

## **The Benedictine Oblate Way of Life at Saint Raphael Parish**

The first session of the Benedictine Way of Life took place on Saturday morning, June 24, 2023. We began with pondering an excerpt from an article from Fr. Simon O'Donnell, OSB, former pastor of Saint Raphael Parish, entitled: What is an oblate?

The ROOTs of monastic identity are found in a good theology of baptism, baptism which not only marks a person as a son or daughter of God, but a baptism which gives a special orientation of the person to Jesus Christ. This orientation, from a monastic perspective is truly a desire to seek God in an absolute and exclusive way. It seeks to identify with that Christ who was often found at prayer with His Father, prayer apart from the world under the direction of the Holy Spirit – prayer that is truly an interior communion with God Himself.

Why does one seek to become an oblate? Becoming an oblate is not about joining a club, not about seeking a merit badge in Benedictine Spirituality. Becoming an oblate is about how we seek God, how we go to God, how we make our journey of faith. It is about how we grow into the people God has created us to be. How do I become more present to God acting in my life. Discerning whether to become a Benedictine Oblate is to approach life in an intentional way.