



cell phone reception at the retreat house.  
There is limited reception in the  
monastery gift shop and outside nearby.

### A Vocation Prayer

*My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.  
I do not see the road ahead of me.  
I cannot know for certain where it will end.  
Nor do I really know myself,  
and the fact that I think  
that I am following your will  
does not mean that I am actually doing so.  
But I believe that the desire to please you  
does in fact please you.  
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.  
I hope that I will never do anything  
apart from that desire.  
And I know that if I do this  
you will lead me by the right road,  
though I may know nothing about it.  
Therefore will I trust you always,  
though I may seem to be lost  
and in the shadow of death.  
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,  
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.*

Thomas Merton, OCSO  
from **Thoughts in Solitude**

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## Monastic Experience Weekend August 25-27, 2017



Trappist Cistercian Nuns  
Santa Rita Abbey  
14200 E Fish Canyon Rd  
Sonoita AZ 85637-6545

# Welcome!

We hope you will enjoy this brief look into consecrated life as it is lived here at Santa Rita. We are Cistercian Nuns of the Strict Observance (OCSO), a.k.a. Trappists.

**The retreat center** has been reserved for your use this weekend. Make yourself at home! May you be able to enter fully into this monastic experience, opening your mind and heart to the Holy Spirit as you seek to discern God's will for your life.



**The Divine Office:** except for Tierce and None, the Hours of the Office are prayed in the monastery church. Books will be provided for your use in the guest chapel. The church door is unlocked before Vigils and locked after Compline.

# Schedule

## FRIDAY

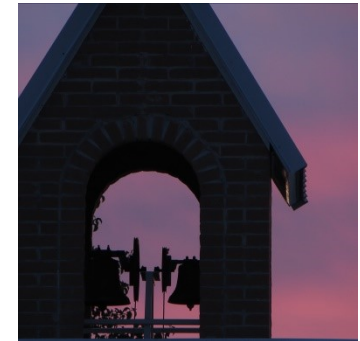
4:30 p.m. Check-in at the gift shop  
4:55 Introduction—monastery parlor  
5:20 Vespers (Evening Prayer), quiet prayer, and Compline (Prayer at the end of the day)—church  
Supper on your own at retreat house  
7:00 Retire

## SATURDAY

3:10 a.m. Vigils (the Night Office)  
4:00-4:30 Quiet prayer in church  
4:30-7:00 Silent time for *lectio divina* and breakfast  
7:00 Lauds (Morning Prayer)  
7:30 Mass  
8:00 Short break  
8:30 Conference  
9:30 Tierce (Prayer at the 3rd Hour)  
9:45-11:15 Manual labor  
11:15 Free time  
12:00 Midday Prayer in church  
12:15 Dinner in monastic refectory  
12:45-1:45 Meridian (siesta)  
2:00 Conference  
3:00 None (Prayer at the 9th Hour)  
3:20 Tour of altar bread bakery  
3:45 Free time until Vespers  
5:20 Vespers, quiet prayer, Compline  
Supper at retreat house  
7:00 Retire

## SUNDAY

3:10 a.m. Vigils  
4:00-4:30 Quiet prayer in church  
4:30-7:00 Silent time for *lectio divina* and breakfast  
7:00 Lauds  
8:00 Tierce & Mass  
9:30 Informal gathering and closing



**Conferences** and other gatherings will be held in the monastery parlor. To reach the parlor, follow the white iron railing on the left hand side of the church porch and around the corner to the second door.

**Meals:** Please get your own breakfast and supper in the retreat house kitchen.

**Breaks & free time:** You are free to use these times for your personal needs, for prayer and reflection, for walking on the grounds, or for speaking with the Sisters leading the weekend.

**Phone & Internet:** there is no internet or