**VOCATION VOCABULARY**

**BROTHER**
Men who belong to a religious community and promise to serve the Church in a special way for life (unlike a priest, they do not administer sacraments).

**DEACON**
An ordained minister who may preach the Gospel, teach, baptize, lead prayers, witness marriages and conduct wake and funeral services. A married man can become a Deacon if he is over the age of 35.

**DIOCESAN PRIEST**
Priest ordained to serve in one particular diocese, or area of the Church overseen by a bishop or archbishop.

**MONASTERY**
Home of monks or nuns devoted to prayer.

**MONK**
A member of a men’s religious community who lives a life of prayer in a monastery.

**MOTHER HOUSE**
The main home/headquarters for sisters.

**NOVITIATE**
Time of intense spiritual formation in which candidates (often called novices) learn about the community they want to join.

**SEMINARY**
School specializing in classes for students who are studying to become a priest (seminarians).

**NUN**
Women in religious orders (sisters) living a cloistered (secluded) life of prayer in a monastery.

**ORDINATION**
Ceremony for men who have fulfilled all the requirements to become a priest; they receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

**PRIEST**
Men who offer leadership and service to the Church and administer the sacraments to God’s people.

**PERPETUAL VOWS**
Promise made to commit oneself as a priest, sister or brother for the rest of one’s life.

**RELIGIOUS ORDER/CONGREGATION**
National or international group of priests, sisters or brothers who take vows to serve the Lord in a special way, such as teaching or missionary work.

**TEMPORARY VOWS**
Promise a man or woman makes to spend a period of trial and testing with a religious order.