

Millennials and the Catholic University: Insights from the Benedictine Rule  
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Millennial spirituality has developed in a context of social anxiety related to global terrorism, the economic boom and downturn of the past decade and high levels of skepticism about social institutions. This skepticism is accompanied by an emphasis on the importance of personal experience and on the primacy of individual conscience.

Robert Wuthnow has described the shift which this world-view has caused in their spirituality as a traditional spirituality of inhabiting sacred spaces giving way to a new spirituality of seeking. A Catholic university, committed to a “free search for the whole truth about nature, man and God” can bring the riches of the Catholic imagination to bear upon these shifting cultural sands.

The object of this presentation is to look critically at the contribution which the *Rule of St Benedict* can offer to millennials drawn to a spirituality of seeking. The vows of stability, *conversatio* and obedience offer a critical and still affirming insight into the contemporary religious imagination. Catholic universities face the challenge of preparing students to live in a world rooted in ambiguity. The Benedictine Rule offers a structure for interpreting that ambiguity in the contemporary context and can lead to a critical re-appropriation of the Eucharist's place within a Catholic university.