

# GATHERED INSPIRED SENT



*"...The next day John was there again with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon." John 1:35-39*

## CALLED TO SERVE

### ORDER OF FRIAR SERVANTS OF MARY

#### Vocation Newsletter

**H**ave you ever thought what it was like to be next to Jesus while he lived on earth? Being there to witness his miracles and listen to his sermons. To hear the reaction of the crowds to the awesome power with which Jesus ministered. To observe Jesus in prayer as He and the Father conversed. To be close to Jesus would give us an insight into who He was, what He believed and how His lifestyle witnessed to who He was and to His mission. While we cannot be physically close to Jesus as Peter, Andrew, and all the Apostles were, prayerfully reading and meditating on the Scriptures affords us the opportunity to "come and see" Jesus' life and ministry. In prayer, God draws close to us in an encounter that feels like God is sitting right in front of us, conversing with us about life and faith.

When Jesus invited the two disciples to "come and see," he was inviting them to investigate who he was and what his life and ministry was all about. Jesus' invitation was the opportunity that the two needed to discover whether or not Jesus' life and mission was for their lives as well. St. John tells us that Andrew followed Jesus from the invitation to "come and see". Discerning a vocation to the consecrated life entails

both praying for clarity of the divine call, as well as the opportunity to learn about the life and mission of the community being discerned. An important, even necessary aspect of discernment is to "come and see" with the community. "Come and see" in discernment can entail any and all of the following: prayer and meals with the community, regular conversations with the vocation director, on-line discernment sessions, and moments of living with the community-overnight stays, retreats and longer periods of residence with the community, and possible ministry experience as well. Such moments afford a discernment the important opportunity to discover the community's life and mission from personal, first-hand participation. When purchasing a new home appliance or an automobile, one investigates the item thorough internet searches or by speaking with persons who have the same item. The investigation into a desired item is essential to knowing whether or not the item is what is needed and desired. "Come and see" moments are essential in the discernment process. The experience of praying, living and working with a community of consecrated religious, the discernment gains valuable knowledge to





further clarify if the possibility of joining this community is the right fit for growing in discipleship with the Lord Jesus. Visits to the community allows the discernment process to take-on a human element. The discerner gets to know the community through the life stories and ministry experiences of the professed members. These interactions exemplify the written materials shared by the community in the discernment process. In these moments, the discerner gains a richer, deeply understanding of the community's charism through its' members. In discernment, praying, reading vocation literature, and visits with the community are key elements to the process.

The Servite Vocation Office is offering two Discernment "Come and See" events in the near future.

## 1. On-line Discernment Sessions

These sessions will be help via ZOOM and will be an hour-long. The dates, times and themes are listed below. Registration for these sessions in necessary. Please contact the vocation director, Fr. Don Siple, OSM at [donaldsiple@servitesusa.org](mailto:donaldsiple@servitesusa.org) to register.

- September 28 @ 7:00pm Central - Lectio Divina & Discernment
- October 19 @ 7:00pm Central - The Life of a Servite Friar
- November 14 @ 7:00pm Central- The Work of a Servite Friar
- December 7 @ 7:00pm Central - Waiting for the Lord/Vigilance in Discernment

## 2. Vocation Discernment Retreat

The retreat will be helped at the Servite Community of Our Lady of Sorrows Priory in Chicago, IL. The retreat begins at 7:30pm on Friday, November 3 and concludes on Monday, November 6 with lunch at 12:00pm. There is no fee for the retreat, but travel is the responsibility of the retreatant. Registration for the retreat is necessary as space is very limited. Please contact the vocation director, Fr. Don Siple, OSM at [donaldsiple@servitesusa.org](mailto:donaldsiple@servitesusa.org) to register.

### Vocation Director

Fr Donald Siple, OSM  
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### follow



Wherever you are in your discernment about consecrated religious life, please know that we Servites are praying for you. Please contact Fr. Don Siple at [donaldsiple@servitesusa.org](mailto:donaldsiple@servitesusa.org) if you are interested in knowing more about the life, charism and ministry of the Friar Servants of Mary.

### Prayer for My Vocation

Holy Mary, Virgin of the "Yes"-to-God,  
who readily welcomed  
the plan of the Most High,  
help me to recognize  
among the voices of the world  
the voice of God;  
to say as you did:  
"Let it be done to me according to your word,"  
and to set out with eager joy  
on the path that leads to your Son, Jesus.  
Who lives and reigns forever.

Called to Serve, #69

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