

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE WORDS MEAN?

Vocation.

Through the sacrament of Baptism, each person receives 'a call' or vocation. All are called to holiness and to serve. This call can be lived out in a variety of ways - as a married or single person, or as a priest, brother or sister.

Religious.

Since all the baptized share a common relationship with God, all are called to be 'religious' or holy in the broad sense of the word. Some men and women, however, choose to live a particular lifestyle called *religious life*. These people join in a community of people that follows a specific tradition or spirituality patterned after the life and teaching of the founder of that community. Many religious profess vows of poverty, celibacy and obedience.

Sister.

A sister is a woman who is a member of a particular religious community, lives the vows and is involved in serving others.

Brother.

A brother is a male member of a religious community. He, too, professes vows and is involved in a variety of ministries, though he does not administer sacraments as an ordained priest.

Priest.

A *diocesan priest* lives and ministers in a particular geographic area called a diocese, which is governed by a bishop. He does not belong to a religious community or order. He lives celibately and promises obedience to the bishop. Through ordained ministry, a priest proclaims God's word and celebrates the sacraments.

A *religious priest* (such as Dominican, Franciscan or Jesuit) is one who is a member of a religious community in the same way that brothers and sisters belong to a particular religious community. Unlike the brother or sister, he can administer sacraments as an ordained minister. He is not, as such, a minister of a particular diocese but can be involved in a variety of ministries in many different places.

Novice.

The word *novice* means 'new'. This is the first stage for someone who is joining a religious community. Novitiate is the name given to the process as well as the place where novices live.

Seminarian.

A seminarian is training to be a priest. The seminary is a place where seminarians live and study.

For more information or if you would like to discuss a Vocation in the Catholic Church as a Priest, Sister, or Brother contact Father Mark O'Donnell, Vocation Office, Diocese of Norwich, 201 Broadway, Norwich, CT 06360 (860) 887-9294, or E-Mail him at: vocations@norwichdiocese.org. www.God-calls.org

