



Dear Benedictine Educator,

It is with great joy that we would like to invite you to BENET 2026, the 10th World Conference of Benedictine Educators, which will take place in the monastery and school at Melk, Austria, from Wednesday, 7 October to Saturday, 10 October 2026.

The theme of our meeting will be:

*Learning to Live! (cf. RB Prol. 20)*  
*Stability and Hospitality – an invitation*

Built on the Rock of Christ, Benedictine schools have for centuries been places where students and teachers — monastic and lay — are able to belong and find a home. This sense of belonging allows us to know who we are, whence we have come, and where we are going. Moreover, it enables us to welcome others and to share with them the Good News of the Gospel.

In a world changing faster and faster, the charism of Benedictine education becomes ever more relevant. Technology and the media both connect and isolate; market forces push us back and forth; violence and war break out in different places; instruments and social structures seem to be in constant flux. Beneath the surface, however, men and women continue to seek the same fundamental answers that, through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, give meaning and purpose to life. Borrowing the words of our Holy Father St Benedict, we can also say: "See how the Lord in his love shows us the way of life" (RB Prol. 20).

The table will be set for us at Melk, the ancient fortress that was transformed into a "School of the Lord's Service" in 1089. Since then, monastic life has continued uninterrupted on the rock above the Danube. Records of a choir school for boys at Melk date back as early as 1140. In this holy place, we will gather under the patronage of St Coloman, the Irish pilgrim martyr whose relics are venerated in the Abbey Church.

The theme of BENET 2026 is inspired by the motto of Melk School: *Discimus vitam*. We will return to our communities and schools having offered what we brought and enriched by the gifts of others in the Benedictine tradition of education. We will return having made new Benedictine friends and companions, renewed in our vocation, and better



prepared to offer our students an education that provides not only knowledge and skills, but — more importantly — reasons to live and to give their lives for.

*“Everything is being made ready; come to the celebration!” (cf. Mt 22:1–14)*

Information regarding registration, conference fees, scholarship applications, opportunities for financial support, workshop applications, and further details will be sent towards the end of February 2026. For the time being, please save the date and share this invitation with other Benedictine schools in your region.

We look forward to welcoming you to Melk.

Yours in Christ and St Benedict,

P. Julian Schaumlöffel OSB  
President  
International Commission  
on Benedictine Education (ICBE)

Abbot Ludwig Wenzl OSB  
Melk Monastic Community and  
School



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