

The Postulancy

Welcome! You have indicated an interest in the Community of the Gospel (CG).

Entering into a vocation with a Christian Community or Religious Order is an important step in one's spiritual journey. It is very important that you have a good understanding of the Community's purpose and how we operate. Does this Community fit into your spiritual needs? Can you spiritually support this Community? Are you willing to be an active member?



The first step in your journey with this Community is to become a Postulant. During this time period, we ask you to do the following:

1. Explore **other Communities** to make sure that this Community is most suitable for you.
2. Begin to write your **spiritual autobiography** (nothing extensive - just a page or so that explores these questions: 1) What were the key spiritual milestones in your life up to this point? 2) What have you come to know as your spiritual gifts (not talents or skills, but spiritual gifts)? 3) How did you happen to discover CG? 4) What do you hope to gain as a member of CG? That is, how do you think CG will enrich your spiritual journey?
3. Continue to **pray and discern** over this vocation with CG.
4. Continue to explore our **website**, and read the Guardian's blog at [http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Daniel Schroeder](http://ezinearticles.com/?expert=Daniel_Schroeder) (These are a collection of some of the periodic writings that are sent out to the Community.).
5. Discuss this vocation with your **spouse or partner**, if any.
6. Discuss this vocation with **your pastor** (if currently involved with a church).
7. Read through the CG **Constitution and Customary** (found in the 'Library' section of the website). Do you have a good sense of who we are and what we stand for?
8. Review the **Charism Chart** and **Membership Path** of the Community. Links are on the website.
9. Contact the Guardian with **questions and concerns** as you discern.
10. Discuss Community life with a **current member** (contact the Guardian for names and numbers).
11. Attend a Community **Convocation** (Highly recommended but not required).
12. Form a **Spiritual Direction team**; discuss this vocation with them.
13. If helpful, determine your **personality preferences** using the Myers-Briggs or Enneagram.
14. Begin/continue a regular **prayer life** of at least morning or evening prayer, preferably both.
15. Meet with the **Guardian** of the Community (usually by phone) at least monthly to discuss your journey, which includes a discussion about the next phase - **Oblation** or the **Novitiate**.
16. Read the following book (or some equivalent) and complete the related **Study Guide** (separate document). Return a copy of the Study Guide when completed:

The Inner Room, by Mark Plaiss, ISBN: 0-86716-481-6

I agree to participate in the above activities and understand the information on page 2. I wish to be considered a Postulant in the Community of the Gospel.

Signed _____

Date _____

Please make a copy of this form and mail it back to:

Br. Daniel-Joseph Schroeder, CG
Community of the Gospel
N1582 Midway Road
Hortonville, WI 54944 USA

From the CG Constitution concerning Postulants:

Postulants

- (1) A postulant is a person who is exploring a possible vocation with the Community. This is to be a period of discernment and evaluation to determine mutual interest and benefit.
- (2) A postulant is admitted to the postulancy with the permission of the Guardian.
- (3) Postulants have no voice or vote within Community matters, and do not represent the Community in any way.
- (4) A postulant may leave the postulancy at any time for any reason.
- (5) A postulant may be dismissed from the postulancy by the Guardian at any time for any reason.

From the CG Customary concerning Postulants:

- (1) The only requirement for initial entry to the postulancy is an honest desire to build a loving relationship with the Triune God so that one may come to know, love, and serve Him in his or her own unique way.
- (2) A postulant agrees to examine his or her ability to grow in this desire within the framework of this Community by engaging in a set of formation activities as prescribed by the Guardian in consultation with the council. (See page 1 of this document.)
- (3) The postulant shall have the recommendation of a pastor or at least two other individuals who know him or her well.
- (4) If a postulant is in a committed relationship, he or she must have the permission of his or her partner before entering the postulancy. Committed partners of a postulant must meet or correspond with the Guardian. The partner must appreciate the seriousness of this commitment to Christ and must state so in writing, giving his or her support to this new relationship of the postulant.
- (5) The period of postulancy extends from the time of entry into the postulancy to the point where both the postulant and the Guardian comfortably feel that a continued relationship with the Community is beneficial to the postulant. The postulant needs to have a working understanding of the Community's purpose, principles and structure. Normally the postulancy period will not be less than three (3) months, and shall not extend more than a year unless circumstances so suggest. The length of the postulancy period for each person is set by the Guardian.