

# BENEDICTINE MINISTRY INTERN

**If you are seeking something more in your life...**



**Immerse  
yourself  
in a spiritual  
community  
that works  
for good.**

**for younger women (22-35 years)**

**wanting to do good work in community for 3 to 6 months**

**Mount Saint Benedict Monastery**

**Erie, PA**

Longing to put your spiritual values into action?  
Looking for meaningful work in your field?  
Drawn to living in community? Then...

## Mount Saint Benedict Monastery is on the way to wherever you're going.

Live in monastery

Earn a monthly stipend

Work in one of these fields

- peace and justice/environment
- communications/development
- soup kitchen/food pantry
- publishing/online monastery

## Benedictine Ministry Intern

A three to six-month opportunity for young women offering work in their field with support from a monastic community. This ministry-focused program is for women aged 22-35 exploring their callings or careers.

How do we normally see young adulthood? Go to college, graduate, get a job, pay debts, fit in, move up... If you'd like a different route, you can change up this status quo. Gain perspective and find a bigger story for your life. Connect your time and experience with the good works of a monastic community. Find space to become, not simply exist. When you stop looking for meaning in the way the world tells you to look, imagine what you can find.

Please see our other programs for monastic-focused programs with varied age requirements and lengths of commitment.

### Four available ministry sites:

**Emmaus Ministries** is a feeding organization and social outreach to the poor of Erie. It hosts a soup kitchen, food pantry, and after-school children's program. Internship includes direct service through these ministries, as well as organizational work tailored to the intern. ([emmauserie.org](http://emmauserie.org))

**Monasteries of the Heart/Benetvision:** Monasteries of the Heart ([monasteriesoftheheart.org](http://monasteriesoftheheart.org)) online monastery offers Benedictine wisdom for contemporary seekers. It provides members with resources, practices, and retreats for personal growth and spiritual accompaniment. Benetvision supports the website, newsletter, publications, and Fund for Prisoners of Sister Joan Chittister ([joanchittister.org](http://joanchittister.org)).



**Care for the Earth /Benedictines for Peace:** Care for the Earth includes research and implementation of the community's sustainability goals on energy, waste stream, woods, and grounds. Benedictines for Peace ([benedictinesforpeace.com](http://benedictinesforpeace.com)) includes organizing actions and education for the community's commitment to nonviolence and justice, and coalition opportunities on issues of climate, racism, and immigration.

**Development and Communications:** Hands-on work with the team responsible for monastery communications (magazine, e-newsletter, social media, video/print production) and development (direct mail appeals, donor relations, special events, major gift development). Writing, design, and photography skills and creativity would be advantageous. ([eriebenedictines.org](http://eriebenedictines.org))





**It's a matter of choice.**

**Living in a monastery  
surrounded by community  
offers you**

- spiritual grounding**
- life experience**
- real-time mentoring**
- a safety net**

**General criteria and requirements:**

- Ability to interact with others in a Benedictine women's monastery that espouses feminist values
- Willingness to nurture opportunities for personal and interpersonal growth and development
- Commit to gaining work and leadership experience in an inclusive, non-profit ministry
- Be a woman between 22 and 35 years of age (no commitments to children or partner)
- Three to six-month consecutive availability
- Be physically, mentally, and emotionally able to work 40 hours a week in one of the listed ministries
- Satisfactorily complete the application process and be accepted into the program

**What you will receive from the Benedictine Sisters of Erie:**

1. Room and board in the monastery
2. Three to six-month experience, extensions possible, start date early 2023
3. 40-hour work week in selected available ministry
4. Option to participate in monastic prayer life
5. We encourage participants to have their own health insurance
6. Monthly stipend in addition to room and board
7. Participants are responsible for deferring or paying their school loans for the duration of internship
8. Transportation in a carpool if you don't bring a car

Rev. 11/28/2022

**To request more information  
and set up a time for conversation,  
email [interns@eriebenedictines.org](mailto:interns@eriebenedictines.org)**

**You will hear back from one of our  
organizing committee members:  
Anne, Val, Colleen, Katie, or Linda.**

**[eriebenedictines.org](http://eriebenedictines.org)**



# ABOUT OUR MONASTIC LIFE

**The Benedictine Sisters of Erie are a monastic community of women who share a common life of prayer and good work. In other words, they are a spiritual community that works for good.**

The community that five young immigrant nuns from Germany started in 1856 with the intent of schooling the children of German immigrants has been responding to changing times, both internally and externally, for more than 160 years. Its members now number more than 70 and include every generation from Millennials to the Greatest Generation. While the women who make up the community today continue to be concerned about the welfare of children, their good work reaches many additional populations as indicated by their current Corporate Commitment: *As Benedictine Sisters of Erie we commit ourselves to be a healing presence and prophetic witness for peace and justice by actively addressing the climate crisis and the rights of women and children.*

## **What characterizes the life and work of these women that sets it apart?**

- a 1,500-year-old wisdom tradition that has its roots in the spiritual seeking of a person (St. Benedict) looking for deeper meaning in a world that to him appeared corrupt, violent, and shallow.
- intergenerational monastic community lived in a monastery—when more than 60 women live under one roof, there's always someone home for prayer, for dinner, to receive the guest.
- a long history of setting their own course as women living the Benedictine way, educating members, questioning practices, speaking truth to power in the name of the powerless and voiceless.
- a commitment to follow the gospel of Jesus according to the way of Benedict, a way that is based on not only Benedict's Rule but also the gospel and lived tradition.
- an openness to the signs of the times that includes welcoming and learning from the stranger, the guest, the pilgrim—literally when they knock on the door, and figuratively in studying new theologies, unlearning single-perspective histories, networking and collaborating with those building a more just society.

## **Why does any of this matter to you?**

It matters if you are a woman looking for deeper meaning.

It matters if you find something compelling about living in community even for a short time, and working with others who want to make a difference in our world.

And it matters because we gradually absorb ideas and practices from those with whom we associate.

- Spend time with those who have chosen a spiritual path and you become more spiritual
- Spend time with people who are committed to actively working for peace and justice and you become more prophetic.
- Spend time with women whose image of God is not labeled by gender or race or nation or ability and you begin to believe more firmly in yourself as made in God's image.
- Spend time with women who love life and find joy in community and you become more open to life and joy.

There are numerous ways to associate with the Benedictine Sisters of Erie. Opportunities to live in the monastery include Benedictine Internships, Benedictine Peacemakers Corps (coming in 2023), and the Benedicta Riepp Monastic Experience program.

To create a deeper connection outside of the monastery, consider becoming a Benedictine Oblate. Or become a volunteer at one of our ministries. Many generous people who share in a monastic gospel vision are connected via their financial support of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie.

## CONTACT

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**See [eriebenedictines.org/forms-association](https://eriebenedictines.org/forms-association) for other ways to connect with us.**