

*Associated Monastics of the
Monastery of Our Lady and Saint Laurence*

There are times when, for good reason, the Holy Church admits men or women to the monastic order even though they are not part of an established monastery. This decision belongs to the local hierarch, who discerns the genuineness of the calling and the appropriateness of the circumstances. These monks and nuns often serve in pastoral or other roles at parish churches or other locations. They are “idiorhythmic,” which means that they are self-regulating in terms of monastic observance, and self-supporting financially. This implies nothing negative about these devoted women or men. But it does highlight a serious challenge that they frequently face, in that they have no monastic “home” with which they share a sense of community and in which they have access to co-strugglers who can provide them with fraternal support and fellowship.

We began this Association to welcome these idiorhythmic monastics into spiritual communion with a resident community of monastics with whom they take up a partnership in prayer, asceticism, and mutual support and accountability. This association, for which we have the enthusiastic blessing of our Vicar Bishop JOHN, was inspired by the program we offer for Benedictine Oblates.

Becoming an Associated Monastic does not require a change of jurisdiction or rite. Our Associated Monastics belong to several canonical jurisdictions such as the OCA and the GOA. Our purpose is to support the spiritual life of Orthodox monastics in the places and circumstances in which they believe God has called them to live out their vocations.

The privileges of an Affiliated Monastic are:

Priority in accommodations when desiring to spend time at the monastery;

The ability to remain in one’s present calling and ministries while developing fraternal relationship with other monks and nuns with whom one can have a sense of “family”;

A place in the *cursus honorem* (order of seniority) of the community by date of entrance to novitiate (or first tonsure/profession if there was no novitiate);

Daily remembrance in the intercessions of the monastic community;

Access to the Superior and other members of the community for guidance regarding monastic discipline and spirituality;

The responsibilities of an Associate Monastic are:

To pray daily for the resident monks and nuns and the other Associated Monastics;

To spend at least one week per year in residence at the Monastery taking part in its worship, horarium, and work;

To support the life of the Monastery in some way by agreement with the Superior.

For more information, please use the link on the Spiritual Affiliates page to contact Prior Theodore.