**Porter’s Report**

*Br. David Gerns, OSB*

At convocation last June, Abess Martha created the position of Porter. In the Rule, the Porter is an appointee of the Superior to reside near the gate of the monastery to welcome visitors and supplicants for membership in the spirit of seeing Christ within each person. As a dispersed Benedictine community this role is to welcome inquirers interested in our life as Benedictines and help them explore an initial call into Benedictine life and a new relationship with Christ. I was appointed to that position and Sr. Catherine Ann, OSB was appointed to work with me.

During the summer a process was developed that described our responsibilities with an overview of how we would work with each inquirer. This included general guidance in conducting initial interviews, providing an e-booklet to the inquirer, and distributing applications upon request. The basic task for us is to do an initial screening of the inquirer so that we understand their life and spiritual need/call and, if requested, provide an application. Then, follow up with each person to assist them in the process. Once the application packets are received, they are forwarded to the superior, who will manage the evaluation process with the appropriate Deans to continue the investigation, interviews, and the decision concerning membership.

In 2023 and as of Chapter, we received about a dozen inquiries with about six applications distributed. Application packets will be accepted until March 15 each year.