

# 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.

## **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.

## **SISTER**

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

## **MONASTERY**

Home of monks or nuns devoted to prayer.

## **PERPETUAL VOWS**

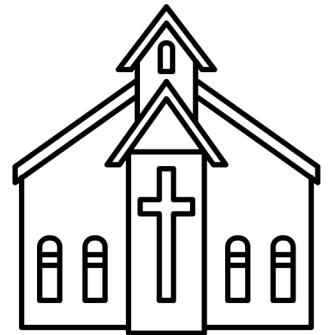
Promise made to commit oneself as a priest, sister or brother for the rest of one's life.

## **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.



## **SACRAMENTAL MARRIAGE**

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