Benedictine Peacemakers Application
Part two: Self-Reflection



As well as providing an opportunity to serve in a partnering organization, a year in the Benedictine Peacemakers program also gives you the space to wrestle with questions of who you are, who God is for you, and what your place in the world is.

Please take your time with these questions, letting them be an opportunity for reflection in your life. When complete, please submit your answers, written or delivered orally (via video) to mscully@eriebenedictines.org

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1. ***What interests you in the Benedictine Peacemakers program, and draws you towards living a year of monastic life? What areas do you think might be challenging for you in this experience?***

2. The Benedictine Sisters of Erie commit themselves to being a healing presence in the world, prophetic witnesses to peace and justice, and are dedicated to climate conscious living. ***How do you see your passions, strengths, and experiences align with the life and efforts of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie?***

3. Our Sister Joan Chittister, OSB writes that "a Benedictine spirituality of community has a reverence for uniqueness as well as bondedness. Conformity is not the end of Benedictine life; it is community of heart and soul and mind toward which we move, not control. …to understand that is to free us from having to control everyone in our world and it is to free them from enslavement to our egos." Throughout this year with the Peacemaker program you will commit yourself to growing in community with your cohort, as well as in relationship with the Benedictine Sisters of Erie. ***What has your experience of intentional communal life been, and how have the communities in your life helped to shape you into who you are today?***

4. Through our experiences, our education, our prayer, and our encounters with others, we are constantly growing and transforming. Sister Joan Chittister, OSB notes that "Benedictine conversion is not an assertion of our strength or character. Benedictine spirituality is based on the simple acknowledgement that God will come to life before us and be reborn in us in unexpected ways day after day throughout our lives." ***Tell us about a time that you have undergone a conversion of life, a conversion of perspective, or a conversion of heart. What was that experience like for you? Was it an intentional or unexpected journey?***

5. Prayer and spiritual growth are central to the life of the monastic community. As participants in the Benedictine Peacemakers program, you will be encouraged to delve into your own spiritual life through communal prayer, classes, discussions, and individual spiritual mentorship. All are welcome into this program regardless of religious background. ***Describe your spiritual and/ or religious journey thus far in your life? In what ways would you like to grow personally and spiritually during this year?***