

# How do I become a Pallottine Sister?

**A** religious vocation is a gift from God.

**O**ur Pallottine Community has the responsibility to see that the seed which is God's gift to you is nurtured well so that it can grow to full maturity.

**G**od, as it were, plants the seed.

**W**e tend the garden so that your seed can grow.

**T**he Sisters will support and encourage you, for we too wish to see the full flowering of that very special seed which is your religious vocation within our Pallottine Congregation.



“All who are called and chosen have received from the Lord talents measured according to their election and vocation.”

St. Vincent Pallotti





## The Seed of our Vocation

God gives to each of us a special vocation, a special mission in life. This God-given invitation is a mystery accessible only to the one who receives that personal call.

Our vocations begin as a seed that God plants in our hearts and minds. Our task is to nurture that seed so that it may grow into the full flower of God's design for us. Formation is one of the ways we nurture that seed.

If you have been blessed by God with the call to live life as a Pallottine Sister, you will participate in a special process of formation which is designed to help you realize your vocation in its fullness. This process starts when you first begin your association with us and continues through all of your life.



## Nurturing the Seed

Scripture tells us:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." (Deut. 6.5)

We are to love God with our total selves and so our formation program is aimed at your continual growth as a total person:

- You will be helped to continue to mature spiritually, emotionally, intellectually and psychologically.
- You will have the opportunity to examine prayerfully your beliefs and values, your religious convictions.
- You will be supported in your growing relationship with God.
- You will be introduced to Pallottine spirituality.



## Examining the Seed

Our **PRE-ENTRANCE** program, which lasts from 6 months to 2 years, will help you deepen your understanding of how God is working in you and to look at the vocational seed with which God has gifted you.

As you have increased opportunities to meet with our Sisters, you will be assigned a Contact Sister to work with you. Through readings and periods of prayer, discussions and shared reflections, together you will examine your sense of being called to religious life and, in particular, if you are called to become a Pallottine Sister.



## Watering the Seed

Your formal association will begin with **CANDIDACY**, a phase that also lasts 6 months to 2 years.

You will be introduced to the life-style of a religious, living with our Sisters and sharing in our prayers and apostolic work.

As you gradually come to realize what religious commitment means and to understand our Pallottine ideals, you will reflect on your experience to see if the seed you've been nurturing is all that you thought it was.

With the help and guidance of several Sisters from the Formation Team, during this period, you will examine the gifts that God has given you as you seek to discern if God is indeed calling you to this particular form of religious life.



## A Greenhouse Experience

The next phase of formation is an intense one in which the burgeoning seed is given the special care it deserves.

During the two years of your **NOVITIATE** you will be provided with the opportunity to study and to live the Gospel values of poverty, celibacy and obedience and the spirit of our Pallottine Charism. You will also have the chance to engage in apostolic service and reflect on your experience.

What gives this phase its particular tone is the special opportunity to grow in intimacy with Jesus Christ, the giver of the seed and the source of our call.



## Tending the Bloom

More sure of your call and more clear in your understanding of the commitment it involves, at the end of your Novitiate you will make an offering of yourself as a consecrated religious and pronounce your vows of Poverty, Celibacy and Obedience. according to the Constitutions of the Sisters of the Apostolate and the spirit of the Union of the Catholic Apostolate.

You will enter the period of **TEMPORARY PROFESSION** renewing your vows each year. This phase ordinarily lasts for 5 years but may extend to 9 years. You will begin to assume a more active role as a member of the community and, as needed, receive professional training for the apostolate which your natural gifts and the needs of the Church suggest as most suitable.



## The Blossom Unfolds

The time will come for you to give public witness to God's action in your life. It is a time for you to celebrate the gift given, received and nurtured. In union with Christ, at a Eucharistic Celebration, surrounded by your Sisters, your family and friends, co-workers and associates, you will pronounce your vows for life.

With **PERPETUAL PROFESSION**, you will be fully incorporated into the Congregation and you assume the rights and responsibilities of full membership.

Concern for your on-going formation will now be primarily yours. The Province will offer special programs to foster your progress in religious life and your commitment to apostolic service. It will be your responsibility to take advantage of such opportunities and to seek out other means to nurture your vocation.