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.
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 lifetime commitment. This is the end point for those wishing to become Brothers.