

I DO!



Answering the call to be a bride of Christ.

The Handmaids of the Precious Blood
A Pontifical Contemplative Community
New Market, Tennessee
Founded 1947

Becoming a cloistered nun...

Rome wasn't built in a day and nuns are not made overnight. The overall process takes between 9 to 12 years before a lifelong commitment is made to be Christ's bride by professing vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience as a Handmaid: "For Christ in His Priest".



This step is the initial contact and the beginning of asking questions. This Getting Acquainted stage consists of ongoing correspondence and includes a questionnaire and "Come and See" visits.

(On-site visitations)

In Aspirancy stages there will be additional visits, a minimum 3-month extended stay and a discernment retreat.



Aspirant 1-2 years

Aspirancy begins when the woman seriously wishes to pursue discernment of the Handmaid vocation. There is further exploration of the vocation through guided prayer life, lessons, spiritual reading and development of a schedule suited to her current lifestyle.



Postulant 1-2 years

This stage with the community allows for gradual and progressive passage from secular life to assimilating the fundamental elements of contemplative monastic life. It is a time of both human and spiritual formation and a deepening of her baptismal commitment.



Novice 2 years

A time to continue discernment of the call to the Handmaid charism while growing in relationship with Jesus and verifying the real ability to live the life with generosity and joy, living fraternal life with the sisters in this particular monastery. Studies include Scripture and lectio divina, writings of the Fathers of the Church and of the Founder. Personal and community liturgical prayer and authentic devotion to the Blessed Mother are emphasized.



Junior Sister 5+ years

The Sister begins insertion into the full life of the community with the temporary profession of the vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience as the Sister continues her spiritual, doctrinal, and practical formation according to the Handmaid charism.








Professed Sister

Saying "Here I am!" doesn't mean a woman is finished! This is just the beginning of a lifelong "configuration to the Lord Jesus and assimilation of his mind and heart in the complete gift of self to the Father".

Living a schedule centered on Christ in the Eucharist

Because our "work" is focused on prayer, specifically on Eucharistic Adoration, this is what everything else is scheduled around. The Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours (celebrated in common with Exposition) are our center of gravity for each day followed by individual holy hours of adoration.

A Handmaid's day at a glance

	5:30 AM	Rising, Breakfast
	6:50 AM	Community Prayers, Matins, Examen
	7:30 AM	Lauds, Terce, Benediction, Mass, Thanksgiving
	9:00 AM to NOON	Work and Individual Holy Hours
	NOON	Dinner, Sext, Litany
	1:00 PM - 1:45 PM	Free Period
	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Work and Individual Holy Hours
	4:30 PM	None, Rosary, Vespers, Prayers for Priests
	6:00 PM	Supper
	7:00 PM	Examen and Compline (Evening Activities Vary)
	8:30 PM	Sacred Silence Individual Nocturnal Adoration



Praying for Christ in His Priest

Our charism comes from our Founder, Fr. Gerald Fitzgerald, who passionately understood the need for prayer and care of the priesthood. Through his vision, the Handmaids of the Precious Blood devote themselves to living their lives for Christ in each of his priests. Through prayer and immolation we petition God for the sanctification and protection of priests throughout the world.

Our priests are under constant attack from forces that wish to destroy our sacramental bonds with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our best defense against these forces of evil are our prayers and sacrifices offered to our Lord for their safety and that they may each live lives worthy of the promises of Christ.

Each day our Sisters pray before the Blessed Sacrament for each and every priest in the world with special emphasis on those priests in spiritual need.



"WITHOUT THE EUCHARIST THERE IS NO CHURCH, WITHOUT OUR PRIESTS THERE IS NO EUCHARIST."

St. John Paul the Great

Is God calling you to become a Bride of Christ?

Like our Blessed Mother we are called to give our “Fiat!” to God when called to serve him. We are humbled to become his handmaid and honored to be his bride. Our hope is that if you receive this call from our Lord, you are willing and able to pursue his desires for you!



We invite you to take these next steps...

Step 1.

Pray! Especially in Eucharistic Adoration. Live a fully Sacramental Life; regular confession, frequent Mass, adoration. Ask God to lead you on your path to a vocation in serving him. Take time to consider all the signs God is giving you and remain open to every option he presents. We recommend you pray this prayer while you discern:

Lord, my God and my loving Father, you have made me to know you, to love you, to serve you, and thereby to find and to fulfill my deepest longings. I know that you are in all things, and that every path can lead me to you.

But of them all, there is one especially by which you want me to come to you. Since I will do what you want of me, I pray you, send your Holy Spirit to me: into my mind, to show me what you want of me; into my heart, to give me the determination to do it, and to do it with all my love, with all my mind, and with all of my strength right to the end. Jesus, I trust in you. Amen

Step 2.

Pray some more and include priests in your prayer intention and sacrifices. Reach out to us through email or mail to begin to discuss your calling and possible vocation as a Handmaid of the Precious Blood through regular correspondence.

Step 3.

Pray even more! (*and*) Request a “Come and See” so you can spend time with us and experience our community first hand. These visits can vary in length and frequency according to each inquirer’s schedule and provide the quietude needed to discern your potential vocation.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.NUNSFORPRIESTS.ORG

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