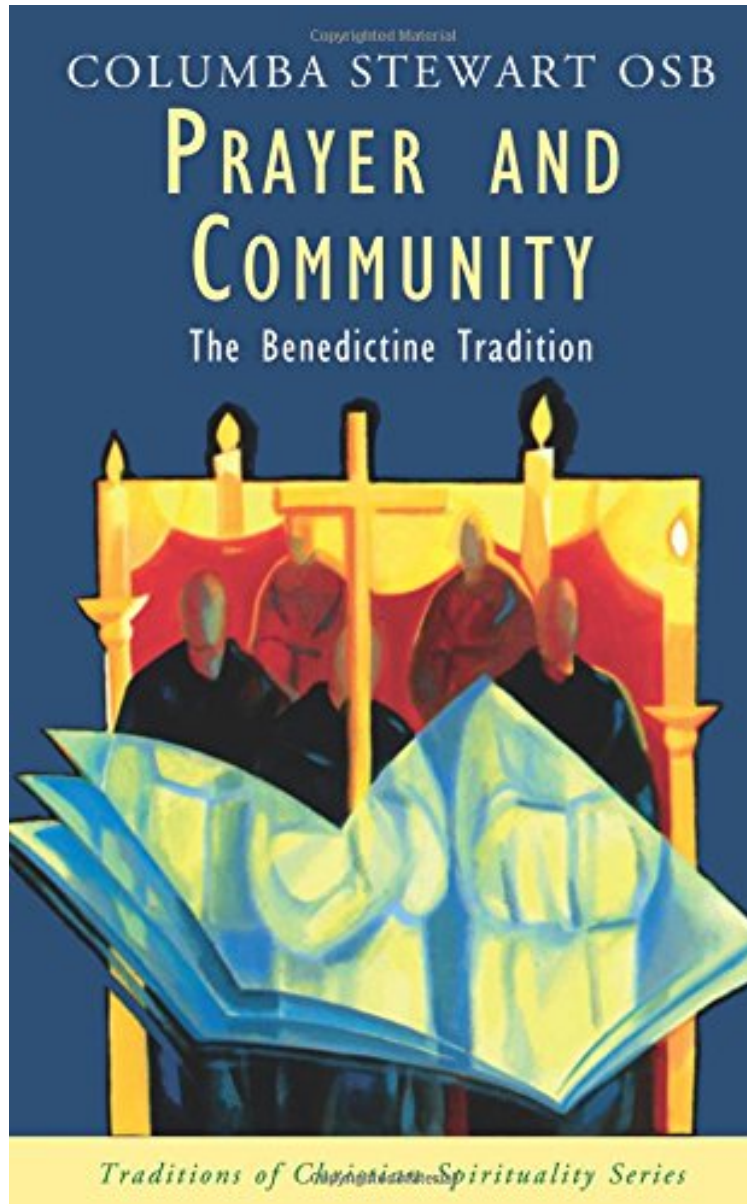


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## Prayer and Community: The Benedictine Tradition (Traditions of Christian Spirituality)

*Columba Stewart*

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**Columba Stewart : Prayer and Community: The Benedictine Tradition (Traditions of Christian Spirituality)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Prayer and Community: The Benedictine Tradition (Traditions of Christian Spirituality):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Benedictine tourBy Andrew Dahlburg"Prayer and Community" (1998) by Columba Stewart is another title in the Traditions of Christian Spirituality series. The volume covers the Benedictine tradition, the largest tradition by far in Christian monastic orders, and perhaps the most important in the overall series. This is a beautifully written book which tells the important story of one of the greatest laypersons in the history of the Christian Church, Benedict and his Rule. Benedict and his Rule transformed monasticism from a solitary and often wandering tradition into a communal brotherhood highlighted by a permanent location and a daily rule of work and prayer. Benedict basically put an end to the Celtic "rule" which in his eyes was too loose and unorganized- sorry Celts but you know this is true! Put another way, Benedict replaced the Celtic notion of wandering with the importance of stability. In Benedict's opinion, the spiritual life could only flourish within structure or as we might say today, within a system. And what a "system" Benedict produced! All Benedictine houses required that each monk agree to lifelong poverty, chastity, total obedience to the abbot and the Rule and a commitment to remain within the order for life. And for Benedictines, the recipe of success was also the unique blend of prayer and work centered around the liturgy of the hours, the lectio divina, personal prayer and silence. And add to that formula, sprawling monasteries, farms, and industries such as wineries, cheese making and a host of other monastic industries. This was a heck of an accomplishment! As I have indicated in some of my other reviews in this series, the best way to learn about the Benedictines is to visit a Benedictine monastery first hand. I mention this only because I was raised in a Protestant home and then in my twenties went to a monastery and experienced monastic life first hand- it was a fantastic experience! The best way to learn about the Benedictine tradition is to visit a Benedictine monastery and go on a retreat if you can. You will be amazed at how wonderful and enriching this experience can be. And here you can experience first hand hospitality, and the unique rhythm of a monastic setting. To me, this is the great feature about Stewart's book- he summarized the major points of this 15 century old tradition which is also a helpful guide today. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Richard and Katherine MartinVery good. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A fine look at Benedictine lifeBy thomas mulliganOne of my favorites. Great style and content. I frequently give a copy to others and would recommend to those new or experienced in the Benedictine way

The Benedictine approach to prayer, spiritual reading, obedience, community, work, and time.