

What is a vocation?

A vocation is a call to live life in a particular way, as a response to our baptismal call to love and serve God. Marriage, priesthood, religious life, being single . . . all are vocations in the Catholic Church. No one vocation is more important than another . . . every vocation is important to all the others.

A vocation is much, much more than a career. A career is what we do to earn a living. A vocation is how we live our life in relationship to God and his people. It involves prayer, discernment, joy, and an ongoing decision to love – ourselves, and the people around us.

We are most familiar with priesthood and marriage as vocations. As well as religious life, there are the vocations of being single, the permanent diaconate, and that of consecrated virgins.

Who is a priest?

A priest is an ordained minister who has as the centre of his life, his relationship with Jesus Christ. His life is rooted in the Eucharist and his vows of celibacy, obedience, and simplicity of lifestyle. He is ordained to celebrate the seven sacraments, to proclaim the Word of God, and to be servant to the people of God. He may be a diocesan priest (serving within a particular diocese), or belong to a religious community (which may have regional, national, or international congregations).

What is the sacrament of marriage?

Sacramental marriage is a covenant relationship between a husband a wife **and God**. Sacramental marriage is more than a social or legal arrangement . . . it involves a call from God and a response from two people who promise to love, honour, and cherish each other till death. As husband and wife, the couple builds a life-long commitment to reflect God's love to each other, to their children, and to the world.

Being Single

Every person needs to respond to their baptismal call, to be holy. For many, being single is the state before another vocation is chosen. However, for many, the decision to lead life as a single worthy of being a child of God, is deliberate. That choice is what defines their vocation.

Who is a brother?

A brother belongs to a religious community of men who serve in active ministry. A monk lives in a monastic (or enclosed) community. Both brothers and monks take religious vows for life, usually the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Some religious communities include both brothers and priests. In discernment with his community, a brother serves God's people through the gifts God gave him.

Who is a Sister?

A sister belongs to a community of women serving in active ministry. A nun lives in a cloistered (or enclosed) monastic community. Both sisters and nuns take vows for life, usually vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. In discernment with her community, a sister serves God's people through the gifts God gave her.

Who is a Deacon?

A transitional deacon is a stage toward priesthood.

A permanent deacon is an ordained minister of the Church. He may be married or single (celibate). His call is to service within the community at large; his ministry is centred on social justice and the welfare of the poor. He assists at liturgical celebrations, proclaims the Gospel, and may preach, baptize, and preside at marriages and funerals. He cannot celebrate Mass, or hear confessions.

Who is a Consecrated Virgin?

A consecrated virgin is a woman who has never married, and who promises to live a life of chastity. She is consecrated by her bishop to become a living sign of the relationship between Christ and his church. She does not belong to an order of women (sisters or nuns), and is able to support herself financially (work or pension, etc.).