

Religious Life



- A religious is a person who feels a call from God to live according to the vows of Chastity, Poverty and Obedience
- At the heart of the religious life-style are the essential elements of **charity, poverty, service** and **community**.



- By taking vows, religious voluntarily undertake a life of total dedication to Christ.
- Chastity – since religious do not have an exclusive commitment to one person they have the freedom to love and respond to all in charity
- Poverty – commit to a simple life-style, renouncing the right to own personal property
- Religious commit themselves to a life listening to the will of God



- **Prayer** is the mainstay of life for a religious.
- Most religious congregations daily offer the **Prayer of the Church** or **Divine Office**, a specially arranged collection of hymns, psalms, Scripture readings and prayers, which originated in the early monasteries.

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- **Training for Priesthood at the Marist Seminary is divided into five components, aspirancy, novitiate, post novitiate, cross cultural experience, final vows and preparation for ordination**

Aspirancy

- Someone entering the seminary for the first time is called an aspirant.

Novitiate

- Novitiate takes a full year and is undertaken away from the seminary.
- **Post Novitiate**
- The novice having taken temporary vows, returns to the seminary to continue his theological training.

■ **Vows**

- Temporary vows are taken at the end of novitiate
- The three vows are poverty, chastity and obedience and are taken on as a trial period, usually around two years before being renewed.
- About one year before the end of seminary training a Marist seminarian is invited to make his final profession. Once again, the three vows are poverty, chastity and obedience, but this time they are taken as a life time commitment. This is the end point for those wishing to become Brothers.