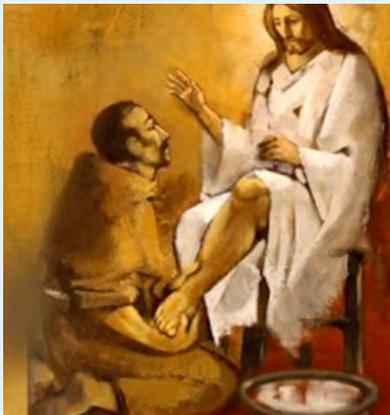




Oblate Program



“Labor without stopping, do all the good works you can.”

St. John of God

Our Brothers are continually challenged to explore and evaluate our ministry to the sick and those in need.

This necessitates branching out into different areas as the needs of the people of God demand it.

No matter what our work, the charism of charity and hospitality is our community driving force.

Our Constitutions and General Statutes support us in creating new forms of Community that will enhance our Brotherhood and allow us to be witnesses of Hospitality and proclaim the Kingdom of God to those who need us most.

This is our gift to the Church.

Preamble

The Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God recognizes that men may feel called to our way of life but choose not to or are unable to fully consecrate themselves through the Evangelical Counsels. We recognize that they commit themselves to the apostolic works of our Order and to the needs of the sick, poor, and needy people in our care. They are attracted to our communal life of prayer, mission, and fraternity. The Oblate Program of the Province of the Good Shepherd of North America welcome these men as our Brothers on the journey.

GS: Article 27

The Provinces that deem it opportune, may accept into their Communities, with the name of Oblate, persons who want to dedicate their life to the service of God, the sick and needy in our Order. The Provincial Superior, with the consent of his Council, will define the rules that must regulate their life.

GS: Article 41

In accordance with article 27 of the present General Statutes, The Provinces can accept, with the name of Oblates, persons who want to participate in the fraternal life of the Brothers and service of Hospitality.

Admission

The Oblate Program is open to men who:

- desire to strengthen their commitment to Gospel values and to deepen their prayer life;
- wish to draw support from and lend support to the life and works of the Hospitaller Brothers of St. John of God;

Admission to the Oblate Program will follow the application phase, including frequent encounters with the local community and possibly other communications within the Province. This will foster deeper relations with the Brothers and enhance exposure to the Apostolic Works within our Province and a deeper understanding of our Order.

Admission will require the approval of the Provincial with the consent of his Council. The Provincial will appoint a Brother in Solemn vows who will accompany the Oblate.

Requirements

The men applying for admission for the Oblate Program must be a Catholic in good standing, reasonably in good health; this includes medical and psychiatric evaluations, and free from any dependence and financial burdens. The applicant must be available to go where the needs of the Province require them. Certainly, the applicant would enter into a dialogue regarding this placement.

Formation

The applicants for the Oblate Brother Program will follow a similar Formation Program for men applying for vowed membership.

Orientation and Formation will include:

- Study of the life of Saint John of God
- The Hospitaller Order's Constitution and Statutes
- Our Hospitaller Prayer Life
- Study of the Province's Ministries
- Periods of Reflection and Discernment

Relevant documents of the Order and the Church will be studied throughout the Oblates journey to have a deeper understanding of our way of life and develop a stronger sense of the Universal Church.

Length of Program

After a 12 month period of Formation, an initial Covenant of Hospitality is taken for a period of one year. This Covenant is renewable annually by mutual agreement between the Oblate and the recommendation of the Local Community to the Provincial and Council. The Covenant can be terminated either by the Oblate or the Province at any time.

Apostolic Service

Dependent upon the ministry location the Oblate will follow all local norms regarding Human Resources, State requirements, and safeguarding measures.

Community Life

In a fraternal embrace, the Oblate commits himself to live in community with the Brothers and is accepted likewise as a Brother who desires to live our Hospitaller Way of Life and participate in serving the sick and needy in our care. The Oblate engages in all aspects of the community. Thus, is expected to participate in annual retreats, workshops, community meetings, and Province gatherings (assemblies). As a member of the Order, he is called "Brother" and wear the Hospitaller habit. However, he does not have official voting rights for any canonical elections.

The local community, along with the Provincial, participates in the welcoming and journeying of both the professed members and Oblates of our Province.



Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God
Province of the Good Shepherd in North America