

Oblate Advisory Council

The OAC exists to bring the thoughts and ideas of each deanery to the Oblate community as a whole and to provide feedback to the Prioress and the Benedictine Sisters of Virginia. Each of the three deaneries is represented by the dean and two members.

Linda Kusse-Wolfe, ObISB- Richmond



Linda is a retired United Methodist pastor, who first made her Oblation in 2012 to St. Brigid of Kildare Monastery. Upon moving back home to Virginia, she joyfully transferred her Oblation to the Benedictines of Virginia in 2020. Linda's interests are in spiritual formation, Bible study and non-reductionist interfaith dialogue. Educated at Stetson University and Earlham School of Religion, she also had the privilege of completing Fr. Chester P Michael's Spiritual Direction Institute. Linda is married to David Wolfe and they have three adult children and an exceptional son-in-law. She enjoys long walks, gardening, travel, sharing coffee with friends and teaching ESL to newly arrived Afghan families.

Seton Droppers, ObISB – Bristow



This is Seton's second term on the Oblate Council. Seton is a life-long Episcopalian, enjoying daily conversation with God. He became a Benedictine Oblate in 2012 with the Benedictine Sisters of Virginia (Bristow), after finding St. Benedict's Rule provided structure, direction, and a place "that by the toil of obedience you may return to God". He and his wife Patty moved from rural Western NY to Arlington VA in 1985 with their two young sons. Seton and Patty are members of St. George's Episcopal church in Arlington where he and one of his two grandsons are members of the Choir. Seton has worked with computers and computer networks since 1978. Seton recently retired from his "day job" as a Cybersecurity engineer. He enjoys, reading, taking long walks (especially where he can be alone and not hear too much traffic and people), and photography.

Sue Riley, OblSB- Bristow



First and foremost, Sue became an Oblate of Saint Benedict on November 24, 1996, but was a friend of the monastery for many years before that. She has been married to Dave for 60 years. She is the mother of 4, grandmother of 5, and great-grandmother of 3. She worked as a Fairfax County Police Officer. After leaving the police force Sue worked as a substitute teacher. She continues to be involved in many programs and witnesses God working in mysterious ways!

Colleen Hernandez, OblSB – Bedford



Colleen made her oblation in 2014. Currently enjoying retirement as the bookkeeper at Our Lady of Nazareth in Roanoke where she has been a member since 1985. Colleen serves as a Eucharistic Minister and is active with Haiti Ministry, having visited the parish twice a number of times. She has 2 sons both of whom live out west and looks forward to the growth The Rule provides. Especially enjoyed the pilgrimage to Saint John's and St. Ben's.

Rose DeRango, OblSB – Richmond Temp Council Member



Rose has been an Oblate since 2011 and attends St. Michael's Catholic Church in Glen Allen, VA. She has been retired for 7 years and is enjoying it immensely and says she wouldn't have time for a job anymore! Rose is a lector at St. Michael's. She has taken up crocheting since her retirement and is a part of the Prayer Shawl ministry that provides Prayer Shawls for those who are ill or having surgery. Rose enjoys traveling and look forward to doing more of that in the future.

Meg Kermon, ObISB- Bristow Dean



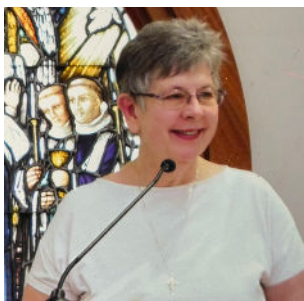
Meg made her oblation in May 2015. She worked in software development for over 40 years, then worked part-time for BEACON, the sisters' ministry for adult literacy. Meg is now fully retired. She is a member of All Saints parish in Manassas and has three adult children, plus furry family members. She enjoys reading, puzzles, yoga and Tai Chi, and has fostered cats for a local rescue group for about twelve years.

John Kowalski, ObISB – Bedford Dean



John and his wife Val made their oblations in 2012. Val entered into eternal life in 2013. He is the retired director of the Roanoke Valley Governor's School for Science and Technology. John is a member of Our Lady of Nazareth Catholic Church in Roanoke where he serves as a Eucharistic minister and a member of the RCIA team. He also brings Communion to several homebound parishioners. He enjoys traveling and had the opportunity to visit Norcia, Subiaco, and Monte Casino, as well as, attending the 2017 International Benedictine Oblate Congress in Rome.

Annie McEntee, Obl.SB – Richmond Dean and Council Chair



Annie grew up in Richmond, Virginia. She began her college education with drama, followed by studies in theology at Loyola University and Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary. She spent her career in the training field at Verizon and led the Christian initiation ministry for over 20 years. In 2010 she made promises as an Oblate of the Monastery of Saint Benedict in Bristow, Virginia. She offers spiritual direction, serves her parish as a lector, and is an avid birder.

Katherine D. Frick, Obl.SB – Director - KatherineFrick@hotmail.com



Kathy discovered the Benedictine Sisters of Virginia in the early 1990's when she was seeking something more in her spiritual life. St. Benedict's Rule proved to be exactly what she needed. Making her oblation in 2000, she has been eager to share the beauty of the Rule ever since. After 30 years as a legal secretary and more than 14 years of work in parishes, Kathy retired in August 2015. But Benedictines never truly retire; they find new ministries. Shortly after her *official* retirement, she was delighted to be offered the position of Executive Director of the Benedictine Pastoral Center. Kathy served as Oblate Co-Director with Sister Anita Sherwood and then with Sister Charlotte Lee. She and Sister Charlotte served together for over a decade.

Sister Kathy Persson, OSB – Director - kpersson@osbva.org



Sister Kathleen Persson OSB, LCSW, has been a licensed clinical social worker for over 35 years. Sister Kathy spent almost 10 years working with adults with persistent mental illness and was the Associate Executive Director of Threshold Services, Inc., in Silver Spring, Maryland. She has often facilitated and presented both locally and nationally on issues related to grief and loss. Sister Kathy left Capital Hospice in 2006 to pursue a vocation to religious life and is now a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Bristow, VA. Presently Sister Kathy is the Vocation Director for the Benedictine Sisters of Virginia and on the leadership team for her community. As Vocation Director, Sister Kathy has a YouTube site with videos called "Benedictine Bytes" where she interviews different sisters who share their vocation stories and also does reflections on her daily Lectio Divina.