 men currently in monastic and/or priestly formation. They live a traditional monastic life in the monastery with a strong emphasis on prayer, silence and monastic observance. They wear the habit and are in willing submission to the magisterium of the Catholic Church.

Discerning a vocation to the monastic life is best done by personal experience and an encounter with the monks behind the cloister. Mount Angel Abbey invites men who are at least 18 years old and are discerning a vocation to join them for a three-day monastic discernment experience. Check out their [Discernment Retreats](#) for dates and reservations.