

Dear Abbess, Sisters and Brothers,

This is a heads-up email to encourage those of you who plan to attend our October 2025 Convocation in person to begin making concrete plans, especially those of you who are flying or taking Amtrak. A registration form and more details will be forthcoming in early September. Be watching for that. In the meantime, I am providing the following information hoping it will be helpful to you in your planning. If there is information I haven't covered, please do not hesitate to email me (rsmith12jm@gmail.com).

Our first gathering will be on Monday, October 20, in the early afternoon.

If you are flying, your destination is the **Baltimore Washington International Airport (BWI)**

If you are taking Amtrak, please be aware that **not all Amtrak stations offer baggage service**. The Amtrak station which **does** have baggage service is the **Baltimore Penn Station** (1500 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201-5815)

Once you have arrived at BWI or Penn Station and collected your baggage, you may call the hotel for a shuttle pick up – **410-691-0500**. I suggest putting that number in your phone now so you don't have to go looking for this email at the airport or train station.

A bus will pick you up at **12:00** noon on Monday, October 20 at the Hilton Garden Inn BWI Airport hotel, 1516 Aero Drive, Linthicum, MD for transportation to Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center. (See hotel information below). **Arrival Sunday, October 19, is strongly recommended** to avoid the inconvenience of Monday morning flight delays.

On **Friday**, October 24, a bus will transport you from Bon Secours to the airport AND Baltimore Penn (Amtrak) station. The bus departs at **10:00** AM. In case you missed earlier emails, please note that Convocation again this October is one day shorter than usual; Monday, October 20-Friday, October 24, 2025.

Your return flight on Friday, October 24, should depart **no earlier than 1:00 PM**. It is approximately a 45-minute trip to the airport. Arriving there around 10:45 allows ample time for check in, baggage handling, getting through security and

getting a bite to eat before your flight if desired. It also allows for unexpected delays.

The bus will drop off at the airport first and then go to the Baltimore Penn Amtrak station, about a 35 minute drive making your arrival time at Amtrak close to 12 noon.

If a 1:00 PM or later flight departure causes undue hardships, **please contact Abbess Martha ([srmarthaosb@yahoo.com](mailto:srmarthaosb@yahoo.com))**, **copy to Sr. Madeleine Sophie ([rsmith12jm@gmail.com](mailto:rsmith12jm@gmail.com))** **BEFORE finalizing reservations** to ensure earlier transportation to the airport is available. *Do not use "REPLY" unless you want your email to go to the entire community.*

If you are driving, please DO NOT plan to arrive on Sunday unless you have cleared that with me first ([rsmith12jm@gmail.com](mailto:rsmith12jm@gmail.com)). Be aware that unless your presence is required for set up on Sunday, you will be responsible for the cost of meals and lodging that day. If you are driving and plan to arrive in time for lunch on Monday, please let me know by email as soon as possible (and no later than 1 week before Convocation) --- and expect to be put to work.

If you are not staying the full week, please be specific as to arrival and departure on your reservation form and send me a separate email to ensure I notice that. If you cannot stay the full week, please be aware that you may have to secure your own transportation to and/or from the airport or train station. Again – **you must contact Abbess Martha ([srmarthaosb@yahoo.com](mailto:srmarthaosb@yahoo.com))**, **copy to Sr. Madeleine Sophie ([rsmith12jm@gmail.com](mailto:rsmith12jm@gmail.com))** **BEFORE finalizing reservations** to learn whether transportation would be available. Please **do not** ask another member to provide transportation without verifying their availability with Abbess Martha and Sr. Madeleine Sophie. Doing so could take them away from assigned responsibilities and create extra work for others. *Again, do not use "REPLY" unless you want your email to go to the entire community.*

The recommended hotel is the Hilton Garden Inn BWI Airport hotel, 1516 Aero Drive, Linthicum, MD. They have a complimentary shuttle from the airport AND the Amtrak Station; again, once you have arrived and claimed your baggage, call the hotel at **410-691-0500** to arrange pick-up. This hotel also has a restaurant that serves a breakfast buffet and dinner. Room rates on their direct website as of today (August 19, 2025) averaged \$104. Other travel sites may have different rates. They also have what they call "Wellness Rooms," which you can investigate on their website. If you search Google or the Hilton main site, just be aware there are multiple Hiltons in the Baltimore area. Make sure you are looking at **Hilton Garden Inn BWI Airport** (*the*

*link is too long to copy/paste here*). You are free to choose a different hotel, but you must make sure you can get to the Hilton by 12 noon on Monday, October 20 to meet the bus/van. The same is true if you choose to risk flying on Monday – you still must be at the Hilton by 12 noon for pick up for the ride to Bon Secours.

Finally, for those with special dietary requirements, the Retreat Center does make some accommodation. I will do more research on that and include the information on the registration form which will be open as of Sept 2, 2025.

Please email me directly at [rsmith12jm@gmail.com](mailto:rsmith12jm@gmail.com) (*do not use "REPLY"*) with any questions.

Peace,

Sr Madeleine Sophie, OSB  
[rsmith12jm@gmail.com](mailto:rsmith12jm@gmail.com)