

Steps of Religious Life

Preparations for *Reception of the Habit*

Before becoming a Novice, a Postulant

- learns the basic obligations of religious life
- lives according to the rules and schedule
- completes the required reading including *True Devotion to Mary* by St. Louis de Montfort, *The Spirit of St. Francis de Sales* by Bishop Camus, and *The Autobiography of St. Therese*
- sews her religious habit
- makes an eight-day retreat

“Keep up your heart and give yourself unreservedly to God. He will help you. It is a beautiful thing to be the spouse of Jesus Christ. In Him is perfect happiness, perfect peace, every satisfaction, every good.”

- St. Gerard Majella



Preparations for *Renewal of Temporary Vows*

A Sister renewing temporary vows

- has received two to four years of training in the Juniorate at Round Top
- has begun to practice the works of the Congregation, such as visiting the sick, educating children, the apostolate of the press, domestic and office work
- has read *The Life of Our Lord* by Fr. John O'Brien and *Basic Spiritual Means* by Fr. Philip Dion

“Oh! What a profitable exchange to give our hearts to God, and in return to be made the objects of His love.”

- St. Teresa of Avila



Preparations for *Perpetual Profession*

A Sister making perpetual vows

- has spent six years in temporary vows
- completes the required spiritual reading, including *The Soul of the Apostolate* by Dom Jean-Baptiste Chautard
- makes an eight-day retreat
- exchanges her ring of white gold for a ring of yellow gold

“Let us be faithful in the observance of our Holy Rules, in order to console the afflicted Heart of Jesus, and obtain from Him blessings in great abundance for ourselves and for our neighbors.”

- St. Frances Cabrini



Preparations for *Silver Jubilee Ceremony*

A Sister celebrating her Silver Jubilee

- has spent twenty-five years in the Congregation since first vows
- has been assigned to various duties of the community
- during the year before the Jubilee, has read *The Spiritual Combat* by Dom Lorenzo Scupoli
- observes a Day of Recollection before the ceremony
- receives a silver crucifix engraved with her name

“Go onward always, letting passing things pass by, holding only to what is eternal, and seeking in all things only the greater glory of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.”

- St. Madeleine Sophie Barat

