

CATHOLIC VOCATIONS

Following God's Call

WHAT IS A VOCATION?

Each and every one of us is called to be a great saint. In God's infinite and perfect understanding, He has a plan for how each of us can live our life in accordance with His Will, in a way that provides the greatest benefit to ourselves and others.

However, **the call to our specific vocation is entirely up to us to answer.** We have been given the gift of free will, which the Catechism elaborates on; "God created man a rational being, conferring on him the dignity of a person who can initiate and control his own actions" (CCC 1730). **To answer our vocation, we must adopt an attitude of prayerful and patient discernment.** God speaks to us in the quiet of our hearts, and trusting in God will lead us to the vocation that He has prepared for us, with the fullness of peace and joy.

SINGLE LIFE

Some men and women are called by God to live a life-long single commitment, often working full-time and dedicating their time, gifts, and resources to the Church and to their communities.

MARRIAGE

Marriage is a covenant between a man and a woman which represents a sacred, life-long interpersonal promise to their spouse. The dual purpose of marriage is the assistance of their spouse on their spiritual journey towards salvation, and the procreation and education of their children. Marriage is a path toward sanctification made up of love and self-sacrifice.

HOLY ORDERS

The sacrament of holy orders creates the hierarchy of deacon, priest, and bishop. These men serve the spiritual needs of others in the Catholic Church.

CONSECRATED LIFE

Consecrated life is defined by the public religious vows undertaken by a person where they commit in their love of God to observe and bind themselves to the three evangelical counsels: chastity, poverty (or perfect charity), and obedience.

EPISCOPATE - BISHOPS

Bishops receive the fullness of holy orders and become successors of the Apostles. A bishop belongs to the College of Bishops and serves as the visible head of the local church entrusted to his care. The Pope is the Bishop of Rome and the successor of St. Peter.

PRESBYTERATE - PRIESTS

A priest can celebrate all sacraments except holy orders. The bishop appoints priests to the pastoral care of parishes and to other diocesan ministries. The priest promises obedience to the bishop in service to God's people.

DIACONATE - DEACONS

Deacons are the only recipients of holy orders who are permitted to be married before receiving the sacrament. Deacons may baptize, proclaim the Gospel, preach the homily, assist the priest at Mass, assist at and bless marriages, and preside at funerals.

MONASTICS

Monastics are monks or nuns that live and work in a monastery that recite the Divine Office.
Examples: Carthusians, Benedictines

MENDICANTS

Mendicants are friars or sisters that live from alms, recite the Divine Office, and evangelize through apostolic activities.
Examples: Franciscans, Dominicans, Augustinians, and Carmelites

CLERICS REGULAR

Clerics Regular are priests who take religious vows and live an active pastoral and apostolic life, often in dispensation of reciting the Divine Office.
Example: Jesuits