

How can I prepare to be a religious priest or brother?

You should work on having good relationships with your family and friends. It is important to help others. Volunteer to help others in your neighborhood or community. There are many things you can help at church and school. Ask your pastor, teachers, or parents for suggestions.

Try to do well in school. To become a priest or brother, you will need a good education. Practice good study habits. Do not put things off - always try to do the best that you can.

Most importantly, pray and read the Bible. Thank God for the many gifts you already have received and ask for God's guidance. Go to Mass and other prayer times and listen. Think about what you see and hear. Ask your parents to help you decide what is best for you. Pray for others.

Discovering the vocation that God has given you takes time. It might be a long time before you need to make a decision.

Your abilities and talents, the things that you enjoy doing, and the things you do not like can give you some directions of what God is asking.

Gather information about different careers and life choices. Talk to your parents, relatives, teachers, priests and other adults. You can search the library or internet for vocations and careers. This brochure we hope has been helpful.

For other questions about what we study and how we live community life and pray together can be obtained by contacting us, at the address, website, or phone listed below.



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The Youth Guide



Answers about being a Priest or Brother



How do we know that we have a call to religious life?

Religious Life is a term our Church uses to describe a lifestyle for persons who join a religious community. Each community was started for a particular purpose. Some do teaching, healthcare, parish or missionary work. The Priests of the Sacred Heart, (SCJ), work particularly with those who are most in need. Our spirituality is one of commitment to a life of love and reparation. We love God and others through praying together, doing Adoration of the Eucharist, living together and serving where we are called.

SCJ Priests and Brothers live to serve God and the Church through the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.



What do the vows mean?

Through the vow of chastity, S.C.J. religious choose to share their love and life with God and all people rather than with a single person in marriage. They choose not to marry and have children in order to devote themselves as fully as possible to their service of God and others.

Religious women and men promise through the vow of poverty to live simply and to share their abilities, money and possessions. This vow helps a religious to realize that all of creation is connected and is dependent on God.

Like Mary who lived her life faithful to God's will, they promise to be obedient to God's will for them in their work and their lives.



What is a priest?

A priest serves God and the Church as an ordained minister. He receives the sacrament of Holy Orders. He celebrates Mass and the sacraments, preaches, leads the community in prayer and helps people in many other ways. Some priests, like our SCJs, are members of a religious community living a vowed religious life.

Many priests are diocesan priests who devote their lives to working in a particular diocese. They work in parishes and other ministries, promise to remain celibate and obey the Bishop of the diocese. Prayer and service are important parts of their lives.

What is a brother?

Brothers are non-ordained ministers. They profess the three vows and live the spirit of the Community, pray together with other members, share meals together, and express their ministry through various careers. They work in church, school, do social work, practice law, practice medicine, and some do missionary work. All this is done in the spirit of the community and mission of the Religious community in which they profess vows.