



Living a Vowed Life

Obedience: listening as Jesus did in openness to God's will

Celibacy: Loving wholeheartedly and inclusively all God's people – called to be warm, loving, vibrant women.

Poverty: Living simply in joyful dependence on God; standing in solidarity with the poor; challenging the structures that oppress.

"Religious should offer a **PROPHETIC WITNESS** that it is possible for a group of people to live together in love and justice, celebrating their own freedom and equality in the very act of celebrating God's absolute and respectful reign in their lives."

- *Sr. Sandra M. Schneiders,
J.F.M.
New Wineskins*

Do your doubts and fears match any of these?

- ◆ How do I know for sure if I have a vocation to be a sister?
- ◆ How certain do I have to be?
- ◆ Fear of the unknown
- ◆ Fear of permanent commitment
- ◆ Fear of failure
- ◆ How do I know which religious order could be the right one for me?
- ◆ How do I go about making this decision?
- ◆ I'm not holy enough!
- ◆ Will my personal story fit in with the story of the sisters?
- ◆ Will I be able to keep my friends?
- ◆ Will I be able to make a celibate commitment?
- ◆ Will my needs of intimacy be met?
- ◆ Will I have to give up something valuable in order to join?

If you feel a tug in your heart to consider religious life...

If the thoughts keep coming back again and again and you wonder...

These may be signs that you are called!

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RELIGIOUS & CONSECRATED LIFE



- An Invitation -
to share the mission of Jesus
in community
with women who share
common values
& a common vision

Religious life is...



Supported
by a community of religious women who share faith together

Nourished
by a prayer life

Energized
by ministry

Challenged
to personal growth and spiritual depth

"May God enlighten your inmost vision that you may know the great hope to which you are called."

- *Ephesians 1:17,18*

Sisters are called to diverse ministries. There are sisters who are:

- ◆ Teachers
- ◆ Nurses
- ◆ Community organizers
- ◆ Lawyers
- ◆ Lobbyists
- ◆ Social Workers
- ◆ Secretaries
- ◆ In prison ministry
- ◆ Psychiatrists
- ◆ Advocates for the poor
- ◆ Musician
- ◆ Artists
- ◆ Engineers
- ◆ Agriculturalists
- ◆ Missionaries
- ◆ Doctors
- ◆ Liturgists
- ◆ Gerontologists
- ◆ Cloistered contemplatives
- ◆ Working with gangs
- ◆ In street ministry
- ◆ Counselors
- ◆ Religious educators
- ◆ Retreat directors
- ◆ Hospital chaplains
- ◆ Occupational therapists
- ◆ Spiritual directors
- ◆ Physical therapists
- ◆ Campus ministers
- ◆ Administrators
- ◆ Parish ministers
- ◆ Youth ministers
- ◆ Diocesan ministry directors
- ◆ Lab technicians

Types of Communities

- ◆ Active Apostolic
- ◆ Missionary
- ◆ Cloistered Contemplative
- ◆ Monastic

Stages of Incorporation into Religious Life

