

# Signs of a vocation to Religious Life in the Cenacle's

The desire to answer the call of Jesus Christ to allow ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit for the service of God and the world.



**To be filled with the love of Christ**, to seek familiarity with Him: prayer is at the centre of the mystery of the Cenacle. God's Word is the foundation of our lives.

**To hear the call to join a joyful community of sisters**, with the desire to have only one heart and one soul, sharing who we are and what we have, and thus to witness to Christ.

**To have the desire to make Him known and loved** by all those who are searching for meaning, for God. To do this, we must encourage encounters with Him, provide an experience of God and accompany them.

**Loving Christ in mission:** we strive to live with Christ and the tension between prayer and action, interior life and service.

**To find in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius** a privileged way of entering and deepening our prayer life, living a more personal and incarnated faith; to seek and find God in all things; a way of discerning His will in order to work more with Him.

**Loving the Church and wanting to serve it:** the mystery of Mary in the Cenacle places us in the "Church always in birth".

**To Contemplate the world with Christ's eyes**, to love it with one's heart, to acknowledge in it the reflection of the **goodness** of God.

**To call the Holy Spirit** upon the world and everyone, the Spirit who gives life, brings unity, ignites, sends.

**To surrender** ourselves to our God of Goodness so that our whole life may be impregnated with his, to communicate better something of his life, his goodness, his compassionate and uplifting presence.

- To go further -

[contact@ndcenacle.org](mailto:contact@ndcenacle.org) / [www.cenaclesisters.co.uk](http://www.cenaclesisters.co.uk)

What are the  
signs of  
vocation  
to  
Religious  
Life?

“ What I expect from you is this testimony.  
Religious must be men and women  
who are willing to wake up the world. ”

**Pope François to the Superiors General**

Created from a bookmark published by the Jesuit Vocation Service

# Signs of a vocation to Religious Life

## There is one call and several vocations

**Only one** ➤ Through baptism, all Christians are called to follow the path of Jesus Christ. This Good News is for all.

**Several** ➤ The Gospel is lived out in many different ways depending on a person's situation. There are Mary and Joseph, Peter and Paul, the Samaritan woman and Zacchaeus... There are the hands of the servants, the words and gestures of witnesses, the silence and work of the contemplative... whether married or single, deacons, priests, religious, living alone or in community.

## How does God create in us the desire to give one's life?

**In the freedom** ➤ The Gospels shows Jesus healing, teaching through parables and inviting some people to follow him in a particular way: "Come follow me", "if you want", "whoever wants". This call, which can sometimes feel overwhelming, but always leaves each person free to respond in a self-giving way.

**Through witnesses** ➤ This call from God comes through people, communities, religious orders, visible and tangible presences of the Church and through events or experiences that make sense: service, volunteering, scouting, chaplaincy...

## The specifics of religious life

**A great desire** ➤ To be caught up by God can lead us to leave everything to follow Jesus. Responding to God's call in this way is not a "sacrifice" but a preference for Christ. The vocation to religious life is a call to live, to be more of who we deeply are, beings created to "praise, respect and serve God our Lord." (Spiritual Exercises)

**A life in the spirit of Jesus** ➤ Religious life is a radical gift of self. This openness to God and to the world is expressed in vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, in a life that bear witness to an absolute trust in God.

## The signs of God's call

**The desire to live with Jesus** ➤ By praying, reading the Bible, living the sacraments, feeling drawn to a life of companionship with Him.

**An apostolic zeal** ➤ The call received from God impels one to meet others and to commit oneself to the service of Christ's mission, like Mary Magdalene whom the risen Jesus sent to the apostles: "Go to my brothers...".

**A love of the poor** ➤ We are called by God to a mission of service to all people, to feel compassion for those who suffer, the poor, the stranger and those who do not know Christ.

**A profound joy** ➤ This joy is the one that the disciples of Emmaus felt when they went back to Jerusalem to announce to their companions that they had seen the risen Lord.

**Inner peace** ➤ This peace confirms the rightness of the response to the call. The first word of Jesus after the resurrection is "Peace be with you".

## How to see more clearly the next step of the journey

**I ask myself** ➤ What burns within me? Deep down, how do I want to live my life? What calls and questions do I have? How do I want to follow Christ more?

**To be guided** ➤ To be open to a person trained in discernment who has the freedom to help me move forward while respecting my journey. It may be too early to decide, but it is not too early to start talking to someone.

**To meet** ➤ To visit and live with religious communities to get to know them better from the inside and see for myself.

**To go on a retreat** ➤ If the Word of the Lord deeply delights my heart, it will clarify my intentions and help me to discover my vocation under the eyes of God. A life-choice retreat according to the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola can help me to choose according to God's desire for me.