

GATHERED INSPIRED SENT



My father was a tankerman by trade. A tankerman is a trained and licensed tradesman who loads and unloads oils and chemicals onto barges. My father worked as a tankerman for over 40 years. I have many childhood memories of my father going to work each morning and returning home in the evening. Through the hot, humid Midwest summers to the bone-chilling Chicago winters, my father went to work and never complained. His work brought my father a sense of purpose in

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ORDER OF FRIAR SERVANTS OF MARY

Vocation Newsletter

life as well as a means to provide for or family. This is what the gift of work should be for all of us. The use of our gifts, talents and abilities makes us feel productive, that we are contributing to society in our own way. Likewise, work provides us

the compensation necessary to provide for our needs and those who might be dependent on us. Work is a gift when we give ourselves to a noble purpose whatever this might be.



Often, I am asked questions like “Father, what does a priest do after saying Mass?” or “What do the Servites do, what’s their work?” A valid question, especially for those discerning a vocation to Servite religious life. Like the rest of humanity, Servites need to work. Our work makes gives us the opportunity to use our talents and gifts to be productive in the world. Likewise, we draw compensation for our work. Given our common vow of poverty, all compensation that we earn by the work we do is given to the community. The community provides for the needs of the friar as well as the needs of the entire community. Our work is simple, to build community where we minister from the community that we build among ourselves as friars. Whether our ministry is parish administration, education, ministry among the poor, or welcoming pilgrims to our shrines, the ministry of



the Servite friars is to build community as we are community. To a world deeply divided, Servite work can bring unity and hope through compassionate presence to others. The loneliness of pain and suffering and is eased when another accompanies us in such moments. Servites are called by God and challenged by Our Lady at the foot of Jesus' cross to accompany others that through our compassionate presence their loneliness is transformed into support.

Article 74 of our Constitutions define our work in this way: *“as the Son was sent by God the Father to gather those who were divided into the unity of brothers and sisters, so our Order, a community of brothers in Christ, is sent to extend its fraternity to the people of today who are divided by reason of age, nationality, race, religion, wealth and education. For this reason, the Order takes its place in society, works in the midst of the world, shares in its hopes and sorrows and helps it discover the value and full significance of human life and achievement.”* Servites are called to be community and build community among each other and all people. Like the post-resurrection apostolic community of Jerusalem (see Acts 2), Servites are called to be community to each other. A lived, common faith opens each friar to the presence of Christ in others. The life of the other is one of the classrooms where

prayer and study and our ministry. Each moment of life becomes an opportunity to deepen our communion with the Lord that our community with every friar and all people becomes deeply rich in reverence, respect and with the presence of the Lord. The ministry of community is our way of furthering the Lord's kingdom. It is an expression of our fraternity. It affords us the means to provide for our needs and the needs of the community. To build community in the name of the Lord, under the inspiration of Our Lady and in the example of Seven First Father, Servites find purpose and joy for when we experience the Lord in others we do so more intensely in our own hearts. It is great work that we do.

For those who are discerning a vocation to Servite life, one question that needs to be asked is what do I have to offer to the work of the Servites as a future friar? You have much to offer; talents and gifts that God has given to be used to build His community in the human family. Pray about your gifts and ask the Lord how you can use these for His work in the Servite Order. We Servites are praying for you. Call us with your insights, comments and questions. The Lord bless you and may Our Lady watch over you on your life's journey.

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follow



Servites learn to find God and reverence Him in the life of the other.

Our work is to be a ministry of community, of the Lord's compassionate presence to others in the example of Mary at the cross of Jesus. Our ministries become places and occasions to become brothers to each other and to all whom we encounter in life and ministry. We extend our fraternity this way. Our work involves the entirety of our lives: the common life, our personal life of



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