

The North American Association of Benedictine  
Oblate Directors  
Biennial Meeting  
**2015 Biennial Meeting**

hosted by the monks of  
[Subiaco Abbey](#) in Subiaco, AR



July 10 - 15, 2015

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**Theme - Nurturing Benedictine Spirituality:  
From Theory to Practice**

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## Conference Speakers

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**Abbot Jerome Kodell, OSB – Subiaco Abbey, Subiaco, AR**



Abbot Jerome was born in Clarksville, Arkansas. He was educated at Subiaco Academy, Subiaco College, Collegio Sant' Anselmo, and the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. He has served in many capacities as a Subiaco monk: Editor of The Abbey Message, Chaplain at Arkansas Tech University, Founding Member of the Little Rock Scripture Study Program, Abbey Subprior, Formation Director, and Prior of Santa Familia Monastery in Belize-Central America. In the Academy he has served as: Teacher, Yearbook Advisor, Soccer Coach, and Assistant Basketball Coach in the Academy. He was professed his vows as a monk on Sept. 8, 1959, ordained as a Priest on May 22, 1965, and elected the 6th Abbot of our community on Nov. 8, 1989.

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**Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB – St. Scholastica Monastery, Fort Smith, AR**



Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB., is an author and spiritual guide and a Benedictine monastic of St. Scholastica Monastery in Fort Smith, Arkansas. She travels throughout the United States and Canada as a retreat director. In her retreats seekers are guided through experiences of silence, contemplation, and faith sharing. Many of her retreat themes come from her writings. She also draws extensively from literature and poetry and enjoys creating rituals.

Wiederkehr is a master of everyday spirituality. She has taken the Benedictine tradition of Lectio Divina (divine reading) and expanded it into new fields of wonder. To her, sacred texts are all around us. She discerns evidence of God's presence in nature, relationships, and the daily rounds of life. As a skilled and creative devotional writer, Wiederkehr can always be depended upon for images or personal anecdotes that are brimming with beauty and insight. She weaves these together into books that combine observations with prayers and suggested passages to read — making them perfect for personal and group retreats.

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**Karen Joseph, OSB – Monastery of the Immaculate Conception,  
Ferdinand, IN**



Sister Karen Joseph, OSB, is assistant director of the Sisters of St. Benedict Spirituality Ministry, and a retreat and workshop presenter. She has served in community leadership roles and in spiritual direction for many years.

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**Jane Tomaine, Episcopal Priest, Mountainside, NJ**



Jane Tomaine is an Episcopal priest, author and retreat leader. She wrote a book on the Rule of Benedict for her parish, [St. Benedict's Toolbox: The Nuts and Bolts of Everyday Benedictine Living](#), available through Morehouse Publishing and online at Amazon.com. She also contributed to the recent series on Benedictine living from Abbey Press, [Notes from A Monastery](#), writing the booklet, [Living Simply](#).

Jane currently teaches courses and leads workshops and retreats on the Rule and Benedictine spirituality at parishes, monasteries, retreat centers, and at the Newark School of Theology.