

The vocation of a religious brother is also a special call from God. Through his vows, a brother selflessly dedicates himself and all his strength to the salvation of souls. He performs many good works such as teaching, manual labor, office work, and assisting the priests in their duties.

A religious sister devotes and consecrates herself to Christ alone. Referring to sisters, St. Alphonsus writes that each one of them can say, "I am espoused to Him Whom the angels serve." Sisters are called to a life of holiness by observing the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. They dedicate themselves to fulfilling the special aim of their order or congregation, by which they work for the honor and glory of God and the good of souls.



A brother of the Congregation of St. Pius V attends the students' celebration of the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in their classroom.

Why Religious Are Needed

Priests and religious accomplish the important work of prayer. Dom Chautard, the author of the spiritual masterpiece *The Soul of the Apostolate*, explains that the greatest weapons we have to assist the world are prayer and penance. Priests and religious use these weapons frequently. "What souls we can convert by our prayers!" St. John Vianney tells us. The prayers of religious rise daily to God, imploring graces of conversion, salvation, and sanctification for the whole world.



Reparation to the Sacred Heart is the first work of the Daughters of Mary.

Penance is another work offered by priests and religious. They seek to make sacrifices in order to comfort the Heart of Christ and make reparation for the sins committed against Him.

In addition to prayer and penance, religious perform many of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy for souls. The dedicated service of priests brings Christ and His grace to souls. The work of brothers and sisters assists youth, brings consolation to the sick, and increases hope and joy in others.