The Rev. Suzanne McCarroll Warner will become an Oblate of the Community of St. Mary, Southern Province in a Service of Dedication at St. Mary's Convent, Sewanee TN Sunday, December 11, 2022

By the Rev. Suzanne Warner

"In all things, I pray for a listening heart and a wise response to what life presents to me in our present, broken world. I am grateful for the continuing support and prayers of my diocesan family." *Suzanne Warner*

Some people may not know that the Episcopal Church has a monastic tradition that continues in the United States through convents and monasteries wholly committed to worship and work in God's service. In addition to the monks and nuns who live their lives according to the Rule of St. Benedict, men and women (both lay and ordained) have also sought to apply the wisdom of the Rule and Benedictine principles to their spiritual lives and to develop lasting, formal bonds with a monastic community as Oblates without taking monastic vows.

Oblates-in-training seek to discern their calling and apply the wisdom of the Rule to their personal circumstances in a purposeful manner. This time of preparation tests how a candidate can honor responsibilities and personal commitments to friends and family and follow a dedicated pattern of life through a personal Rule of Life that supports both the candidate's connection with the monastic community and everyday life responsibilities. In all things, Oblates seek to follow a path toward greater commitment to God through Christ, always listening for the ever-present voice of the Holy Spirit to become the persons God intends us to be.

To further explore the journey through the monastic tradition, go to www.communityofstmarysouth.org to visit the Community of St. Mary, Southern Province, and follow them on Instagram @stmaryconvent.