

Resources for Families

Kolbe Academy Vocations Week

Some Simple Definitions

Charism

"Each religious congregation is blessed by a unique gift of the Holy Spirit called a 'charism,' which is an expression of the way the congregation is called to follow Christ. A religious community's charism is expressed in its way of serving the Church in mission, its particular way of living community life, and its distinct 'culture.' A myriad of charisms forms a fabric of ministries within the Church to meet multitudinous needs."

Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious , <https://cmswr.org/about/religious-life/>. Accessed February 19, 2021.

Discernment

"The word 'discernment' comes from the Latin 'discernere' which means 'to separate.' When one is 'discerning', it means she [or he] is taking time apart in order to pray, think, reflect, and discover the unique plan God has for her [or his] life."

Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, <https://cmswr.org/vocations/discernment/>, Accessed February 19, 2021.

Holy Orders

"The sacrament by which grace and spiritual power for the discharge of ecclesiastical offices are conferred."

Catholic Encyclopedia, <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/o.htm> , Accessed February 19, 2021.

Religious Profession

"...religious profession denotes the act of embracing the religious state by the three [vows](#) of poverty, chastity, and obedience according to the rule of an order canonically approved; it involves then a triple [vow](#) made to [God](#), and binding oneself to the rule of a certain order."

Catholic Encyclopedia, <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12451b.htm>, Accessed February 19, 2021.

Vows

"A vow is a sacred promise or commitment made publicly with the approval of the Church. Through her vows, a Sister responds with her whole life to God's invitation to love Him completely and without reserve...."

USCCB, "The Vowed Life," <https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/discerning-women/the-vowed-life>, Accessed February 19, 2021.

Further Reading

Much more about the religious life and the history of orders of sisters, monks, brothers, and priests is available in the Catholic Encyclopedia starting at <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12748b.htm> And on the websites of various Orders and Dioceses.

Suggestions from our Speakers

Spiritual Reading

Called by God: Discernment and Preparation for Religious Life, Rachel Marie Collins; [Amazon link: click here](#)

In the School of the Holy Spirit, Jacques Philippe [Amazon Link: click here](#)

A Short Guide to Praying as a Family (available in English and en Espanol)

<https://www.nashvilledominican.org/bookstore/short-guide-praying-family/>

To Save a Thousand Souls, Fr. Brett A. Brannen [Amazon link: click here](#)

Stories of Priests

With God in Russia, Fr. Walter Cizek [Amazon link: click here](#)

In the Shadow of His Wings, Fr. Gereon Goldmann [Amazon link: click here](#)

Music & Media

[The Hillbilly Thomists](#) (Dominican bluegrass group)

[Godsplaining Podcast](#)

Links:

Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa

Vocations: <https://dbqarch.org/gods-dream-for-my-life>

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Vocations: <https://www.okcvocations.com/>

Dominican Province of St. Joseph, Washington, DC

Homepage: <https://opeast.org/>

Vocations: <https://opeast.org/vocations/>

Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, Nashville, TN

Homepage: <https://www.nashvilledominican.org/>

Vocations: <https://www.nashvilledominican.org/vocations/>

For Parents: <https://www.nashvilledominican.org/vocations/for-parents/>

Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa

Homepage: <http://www.mariansisters.com/>

Vocations: <http://www.mariansisters.com/vocations.html>

Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter

Homepage: <https://fssp.com/>

Vocations: <http://www.fssp.org/>

Sisters of Life

Homepage: <https://sistersoflife.org/>

Vocations: <https://sistersoflife.org/vocations/>