

# GATHERED INSPIRED SENT



On May 16th, 2022, I received the joyful news that the Prior Provincial accepted my request for admission to the Novitiate this coming fall. I entered the formation program in January of 2021, and in my seventeen months as a Postulant, I have learned much about God, the Order, and myself. The three aspects of my postulancy that have been the most enriching for my ongoing discernment are learning the tools for fostering a contemplative prayer life, experiencing day-to-day Servite life, and growing deeper in self-knowledge.

An important part of the postulancy program is classes with the Master of Formation. While all my classes have been helpful, those on prayer were especially helpful. They revolutionized my image of God, teaching me that God desires my friendship. This development opened new avenues for intimacy with God. The different methods of contemplative prayer that I was taught, especially *Lectio Divina*, were instrumental in opening myself to this greater intimacy. I was not alone as I practiced these methods of prayer. I could bring any difficulties I had to the Master of Formation for guidance. These tools completely changed how I approach prayer. I do less talking and more listening. In my many months of practicing daily contemplative prayer, I have fallen in love with Sacred Scripture, which is now the

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Vocation Newsletter





center of my prayer life. From the very beginning of my postulancy it was stressed that a contemplative prayer life is not optional for a friar. I have experienced why firsthand. It has been in the intimacy of daily contemplative prayer that I have wrestled with God, experienced God's compassionate, loving presence, and heard the call deeper into my discernment of Servite religious life.

To further aid in my discernment, I have been taught much about the Order. Classes on Servite spirituality, Servite Saints and Blesseds, and the Servite charism have been opportunities to encounter the tradition of the Order, which I have found to be inspiring and lifegiving. The

of self-knowledge. In my intimacy with God in prayer, I have been drawn deeper in my identity in Christ, learning to rejoice with God in those areas where I have responded to his grace and be attentive to those areas where his grace is leading me to grow. In prayer and self-reflection, I have also begun to see myself in light of Servite tradition. I find life in Servite spirituality. I see myself in the charism of the Order. My sense of mission finds expression in the Servite commitment to stand with Mary at the foot of the crosses where Christ is still crucified in our world today. During my postulancy, I have been given tools, knowledge, and experiences that have helped me to get to know myself in light of Christ and become more aware

## Questions for Prayer and Reflection:

1. What is the next step in my discernment? What thoughts, questions, or concerns do I need addressed? Write them down and take time with them in prayer.
2. How am I open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in my discernment?

### Vocation Directors

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follow



single most important experience of the Order for my ongoing discernment, though, has been the most mundane one. Experiencing the day-to-day of Servite life has been enlightening. Prior to entering the formation program, I was discerning "from the outside." My only contact with the Order was through the vocation directors, and my only experience was a short come-and-see weekend. As a Postulant, I live, pray, study, and work both in and with the community. Discerning "from the inside" has demystified the whole endeavor. I do not have to imagine what it would be like to be a Servite. I have my own experience to draw on, and I have the experience of the friars I live with, many of whom have been Servites longer than I have been alive. Now that I have been living with the community, I know what I am getting myself into. This concrete knowledge and lived experience of what Servite life entails has been much of what I have brought to prayer.

of the gifts God has given me to share with the world.

My time as a Postulant with the Order of Friar Servants of Mary has deeply enriched my discernment. My contemplative prayer life has revolutionized how I relate with God. Living Servite life has concretized my discernment. In the daily practice of Servite life and contemplative prayer, I have come to a greater understanding of my identity in Christ and in the Order. A small newsletter can only scratch the surface of the grace God has given me. I thank God for the gift my postulancy has been.

- Thomas Kremer

At the intersection of contemplative prayer and my experience of Servite life, my postulancy has filled me with the grace

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