

The Vocation of the Brothers

F A I T H



C O M M U N I T Y



S E R V I C E



What is a Brother?

A Brother is a single man who dedicates his life to a specific ministry or work within a certain religious family. In some orders, there are both Priests - those engaged in sacramental ministry - and Brothers. Other orders have only Priests. The De La Salle Christian Brothers have only Brothers. For the Brother, the primary means of service, holiness, fulfillment and joy is through the specific mission of his religious order.

What are the qualifications for becoming a Brother?

Candidates for the Brothers are single men who have found themselves drawn to the ministry of teaching, the experience of prayer, and the life of community. They are usually between the ages of 20 - 40 and either have finished or are currently enrolled in a college or university. They have had some “life” experience and are open to exploring the joys and challenges of an active religious community devoted to the education of the young, especially the poor.

What are the steps in the process of becoming a Brother?

After an initial series of conversation, a qualified candidate becomes a “Contact” - which means that they participate in occasional activities with the Brothers, regularly meet with one of the Brothers, and engage in some educational service during the year. Later, after a year or more, as an “Aspirant” he explores more seriously the life of the Brothers by staying in a community or apostolate for some period of time, taking part in a retreat, and working at one of the Brothers’ schools. If approved, the next step would be to live in a community as a “Postulant” where classes, activities and experiences are geared towards preparation for the Novitiate year of training & prayer.

For More Information:
www.brothersvocation.org or
www.lasallian.info

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Are there Brothers who become priests?

Early on, De La Salle and the Brothers decided that they would best serve their mission by concentrating entirely on the ministry of teaching. The only priest in the order was him. Today, the Brothers remain the largest group of lay religious men in the Church devoted exclusively to education.

Those who are called to priestly ministry, along with teaching, will find very good religious orders that do so. The Brothers bring the Gospel to the educational world with singleness of devotion and purpose, solely through teaching ministry.

What are some of the “joys and challenges” of a Brothers?

- A world-wide religious family who are dedicated, loving, individual, prayerful, down-to-earth, funny and pretty happy.
- A wide variety of educational opportunities and ministries, from storefront schools to schools for the disadvantaged to large high schools to top colleges and universities.
- There’s always a place that needs you, always a community that welcomes you, and always a need that calls out to you.
- Daily life is punctuated by times for prayer, times for study, times for teaching, and times for community activities.
- Personal and professional relationships grow wider and deeper as the years progress - all of them informed and transformed by one’s relationship with God.

If it’s so great, why doesn’t everyone become a Brother?

Because finally it is a “vocation” or “call” just like the single life, marriage, or priesthood. If it’s a fit for you, you’ve found what most people would describe as “home.” The challenge is to have the courage to find out, since no one else can do that for you. The reward is finding out. There is no down side.

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