

What is an Oblate of Saint Benedict at Saint Raphael Parish

Oblates of Saint Benedict are Christian individuals or families who have associated themselves with a Benedictine community in order to enrich their Christian way of life. Oblates shape their lives by living the wisdom of Christ as interpreted by Saint Benedict. Oblates seek God by striving to become holy in their chosen way of life. By integrating their prayer and work, they manifest Christ's presence in society.

Saint Paul tells us that each member of the body of Christ, the Church, has a special function to perform. Most are called to the married state and raising a family. Some are called to the single life in the world and others to the life of a priest or religious man or woman. The role of oblates is to live in the world, to become holy in the world, to do what they can to bring the world to God by being witnesses of Christ by word and example to those around them.

Oblates concern themselves with striving to be what they are, people of God and temples of the Holy Spirit. Their prayer life will flow from this awareness, as will their willingness to offer themselves (that is the meaning of the world oblate) for the service of God and neighbor to the best of their ability. Oblates do not take on a new set of religious practices and are not required to say certain number of prayers or engage in special devotions. They do not live in a religious community or take vows. (Taken from the Oblates of St. Benedict of St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle, IL).