



The Venerable Patrick Malone - Abbot

**September 2012
Feast of Saints Boniface and Alexander**

Customary

OSB
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Introduction:

The Order of Anglican Communion Benedictines or Order of Saint Benedict is a religious society as understood in the Constitutions and Canons of the Anglican Church in North America. We are housed within Diocese of the West (CANA) under the Anglican Church of Nigeria and part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The Order of Anglican Communion Benedictines is a recognized religious society within CANA and the ACNA.

As a disbursed order we are part of the *New Monasticism* envisioned and written about by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Our members serve Christ and one another in their communities and under our understanding of the Rule of Saint Benedict. We are guided by and part of the Benedictine tradition.

Monastic Habit Supplier:

The robe and scapular that are part of the order's habit may be purchased through the supplier noted below. The robe and scapular are both black.

<http://www.monksandnunshabits.com/menu1/index2.html>

Scroll down to item ML20 or ML21

Wearing of the Monastic Habit:**I. Stages of Formation**

- Aspirant: N/A
- Postulant: N/A
- Novice: robed, white cincture and Benedictine medallion
- Juniorate: robed, black cincture and Benedictine cross
- Solemn Vows: robed, black cincture, Benedictine cross and hooded scapular

II. Holders of Monastic Offices

Holders of monastic offices will wear the cincture that is appropriate for their office.

- Abbot: leather belt or purple cincture
- Prior: red cincture (grey will be worn when an office holder is a non priest to avoid confusion with priests who are Canons)
- Porter: green cincture

*Note: When the holder of a monastic office leaves that office they may continue to wear the cincture for their office provided they have been granted *Emeritus* status. Emeritus status is not automatic but granted by the Abbot for long and/or meritorious service or in the case of an Abbot is granted by the Bishop. The person in Emeritus status will knot the cincture on the opposite side (e.g. left instead of right). If the office holder is not granted Emeritus status he/she will return to wearing the black cincture.

III. The Benedictine Cross: Should be worn by professed members whenever possible and practical as a sign of commitment and belonging to the Order. This means worn with clericals and choir dress for clergy, when in monastic clothing, and with civilian clothing (visible or under clothing). See Abbot for your cross or medallion.

Forms of Address and Use of Initials:

All members of the Order of Saint Benedict are brothers and sisters in Christ. No member is less than another member simply because of the office they hold or their function within the order. Members have different functions so that they may best serve the order based on their skills, talents, experience and the needs of the order. Members are called at all times to respect one another.

I. Titles

- Abbot
 - Verbal: Father Abbot or Abbot *first name*
 - Written: The Very Reverend Abbot *first name, last name*
 - Salutation: Dear Father Abbot or Dear Abbot
- Abbess
 - Verbal: Abbess or Abbess *first name*
 - Salutation: Dear Abbess
- Prior
 - Verbal: Father Prior or Prior *first name* (if a priest)
 - Brother or Sister Prior or Prior *first name* (if not a priest)
 - Written: The Reverend Prior *first name, last name* (if a priest)
 - Prior *first name, last name* (if not a priest)
 - Salutation: Dear Father Prior or Prior *first name* (if a priest)
 - Dear Brother or Sister Prior or Prior (if not a priest)

- Sub- Prior: Follow same rules as with the Prior except that in the case of clergy the Sub Prior is addressed in written communication as The Reverend Sub Prior
- Porter
 - Verbal: Father/Brother/Sister Porter or Fr./Sr./Br. *first name*
 - Written: Father/Brother/Sister Porter
 - Salutation: Dear Father, Sister or Brother

*Note: Members of the order who have held monastic office and been granted emeritus status follow the above protocols.

- Member of order (non monastic office holder)
 - Verbal: Father or Reverend *first name* (if a priest)
 - Verbal: Brother or Sister Deacon (if a deacon) or Simply Brother or Sister *first name* (novice through solemn profession)
 - Verbal: Brother or Sister *first name* (anyone novice through solemn profession)
 - Written: Same as Above
 - Salutation: Dear Fr./Rev./Dcn./Sr./Br.

*Note: Lay brothers and sisters in the order should be judicious in using the title of “Br.” or “Sr.”. It should be used in appropriate settings such as within the order, when interacting with other orders and in certain church situations. It should not be used in secular settings unless approval of the Abbot has been secured.

II. Use of Initials

The following initials may be used after a member’s name. At no time should the initials or Benedictine identity be used with a political cause, commercial enterprise or any other endeavor, which could bring the order into disrepute.

- Aspirant: N/A
- Postulant: N/A
- Novice: n/OSB
- Juniorate: OSB
- Solemn Vows: OSB

Deceased Members of the Order:

A member of the order may choose to be buried in their habit (as is monastic tradition). Members of their family should notify the Abbot as soon as possible of the serious illness or death of a member of the order. Deceased members will be remembered in the order’s necrology.