

# GATHERED INSPIRED SENT



Since I began my novitiate with the Friar Servants of Mary nine months ago, I have learned many things which have helped me with my discernment to become a Servite friar. When I first began this formative year, it was a remarkable life-turning event. So far the year has been memorable, rigorous, rewarding, and life-changing. The following is a summary of what I learned

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ORDER OF FRIAR SERVANTS OF MARY  
Vocation Newsletter

which helped me in requesting to proceed onto the next stage of formation: the temporary profession of vows.

On the day I was initiated as a novice, I learned about the twofold understanding of the year. It is both a year of retreat and a year of conversion. During this year, I and the Lord, in the intercession of our Blessed Lady, walk together as I work to strengthen my vocation with the Servites. As a novice, I am called to step away from the busyness of life led by the Holy Spirit into the spiritual desert to listen to the invitation from the Lord to discern Him. Here, I discern why God is calling me to be a Servite friar. In this experience, I have come to embrace this calling to become a Servite friar because I came to know and understand it to be the fulfillment of God's will.

My discernment as a novice is centering on answering a few questions the best I can. The questions are, Who am I? How does God see me as a person? Why do I want to live the religious life as a Servite? What do I need to do to become the better version of myself God is asking me to be? What do I need to let go of in my heart that is holding me back? This last question is especially important





for the profession of vows without any obstacles and for living the consecrated life in an authentic and meaningful way. I prayerfully reflect on these questions every day of every week of every month during my private daily prayer. If I don't answer these questions honestly, and if I greatly lack a prayer life to maintain my relationship with Christ, not only would I stunt my spiritual growth, my religious life would be hollow and meaningless. By my being able to answer those questions honestly as best I can while keeping a solid relationship with Christ, I can learn more about myself personally, about who I am within the community, and come to hear the voice of the Lord affirming my vocation within the Servite Order. God has without

spirituality and charism, and develop lasting friendships and acquaintanceships. Knowing that I am not alone, has helped me in my discernment on my journey for God and know how I am to relate to myself by how I relate to others.

Recently I eagerly requested to be advanced to the next stage of formation, temporary profession. I received the news in early May 2022, that my request was officially approved! In learning who I am and recognizing the way of the Lord, seeking admission to and being approved for profession is a very joyful life event. I am truly thankful for my novitiate, for everything I learned, and for how much I have grown. I am also thankful to my

## Questions for Prayer and Reflection:

1. How should I answer the questions to honestly discern my vocation? Is there anything in my heart that is needed to be addressed and maybe let go of?
2. Would I be comfortable with stepping away from the busyness of my life to listen to the voice of the Lord? Why is it better to hear His voice in the silence rather than in the chaos of the day?

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follow



a doubt called me to the Servite way of life, mission, and spirituality as my own.

With all the classes I had with my novice master, I came to understand the Servite life more profoundly. Being here with the community is my vocation. Learning about our charism, the legislation (e.g. the Constitutions), the vows, and our history has all presented me with our identity as Servites. My classes on the Order, studies on the different aspects of religious life within the Church, seminars of the Intercommunity Novitiate (ICN), and my daily prayer and reflection, have helped me to understand and integrate the Servite identity as part of my own.

The ICN is a program where novices of many religious communities gather to learn about religious life. For example, in some of the seminars, we learned about spirituality, the vows, liturgy, mission, and prayer. In addition to the lessons, this program was an opportunity for me to meet other novices, learn about their

superb master who guided me in my discernment to embrace the Servite life and for the community who supported me with their prayers. I anticipate my years as a professed brother as I return to my theological studies in the seminary.

- Br. Cole Mary, OSM Novice



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