

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).

MONK

A member of a men's religious community who lives a life of prayer in a monastery.

SEMINARY

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

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.

ORDINATION

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

DIOCESAN PRIEST

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

PRIEST

Men who offer leadership and service to the Church and administer the sacraments to God's people.



MOTHER HOUSE

The main home/headquarters for sisters.

SISTER

Woman who takes vows to serve God in a special way, such as teachers, doctors, parish workers.

NUN

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

NOVITIATE

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

MONASTERY

Home of monks or nuns devoted to prayer.

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.

PERPETUAL VOWS

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

TEMPORARY VOWS

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



SACRAMENTAL MARRIAGE

A covenant between a baptized man and a woman that establishes a partnership of the whole life, which is ordered toward the good of the spouses and procreation and education of offspring.