



# Community at the Crossing

Excerpt from Rule of Life for website.  
The full Rule of Life is shared with applicants advancing further  
in the application process.

# RULE OF LIFE



In the book of the Acts of the Apostles, at the birth of the Church, the followers of Christ committed themselves to prayer, to the breaking of bread and to the apostles' teaching.

Throughout the centuries groups of men and women have committed themselves to live in religious communities, to pursue these same principles in a huge diversity of ways. The religious life matters profoundly to the Church. It has always been the place where renewal begins - without communities of prayer of one kind or another, one doesn't see renewal.

The Community at the Crossing is a sign of God's work of renewal in the world, in your city, in the Church.

Archbishop Justin Welby



Listen carefully, my child, to the master's instructions, and attend to them with the ear of your heart.

*The Rule of Saint Benedict, Prologue paraphrased*



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# WHO ARE WE?

A formation year in New York City for renewal, dialogue, and Christian unity.

The Community at the Crossing is an ecumenical program for spiritual formation in the heart of New York City. It is for any Christian between 21-33 years old, from all church backgrounds, from anywhere in the US. Members spend a year in prayer and discernment, biblical and theological formation, intentional community, service and mission; and choosing as their brothers and sisters people who are radically different from themselves.

The vision of the community: to provide the space and formation necessary to establish rhythms of life and discern vocation, and to equip members to serve Christ in their chosen path.

The community draws its name from an architectural element of the Cathedral, the central heart of the cruciform design on the building.

To be the Community at the Crossing, we must be rooted in the cross of Jesus, which is what will enable us in turn to go toward the other, to cross over.

We believe that being ‘interrupted by God’ is the best thing that can happen to anyone. We believe as Christians that there is far more that unites us than divides us and that our world is in desperate need of people who can model authentic unity, which is born from reconciliation, truth, and the humility of shared life. This program will inspire peace and justice in the larger society, facilitate a space where Christians from different denominations can reignite the ecumenical dialogues that many believe have grown cold, and be an example of Christ-centered faith rooted in local community. Through this program, the lives of participants will be transformed, thereby transforming the lives of everyone they touch.

# VISION AND MISSION

“Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 2:1-5

Our vision is to equip each member to serve Christ in their chosen path by providing the space and formation necessary to establish rhythms of life and to discern God’s call. We are called to love God and love others, in all moments and in all contexts (Matthew 22:24-40). The aim of this Rule is to give us a common framework in how we do this. Residential members and Local members share the same Rule, but its incarnation may look quite different.

Each Member undertakes to shape their life around the Community’s Rule of Life. The Rule expresses our core values and explores some of the disciplines that help us grow spiritually in our daily lives. We can speak about a Rule as a ‘handrail’, rather than as a list of things to obey.

We will interpret and incarnate the Rule as a community and as an individual - relying on personal and communal discernment, guided by the Holy Spirit.

# PART 1

# DISCIPLESHIP



Jesus said to his disciples,  
“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?”

Matthew 16:24-26





# PART 2

## JOY AND CONVERSION IN COMMUNITY LIFE



How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard,  
running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe.

It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.  
For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

Psalm 133 (132)



# PART 3



## PILLARS AND RHYTHMS



They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47





At the Crossing means a place of crossing and meeting between young people of all Christian denominations.

My hope is this community will offer an opportunity to revive the desire for unity of Christians and of society in New York and even in the United States.

The future of faith in our world passes through Christian Unity. Yes, we do not agree on everything. Yes, we have convictions that sometimes seem incompatible, or are incompatible. But that is precisely why we choose to love each other. Love is stronger than all disagreements and divisions. It brings peace...

Let us not forget that At the Crossing evokes the Cross of Christ. Jesus Christ is a bond that is stronger and deeper than our cultures, our political options and even than our doctrines. The Lord! Jesus the Lord! Look at Him who gave his life for us!

Pope Francis



“  
What we would like to see and encourage you to aspire to, dear friends, is for your newly-planted community to become a door for the young men and women that it will shape through this initiative:

a door to heaven and a door to the world;  
a door to the heart and a door to humankind and all creation;  
a door to the compassionate nature of God and a door to the communal nature of the Church.

His Eminence Elpidophoros,  
the Greek Orthodox Archbishop of America

”

“  
The blessing of God is found in unity.  
The best of what we do as a Church happens when we  
come together as a community of love.

Justin Welby  
Archbishop of Canterbury

”

**Lord Jesus, who prayed that we might all be one,  
we pray to you for the unity of Christians,  
according to your will,  
according to your means.  
May your Spirit enable us  
to experience the suffering caused by division,  
to see our sin  
and to hope beyond all hope.  
Amen.**

*Composed by members of the Chemin Neuf Community, from the  
prayer of Abbé Paul Couturier*



# NOTES

This Rule of Life has been inspired by the Community of St Anselm's Rule of Life, as well as the Ignatian, Benedictine and Franciscan spiritualities.

It is a working document, which will evolve and grow as its members do. Our hope and prayer is that this formation year may be something of a 'novitiate for life' where the experiences and rhythms from the year continue to put down roots and irrigate a life of love and service in the image of Christ.

May we continue to be interrupted by God, so that we may follow Jesus more nearly day by day.

Quotes from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Pope Francis, and His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew are taken from their respective addresses at the launch service of the Community at the Crossing in the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine on September 8, 2022.

All Bible quotes are from the NRSV

## **Foundation of the Community at the Crossing**

Building upon the model of intentional contemplative communities worldwide and drawing inspiration primarily from the Community of St. Anselm (Lambeth Palace, UK), the Community at the Crossing is a non-profit initiative of the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, in collaboration with the Chemin Neuf Community (a Roman Catholic community with an ecumenical vocation).

# interrupted by God

**ST. JOHN  
THE DIVINE**



Community  
at the  
Crossing