

HOW IS FOLLOWING A RELIGIOUS VOCATION A COURAGEOUS AND RADICAL ACTION?

Following a religious vocation takes courage and radical action in our modern, commercialized society. When we are baptized in Christ, we receive our calling to love and serve God and we respond to God's call in our own special way. God does not force His plan on us, but rather gives us the gift of choice. It is courageous to resist the temptations in our society and to choose a religious vocation. We are inspired by the life of Jesus Christ who never faltered and continued preaching God's love regardless of obstacles and persecution.

How courageous and radical to take vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience in our materialistic, fast-paced civilization. Giving up worldly desires and possessions, and wearing attire outside the norm takes strength and determination. What God thinks of us is what is ultimately important and embracing the gift of God's calling will reap heavenly rewards. In contrast to the life of the average adult, those pursuing a religious vocation strive daily to unselfishly love and serve others. As stated by Pope John Paul II on April 17, 2003 in the Chrism Mass Homily, "Every vocation to the priestly ministry is an extraordinary gift of God's love..."