



IS IT TIME FOR A CHANGE?

Consider a life as a Sister of St. Francis. If you are discerning a call to live as a woman religious, we invite you to explore and experience the Sisters of St. Francis, Dubuque, Iowa. Becoming a Dubuque Franciscan is a gradual “integration process,” meeting the varied needs of each prospective member.

While discerning her call, an interested young woman will learn about and participate in the values integral to the Franciscan way of life:

- the Franciscan values of conversion, minority, poverty, contemplation and community
- the history and tradition of the congregation
- the theological foundations necessary for ministry
- the meaning of religious life and vows
- prayer and spirituality

AFFILIATION

A TIME TO DISCERN

After initial contact with the Sisters of St. Francis, a woman may choose to “affiliate” with the community and explore the Franciscan lifestyle. During the time of affiliation she will get to know the community through a variety of ways, such as attending congregational celebrations, workshops and retreat weekends. She is asked to spend periods of time in local communities to experience shared prayer and community life and/or she may participate with members in volunteer experiences.

During this time she is invited to meet with the vocation director in continued discernment which may result in a next step – the formal entrance process.

CANDIDACY

A TIME TO GROW IN KNOWLEDGE

Candidacy begins with a brief orientation held at Mount St. Francis. A candidate then spends time living in a local community with other sisters, sharing prayer and spirituality, and participating in ministry.

During this time, she also takes part in a formation program and learns about life as a Franciscan. She deepens relationships with the members of the congregation as together they mutually discern her call to membership. In time, she may make a request for formal membership as a novice.

NOVIATE

A TIME TO GROW IN COMMITMENT

The novitiate phase – usually one or two years – begins with a celebration called the Rite of Reception. With the congregation gathered to witness and celebrate, a woman formally becomes a member of the congregation.

Much of the first, or canonical novitiate year, is shared with Franciscan novices from across the United States. Together, they study Franciscan life, values, theology, history and the vows.

A portion of the year is spent at Mount St. Francis in Dubuque. There, a novice studies congregational history and becomes better acquainted with other Dubuque Franciscans. This is a time for the young woman to deepen her relationship with God through personal and communal prayer and extended periods of reflection and study.

A second year of novitiate is usually devoted to theological study in preparation for future ministries or is spent in active ministry.

The novitiate concludes with the profession of temporary vows.

VOWED MEMBERSHIP

A TIME TO DEEPEN ONE’S RESPONSE TO GOD

Temporary Profession

After the initial profession of vows, the sister lives the life of the Dubuque Franciscans for three to six years. She continues her personal/spiritual development within the community, grows in her relationship with the sisters, develops her skills for ministry, and continues a program of formation and integration.

Profession of Final Vows

When the sister and those working with her discern readiness for a permanent commitment, she makes a request for final vows. In her profession the sister expresses a lifetime commitment of vowed chastity, poverty and obedience within the congregation. She freely accepts the rights and responsibilities of a member who has taken final vows.

Prior to the celebration of final vows, the sister has a special preparation period of at least one month.



...a time for every purpose under heaven.

*Rooted in the Gospel
and in the spirit of
Francis and Clare,
the Sisters of St. Francis live
in right relationship
with all creation.*

MISSION STATEMENT
of the DUBUQUE FRANCISCANS

*In our personal, communal
and public life, we commit to
ongoing conversion as we:*

- **deepen our relationship
with Mother Earth and
Sister Water**
- **stand with persons who
are poor**
- **make peace and practice
non-violence**



*Now
is
the
time...*



**Consider life as a
Sister of St. Francis
of Dubuque, Iowa**



**For more information, contact:
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Vocation Director**



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