

VOCATION

VOCABULARY

VOCATION

a Baptismal call from God for an individual's life, whether to single life, married life, consecrated life, or priesthood

DISCERNMENT

an ongoing and deliberate journey in which one determines God's call for one's life

NUN

a woman who belongs to a contemplative order, lives in a monastery, and devotes the majority of her time to prayer

SISTER

a woman who belongs to an apostolic religious community involved in active ministry

CONSECRATED LIFE

a life set apart to serve God fully; characterized by vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience

CHARISM

a religious community's particular spirit, way of life, and focus, which grows out of its history, traditions, and founder

FORMATION

the beginning of a lifelong process of education and spiritual development for individuals called to consecrated life

MINISTRY

the use of a person's gifts and talents, time and energy in the service of others or a cause

PROFESSION

the religious rite in which a person formally enters a religious community by taking final vows

VOWS

a free and deliberate commitment and an act of devotion made by an individual to God

APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY

group of professed men or women who live and work together in active religious ministries

VOCATION DIRECTOR

a person designated by a religious institute to promote vowed membership, help others discern their vocation, and oversee the application process of new members

CANDIDATE

a woman who has officially been accepted to discern a vocation; this stage allows discerning women to live within community to better understand themselves and religious life

NOVICE

a man or woman in the initial stage of entering a religious community; typically lasts one to two years

TEMPORARY PROFESSED

a step in the formation process that follows novice; man or woman takes temporary vows