



## ***Wisdom Connections Timeless Traditions ↔ Technological Times***

### **INFORMATION**

*Updated 10/02/2024*

Wisdom Connections was established November 30, 2014, for women's Benedictine communities with women in initial formation. It was conceived, organized, and implemented by a group of volunteer Benedictine sisters. Starting December 2017, Wisdom Connections moved under the North American Benedictine Vocation Formation Conference (NABVFC) and is administered by that Core Team. Sister Michelle, the reports to the NABVFC Core Team.

At its inception, the mission of Wisdom Connections was to create a program of formation and education for newer members and to develop an ongoing method of communication using technology. A generous grant from the GHR Foundation funded the 1<sup>st</sup> three years of the program but it is now supported by membership fees. The scope of the program has now moved to include all Benedictine communities and allows for use in ongoing formation as well as initial formation for community members. As of November of 2018, several presenters have allowed for Oblate participation in viewing videos (please carefully read the *Wisdom Connections Rules & Regulations*).

We respect and appreciate the women and men religious who have presented for Wisdom Connections as well as the contributions they have made to make it successful. Many of the presenters are still in active ministry and continue to present to groups and religious communities in person for pay. Likewise, some have contributed presentations they still actively sell to religious and lay people. For these reasons, we do not want to compromise the previously signed contract agreements between the presenters and Wisdom Connections which aim to protect them and their intellectual property as well as any invitations for future speaking engagements nor the selling of their work.

These *Rules & Regulations* are issued to provide members with information about appropriate use of *Wisdom Connections* regarding the digital information provided. This membership agreement between *Wisdom Connections* and the members also specifies that Wisdom Connections retains ownership of all data and that the members agree to observe the *Wisdom Connections Rules & Regulations* in its use. Members are also required to implement these Rules & Regulations within their organization regarding use, collection, retention, and distribution of all *Wisdom Connections* data.

Membership in *Wisdom Connections Timeless Traditions ↔ Technological Times* depends on member organizations obliging by these *Rules & Regulations*.

Any questions for clarification or concerns can be sent to Sister Michelle Sinkhorn, *Wisdom Connections* Program Director & Technology Administrator, by emailing her at [wisdomconnectionst4@gmail.com](mailto:wisdomconnectionst4@gmail.com).



# WISDOM CONNECTIONS:

*Timeless Tradition ↔ Technological Times*



Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

WC Main Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Location: \_\_\_\_\_

*Street Address*

*City*

*State*

*Zip Code*

*Country*

WC Contact Person's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Office #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization's Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Superior's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please register us for:**

1 YEAR

2 YEARS

3 YEARS

*Fee = number of years times the annual membership fee of \$500.*

NOTE: To maintain membership, organizations must abide by the WC Rules & Regulations\* and respect and enforce these rules with all community members in member organization. There are no refunds nor prorated allowances.

**Are you able to contribute to the WC Scholarship Fund to help others?**

Yes

No

If "Yes", how much can you contribute: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU!**

## OTHER MEMBERSHIP INFO NEEDED

Number of members in your community: \_\_\_\_\_ Age range: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your monastery have suitable internet to navigate web pages and stream videos? YES NO

Do you have members in Initial Formation? YES NO

If YES, how many members do you have in Initial Formation? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you use Wisdom Connections videos with your Oblates? YES NO

Does your monastery currently actively have spirituality programs / presentations? YES NO

If YES, do you video tape the presentations? YES NO

Our organization, if accepted, hereby agrees to abide by the Rules & Regulations\* of *Wisdom Connections* and to respect and adhere to them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Organization's Superior*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Wisdom Connections Contact Person*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

***Make checks payable to: Sisters of St. Benedict***

Return this membership form and payment to:

**Sister Michelle Sinkhorn  
Wisdom Connections  
802 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Ferdinand, IN 47532**

# Wisdom Connections Rules & Regulations

Updated 10/02/2024

1. The Wisdom Connections webpage is protected with a username and password. This username and password are not to be given out to anyone except for the use of initial and ongoing formation by members of the organization. It is never, for any reason, to be given to anyone outside of the member organization.
2. The *Wisdom Connections Digital Library* is password protected. This password is not to be given out to anyone except for the use of initial and ongoing formation by members of the organization. It is never, for any reason, to be given to anyone outside of the member organization.
3. Some presenters have allowed for Oblate participation in viewing videos. This is to be done with and operated by the Wisdom Connections member community members. A special *Wisdom Connections Oblate Digital Library* has been established for this purpose, and the videos in that library are the only ones to be used with Oblates. No usernames or passwords are to be given out to Oblate members. If the member community has a lay Oblate Director, this person only will be given the credentials. S/he is not to give it out to any other oblates.
4. The secure portion of the Wisdom Connections webpage provides members with Dropbox links to biographies, PowerPoints, photos, and other documents. These documents may be downloaded to a personal device or saved to personal Dropbox accounts by members within the organization. With the exception of printed handouts (for Oblates), said documents are never, for any reason, to be given electronically to anyone outside of the member organization.
5. For the purposes of Wisdom Connection, organization members include pre-postulants (living in community), postulants, novices, temporary professed, and perpetually professed. For the purposes of Wisdom Connection, Oblates, lay associates, live-in volunteers, etc. are NOT considered members of the organization; therefore, the Wisdom Connections webpage, digital library, and Dropbox links and documents are not to be used with or shared with them, except for viewing with Oblates (see #3 above).
6. Purchase and upkeep of devices for use in accessing Wisdom Connections information is the responsibility of the member organization. Likewise, the ability to access Wisdom Connections information via network, modem, or Wi-Fi connections is the responsibility of the member organization.
7. Member organizations will have access to instructional videos and a *Wisdom Connections Technology Handbook*. It is the responsibility of the organization to have someone on hand to interpret and implement these instructions for access and use of Wisdom Connections. Minimal technological assistance may be provided by the Wisdom Connections staff to the member Wisdom Connections contact person.
8. There is an option to have *Wisdom Connections* staff travel to a member monastery in order to provide a 1-2 day *Wisdom Connections* overview for your community and technological training (for *Wisdom Connections* only) for the contact person and a small group. If this option is desired, the member organization will be responsible for a stipend and travel expenses of *Wisdom Connections* staff. Please contact the director for more information.
9. *Wisdom Connections* retains ownership of all data contained in the *Wisdom Connections* webpage, the WC Digital Library, and the WC Oblate Digital Library, including but not limited to all Dropbox files, videos, and webpage design and images.
10. Members are required to share and implement these *Wisdom Connections Rules & Regulations* within their organization and lay Oblate directors. Failure to abide by these *Wisdom Connections Rules & Regulations* may result in termination of *Wisdom Connections* membership of your organization without refund of any portion of the registration fee.

***These Rules & Regulations are subject to change.  
Any changes will be communicated to Wisdom Connections contact person  
in a timely manner and after communication is made,  
members will be asked to oblige by the new regulations.***