

In consultation with our spiritual directors and other members of the community, we develop our own customary practices to live a balanced life on a daily basis.

Members come from different walks of life, in different parts of the world and from different communions. Some are single, some married. Most of us live alone, but some are in closer aspects of community life. We all strive to keep a balance of time for praying the divine offices, for corporate prayer with our churches, and for daily work, for family or community obligations.

In all things we strive for balance of life and to seek the will of the One who strengthens us, who transforms our lives, and who grants us the privilege to continue loving and serving in His name.

For More Information  
visit

[www.communityofsolitude.com](http://www.communityofsolitude.com)



## THE BRIEF RULE OF SAINT ROMUALD

*Sit in your cell as in paradise. Put the whole world behind you and forget it. Watch your thoughts like a good fisherman watching for fish. The path you must follow is in the Psalms — never leave it.*

*If you have just come to the monastery, and in spite of your good will you cannot accomplish what you want, take every opportunity you can to sing the Psalms in your heart and to understand them with your mind.*

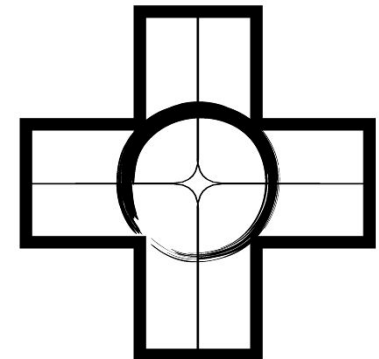
*And if your mind wanders as you read, do not give up; hurry back and apply your mind to the words once more.*

*Realize above all that you are in God's presence, and stand there with the attitude of one who stands before the emperor.*

*Empty yourself completely and sit waiting, content with the grace of God, like the chick who tastes nothing and eats nothing but what his mother brings him.*

# THE COMMUNITY OF SOLITUDE

In the Spirit of Saints  
Benedict and Romuald



## WHO WE ARE

The Community of Solitude is a worldwide ecumenical community of solitaries. We take Holy Scripture as our primary source for living a monastic life, incorporating the Rule of St. Benedict, influenced by the Camaldolese hermits, and interpreted for our situations. We take the Benedictine vows of obedience (to the will of God), stability (to a life of prayer) and conversion of life.

From St. Benedict, we embrace the phrase: Pray and work (*Ora et Labora*). Benedict realized that wholeness in life is expressed in the balance between work and prayer. This is expressed in the Rule of Benedict giving balance in community life and obligations.

From St. Romuald, we recognize the Privilege of Love, which shows forth in the three-fold good embraced by the followers of Romuald. The expressions of monastic life for Romuald were: The common life in the Monastery, the Hermitage, and Evangelistic witness. As we grow in our relationship with God through the monastery and hermitage, we are privileged to share

that love with others in witnessing

God's love in the world.

The Camaldolese Benedictines were a reform movement of the Benedictine Community, just after A.D. 1000 and are the senior (oldest) of the three Benedictine hermit orders, rounded out by the Trappist/Cistercian and Carthusian orders.

## WHY WE ARE ECUMENICAL

As called by the Holy Spirit, we choose to celebrate and embrace the vast number of beliefs and traditions that unite monastics of different

communities, rather than dwell on the few things that cause division and diminish love and charity toward all of God's people. One has only to look at the example of the Taizé community, which has been recognized, embraced and respected by popes, patriarchs, bishops and peoples of all communions around the world, to understand how

the Holy Spirit is moving in our lives.

We are united in our vocations while individually remaining faithful to our own communions. We currently have members from the Orthodox, Roman and Episcopal/Anglican communions.

## OUR CHARISM

We are united with all faithful

followers of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in healing prayer for the entire world, respecting the dignity of all persons.

We are all one body because we all

share one bread. Our life of prayer,

meditation and contemplation is rooted in the recitation of the Divine Offices.

Our prayer is offered for those who

either will not or cannot pray for

themselves. We seek to make our lives

a perpetual and living devotion

to divine love. We value time spent in

silence and solitude and ongoing study.

It is through this prayer and reflection

that our lives are converted more

closely into the image of Christ, which

we can then share with others.

## OUR RULES OF LIFE

We observe the Rule of St. Benedict as a common observance for our life in

Community. Members make

traditional Benedictine vows of

conversion of life, obedience to Christ,

and stability in Christ. We also follow

the Brief Rule of St Romuald as a

guideline for our individual lives and

practices.