

About the Religious Life for Men

What is religious life for men?

Religious life is a form of consecration to God: "characterized by the public profession of the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience, in a stable state of life recognized by the Church".

The specific contribution of consecrated persons, both men and women, to evangelization is first of all the witness of a life given totally to God and to their brothers and sisters, in imitation of the Saviour who, out of love for humanity, made himself a servant. In the work of salvation, in fact, everything comes from sharing in the divine agape. Consecrated persons make visible, in their consecration and total dedication, the loving and saving presence of Christ, the One consecrated by the Father, sent in mission. Allowing themselves to be won over by him (cf. Phil 3:12), they prepare to become, in a certain way, a prolongation of his humanity. The consecrated life eloquently shows that the more one lives in Christ, the better one can serve him in others, going even to the furthest missionary outposts and facing the greatest dangers (# 76).

What is involved in entering the religious life for men?

Discernment, as with all vocations, is the first step in entering the religious life, and continues throughout the period of 'initial formation'. This period normally includes the time of postulancy (pre-novitiate), novitiate (an intense period of discernment of at least one year in preparation for profession of vows), and years in temporary (or simple) profession. Finally, after a number of years, a man who has properly discerned his vocation and undergone the necessary training will take final (or perpetual) vows for life. Some religious men remain as brothers and others become priests.

What are the characteristics of the vocation to religious life?

The call to religious life includes:

1. Living out the precepts of the evangelical counsels through vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.
2. Draws inspiration from the charism of the founder of their particular order or institute
3. Ordinarily lives the fraternal life in community.

Reference: John Paul II, *Vita Consecrata (Consecrated Life)*, Pauline Books and Media, Boston, 1996

CATHOLIC VOCATIONS

Prayer for Vocation

Pray this prayer regularly to help you discern your vocation

Almighty God,

You have made me to know you,
to love you and to serve you.
And thereby to find and to fulfill myself.

I know that you are in all things,
And that every path can lead me to you.
But of them all, there is one especially
by which you want me to come to you.

Since I will do what you want of me,
I pray you, send your Holy Spirit to me:
into my mind,
to show me what you want of me:
into my heart,
to give me the determination to do it,
and to do it with all my love, with all my mind
and with all my strength right to the end.

Amen

HELPFUL RESOURCES:

www.catholicvocation.org.au
www.catholicvocations.org.au
www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccsclife/index.htm
www.ewtn.com/library/PAPALDOC/JP2VITA.HTM
www.catholicity.com/catechism/consecrated_life.html

Like to talk to someone about your vocation?

Contact Catholic Vocations

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Br. Vincent Magat op



Religious Life For Men



CATHOLIC VOCATIONS



Br. Vincent's Story

The beginnings of Br. Vincent's vocation story are quite intriguing. As a young boy, he was first attracted to the priesthood because he believed that priests did nothing besides one or two masses on Sunday and nonetheless received respect and admiration from young and old alike! With age however, he began to realize not only how much priests actually do and accomplish, but that any respect they receive is well deserved.

The priest, as he came to see, is always involved at the most important moments of people's lives. When a child is born, there is a priest there to baptize and welcome him into the Church as a reborn child of God; when a child grows to maturity, there is a priest there at first Holy Communion, or the bishop at confirmation; when people get married, there is a priest there to be a witness for

the Church and to confirm and strengthen the couple's love before God; when people are sick, or in need of counsel or forgiveness, a priest is again involved; and when a person dies, there is a priest to offer the rites and consolations of the Church.

While usually we only see a doctor when we are sick, the priest is there for all occasions and all the truly important moments of our lives. In this way, Br. Vincent began to think of the priesthood as a vocation, being alike to Christ the High Priest and thus growing to true greatness according to God's will and plan.

Although he began his studies for the priesthood as a diocesan seminarian, Br. Vincent found in the depth and beauty of community life an invitation to consider the religious vocation. A shepherd after all does not work on his own; he has others besides him who, through likeminded devotion, make the difficult task of nourishing the flock easier to accomplish and to accomplish well.

Three essential attributes of the Dominican order attracted Br. Vincent to religious life: the great intellectual

tradition springing from Saint Thomas Aquinas with its desire and drive for the truth; as well as the depth of spirituality and mysticism beginning with Saint Dominic. These aspects of the Order make themselves manifest in countless Dominican saints, who continue to show to men and women of all ages the splendor of a life lived in its totality with and for God. Finally, when the intellectual and spiritual formation of a Dominican are combined with the missionary nature of the Order, its emphasis on doctrinal preaching and zeal for the salvation of souls, one can truly become an excellent co-operator in evangelizing not only the ends of the earth, but our own country and our families that hunger for truth.

It is the great possibilities flowing from combining the scholarly and the pastoral, which encourage Br. Vincent as he continues his preparations for the priesthood and for service to the Church as a religious.

V O C A T I O N S
Br. Vincent said yes when he heard God calling... will you?