



## **DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK**

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# **WOMEN'S RELIGIOUS ORDERS IN ARKANSAS**

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## COMMUNITY LIFE TYPES

*The terms apostolic/ active, missionary, cloistered/ semi-cloistered are general definitions, not hard-and-fast categories. Each particular community, congregation, or order lives out the call of the Gospel in a unique way. In the great variety of Catholic religious communities and life, there very well could be a place for your unique call and vocation.*

### **Apostolic:**

Apostolic religious communities are engaged for the most part in active ministries. While prayer and community life are important to them, these religious serve in a variety of ways – teaching, parish ministry, health care, social work, care for the elderly, work with young people, service to the poor, and many, many others.

### **Contemplative:**

Members of contemplative religious communities focus on prayer, especially the Mass, praying daily together the Liturgy of the Hours, and individual prayer. They tend to live in greater solitude than apostolic communities so that they can better direct their prayer and work toward contemplation, though some communities that consider themselves contemplative are also engaged in some apostolic active ministries.

### **Missionary**

Missionary communities focus their lives on spreading the Gospel to other countries or areas of their own country in need of evangelization. These communities serve in many different places in a variety of ministries, like preaching, teaching, service and other forms of witness amongst the people with whom they live.

### **Monastic:**

Monastic communities fall somewhere in between apostolic and cloistered. Monastic men and women place a high value on prayer and community life, but many are also engaged in active ministries. Monasticism centers on living in community, common prayer, and Christian meditation.

**Type of Religious Order:** Society of Apostolic Life

### **History:**

The Daughters of Charity were founded in Paris, France in 1633 by St. Vincent DePaul & St. Louise DeMarillac to serve the marginalized and those living in poverty. Because all orders were cloistered up to that time, the founders made adaptations to make it possible for the Sisters to be free to serve those living in poverty in their homes, in health care, education and social ministry. They lived in rented rooms, went to the parish church, and made simple annual vows, renewed each year on March 25<sup>th</sup>. They wore the peasant dress of the time & a cornette (white wings). In 1850, St. Elizabeth Seton's Sisters of Charity in Emmitsburg, MD, joined the Paris Daughters, so she is considered the American foundress of the Daughters of Charity.

### **Charism / Mission / Ministries:**

Our charism is service of those living in poverty in a spirit of humility, simplicity and charity. The Daughters have served around Arkansas since 1973, and currently serve as physician, social worker, & counselor in Dumas & Gould health centers, and in tutoring prisoners; and in Little Rock in visiting the sick, volunteering in a food pantry and school, art ministry, spiritual direction and Minister for Religious.

### **Structure:**

International, with a Superior General & Superioress General, over 18,000 Sisters world-wide are in 95 countries. In the USA we have 600 Sisters in 2 provinces -- California and St. Louis. Assignments are made through personal & community discernment, approved by our Provincial Council.

### **Vows / Habit:**

We make simple annual vows of poverty, chastity, obedience, and service of those living in poverty. We have the option of wearing a blue and white habit with a veil, or a blue skirt and white or blue blouse with our Community pin/medal.

### **Formation:** <http://www.daughtersofcharity.org/>

Our novitiate is in St. Louis, and Sisters under 10 years vocation meet regularly. The process of becoming a member includes Initial Discernment, Pre-Postulancy, Postulancy, Novitiate or Seminary, being Sent on Mission and Pronouncing vows for the first time, renewed annually. Community Prayer: daily Eucharist, Morning & Evening Prayer, rosary, meditation.

### **Contact Us:**

<http://www.filles-de-la-charite.org>

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[gouldcc@centurytel.net](mailto:gouldcc@centurytel.net) 870-263-4761

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Little Rock, AR 72227-3304

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## DISCALCED CARMELITE NUNS

**Type of Religious Order:** Contemplative

**Location:** Little Rock

### **History:**

The original Carmelites were hermits who settled on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land where our leader and father, St. Elijah, had lived in Old Testament times. They received their Rule of Life in 1204 from St. Albert, who was patriarch of Jerusalem. The central precept of the Rule expresses the core of our charism: to meditate day and night on the law of the Lord and to watch in prayer. In the 13th century, because of strife in the Holy Land, the hermits migrated to Europe and became mendicants. Shortly afterward, in 1452, the nuns became part of the Order, and in the latter part of the next century the Order was reformed by St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross. We are members of this reformed branch called Discalced Carmelites. The Order of Carmel has produced many saints over the centuries, and of the three female doctors of the Church, two are Carmelites: St. Teresa of Jesus and St. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face. The Carmelite nuns in Little Rock were founded in 1950 from another Carmel in Loretto, Pennsylvania at the invitation of Bishop Fletcher.

### **Charism / Mission / Ministries:**

St. Teresa desired that our monasteries be houses of prayer where the nuns live in very close friendship with Jesus. Our apostolate is that of prayer, both personal and communal, including the liturgy of the hours. She wanted the communities to remain small (no more than 21 members), where relationships are familiar and each helps and encourages the others to grow in the love of God. For each one, this love for God hidden deep in an interior life is of primary concern and is seen in her love for her sisters. St. Teresa taught her daughters to direct all of their energies in this way of life to the good of the Church and for the salvation of souls.

### **Structure:**

International: over 60 autonomous monasteries of nuns in the US. Discalced Carmelites are made up of both friars and nuns, and have a Superior General. The nuns live in cloistered communities. Since our apostolate is prayer, the manual work we do is simple: the distribution of altar breads, correspondence, and domestic work and maintenance.

### **Vows / Habit:**

We make solemn vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and wear the habit.

### **Formation:**

3 month live-in experience, 1 year of postulancy, 2 years novitiate, 3 years simple vows, then final solemn vows.

**Contact Us:** 501-565-5121

[www.littlerockcarmel.org](http://www.littlerockcarmel.org)

## DOMINICAN SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

**Type of Religious Order:** Apostolic

**History:** Mother Maria Rose Columba Bialecka (1838-1887) laid the foundation for the Congregation of Dominican Sisters in Poland, and opened the very first Dominican Convent on Polish soil in 1861. Aware of her countrymen's many needs, especially their poverty and illiteracy, she began her mission of charity by organizing a network of parochial schools where youngsters, as well as adults, could learn how to read and write and come to a better knowledge of their faith. She reached out with her hand and heart to the poorest of society and to the sick and dying, and made a special effort to provide them with material help and sacramental assistance of the Church, so they could feel restored in their dignity and be reconciled to God. Her spiritual daughters carry on the mission entrusted to them by their Foundress and spread their ministry of Christian education, care of the sick and elderly, and assistance to the poor throughout the world.

### **Charism / Mission / Ministries:**

**Charism** - Teaching the truth of the Gospel, raising the level of education, and bringing aid to the suffering/health care. **Ministry** - Two Sisters serve in Mountain Home, Arkansas in parish ministry to the sick who are home-bound, in hospital, nursing homes or hospice, and teach Religious Education.

### **Structure:**

International with Mother House in Poland. About 30 Sisters are in the USA-Canadian province whose headquarters are located in Justice, Illinois. The Superior General is the final authority and makes assignments.

### **Vows / Habit:**

Make vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Wear a white habit with black cape and black veil.

### **Formation:**

Formation includes Aspirancy (1 yr.), Postulancy (6-12 mos.), Novitiate (1 yr.), Juniorate (7 yrs.). **Community Prayer** – Divine Office 4 times a day, Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary.

### **Contact Us:**

USA - [www.sistersop.com](http://www.sistersop.com)

Poland – [www.doninikanki.pl](http://www.doninikanki.pl)

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708-458-3040

[vocations@sistersop.com](mailto:vocations@sistersop.com)

## **BROTHERS & SISTERS OF CHARITY @**

### **LITTLE PORTION HERMITAGE**

**Type of Religious Order:** Contemplative, monastic. (Engage in missionary /apostolic work).

**History:** Our community began in Indianapolis in 1979 when John Michael Talbot, founder, and others in his Secular Franciscan fraternity began living together. The Little Portion House of Prayer received Secular Franciscan Order approval in 1980. In 1982 they moved to the Ozarks of Northwest Arkansas and founded the Little Portion Hermitage Monastery near Berryville. The hermitage was blessed by Bishop Andrew J. McDonald of Little Rock and Bishop Bernard Law of Springfield in 1983. Membership grew and began to include monastic family members and domestic expression members in 1988. The latter live in their own homes rather than in the communal living of the monastic members. In 1990 Bishop Andrew J. McDonald approved us as a Private Association of the Faithful, and in 1993 as a Public Association of the Faithful (an integrated monastic and domestic community with a monastic base).

**Charism / Mission / Ministries:** The primary **Charism** of this community is love, and its primary expression is integration, which comes from the personal encounter with Jesus on the Cross. We integrate male- female, monastic - domestic, charismatic - contemplative, solitude - community, and apostolic action. We also integrate religious celibates, singles, and families. We include non-Catholic Christian participants in a way that respects the integrity of their religious beliefs and freedom according to the norms of the Catholic Church. **Ministry:** We support the worldwide music and teaching ministry of John Michael Talbot. We are a loving presence & give tours to the hundreds of “pilgrims” who come to visit or telephone the hermitage and retreat center. We have passed on our clinic to the care of others, but one of our members continues to volunteer there.

**Structure:** Diocesan, but with an international domestic expression. We currently have integrated monasteries in Arkansas and Houston, TX which include one celibate brother and four celibate sisters, lay members, and an international domestic expression of some 275 individuals divided into six regions. Assignments for the monastic members are approved and determined by the Monastic General Council which includes the General Minister. The final authority is with the Bishop of the Diocese of Little Rock.

#### **Vows / Habit:**

Celibates make permanent profession of the evangelical counsels. The *promises* of the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience are made by all members according to their state in life. The permanent professed celibate sisters wear an ankle-length dark brown tunic with a cinch, and a scapular and veil .

#### **Formation:**

6-12 month postulancy; a 1-2 year novitiate, and a 3 year temporary profession, followed by a lifetime covenant promise or public profession of the evangelical counsels. Daily Eucharist, Liturgy of the Hours, and an hour of private meditation are staples of our prayer life. The whole monastic community gathers daily for the noon meal.

#### **Contact Us:**

[www.LittlePortion.org](http://www.LittlePortion.org)      [www.facebook.com/littleportion](http://www.facebook.com/littleportion)

Vocation Director

350 County Rd. 248, Berryville, AR 72616-8505

479-253-7710      [vocations@LittlePortion.org](mailto:vocations@LittlePortion.org)

## **MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY - CALCUTTA**

**Type of Religious Order:** Missionary

#### **History:**

The religious Institute of the Missionaries of Charity, the principal house of which is located in the Archdiocese of Calcutta (India), was founded there by Mother M. Teresa Bojaxiu. It was erected into a Religious Congregation of diocesan rite on October 7, 1950 and elevated to the rank of Pontifical rite on February 1, 1965. The specific aim of the Missionaries of Charity is to labor at the salvation and sanctification of the poorest of the poor, not only in slums, but also all over the world wherever they may be, recognizing in them the image and likeness of God. The foundation in the Diocese of Little Rock was in July, 1983.

#### **Charism / Mission / Ministries:**

**Charism:** "I Thirst" - Is to quench the infinite Thirst of Jesus Christ on the Cross for love of souls by the profession of the Evangelical Counsels and wholehearted and free service to the poorest of the poor according to the Constitutions. **Ministry:** Operate Abba House in Little Rock, a shelter for homeless women & children; visit families, shut-ins, jails and nursing homes; food distribution; and teach CCD at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish.

#### **Structure:**

International with Regions in the USA. The final authority is with the Superior General. Assignments are determined by the Regional Superior and approved by the Superior General.

#### **Vows / Habit:**

Permanent vows are taken. A common habit is worn.

#### **Formation:**

Becoming a member includes Aspirancy (1 yr.), Postulancy (1 yr.), Novitiate (2 yrs.), Juniorate (5 yrs.), Tertianship (1 yr.). Prayer includes daily Mass, Divine Office, Holy Hour, & Spiritual Reading.

#### **Contact Us:**

Sister Superior

1014 Oak Street

Little Rock, AR 72204

(501) 663-3596 or 666-9718

## MISSIONARY CARMELITES OF ST. TERESA

**Type of Religious Order:** Contemplative / Missionary

### **History:**

Our institute was founded in Mexico City on March 8, 1903 by four Sisters who were not satisfied with the way of life of the community to which they belonged (Sisters of the Calvario), so they asked a priest for guidance. The Holy Spirit gave them the courage to leave, and to begin a new lifestyle. They wanted to dedicate more time to prayer. Soon they saw the need of the area, a lot of poor children with no school, so they began teaching them and also teaching about God. There were 10 Sisters, but they were very poor, and only the four founders remained.

### **Charism / Mission / Ministries:**

**Our Charism** is to “Live and share the friendship of the living God and help others to live it.” We do this through deep prayer, and in the apostolate as teacher, doctor, nurse, catechist, or other activities.

### **Structure:**

International. Have a USA province headquartered in Houston, Texas. Final authority is with the Superior General in Mexico City, and then the pope. Assignments are made by the Provincial Superior after dialogue with the Sister.

### **Vows / Habit:**

Take vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. We wear a brown habit for official ceremonies, but can wear a brown uniform on a daily basis.

### **Formation:**

Formation is in the Houston Provincial House,. The process of formation is aspirancy (1 yr.), postulancy (2 yrs.), novitiate (2 yrs.), juniorate (5 yrs.), then perpetual vows. Community prayer includes Eucharist, morning & evening meditation, visits to the Blessed Sacrament, and the rosary.

### **Contact Us:**

Sr. Nohemi Lara	Sisters Convent	Sister’s Convent
Vocation Promoter	442 Locust St.	417 S. Pine St.
9548 Deer Trail Dr..	Conway, AR 72034	Hamburg, AR 71646
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281-445-5520 (cell) 281-460-2055

Sr. Nohemi (nohpilalo@yahoo.com)

## MISSIONARY CATECHISTS OF THE POOR

**Type of Religious Order:** Missionary

### **History:**

The Missionary Catechists of the Poor were founded in Monterrey, Nuevo León, México in 1926 during the violent Christian Persecution. Given this situation of the spiritual neglect of Catholics, Archbishop José Juan de Jesús Herrera and Mother Angelina Rusconi Rolleri, founded the Missionary Catechists of the Poor. We served in remote villages and big cities of Mexico, Perú and Ecuador evangelizing peasants, factory workers, the indigenous, and immigrants. In 1960, due to the rapid increase of Hispanic immigrants in the United States, we were invited to the Dallas-Fort Worth Diocese to minister to the Spanish speaking community, and later to San Angelo and the Valley in southeast Texas. In 1996, a team of Sisters was invited to Arkansas, to serve in Pulaski and Saline counties. In 1997 the Sisters moved their missionary service among the Hispanic community to Hot Springs, Glenwood, & El Dorado.

### **Charism / Mission / Ministries:**

**Charism:** Moved by the Spirit, we offer ourselves with Christ to the Father in amends (expiation) of the sins of mankind. We are sent to evangelize with our testimony and the word, proclaiming the love of Christ Redeemer, embodying it in the hearts of men and women of today, that will lead to growth and all-round development, preferably among the most poor and abandoned, without holding back due to the difficulties, fatigues and other sacrifices. **Ministry:** The Sisters are active in faith formation in parishes, youth groups, home visitation, charismatic renewal, and leadership formation.

### **Structure:**

General Superior & Council are in Monterey, Mexico, with local houses in 3 states in the USA. The pope is the ultimate superior. Assignments are made by the leadership team after dialogue with the Sister.

### **Vows / Habit:**

Permanent vows. Habit- navy blue with white collar, long sleeves and white veil.

### **Formation:**

Begins with one year of Accompaniment (discernment, sharing community life & apostolate). Currently have about 150 professed Sisters. We attend daily Mass, pray the Liturgy of the Hours & Rosary, spiritual reading, monthly day of retreat, and an eight day annual retreat. For a weekend visit, call the Sisters.

**Contact Us:** [www.misionerasmcp.com](http://www.misionerasmcp.com)

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## OLIVETAN BENEDICTINE SISTERS

**Type of Religious Order:** Monastic / Apostolic

### **History:**

The “Jonesboro Benedictines” origins were in the Convent of Maria Rickenbach in Switzerland. In response to requests for Sisters to teach in the mission fields of America, five Sisters were sent to make a foundation in 1874 near Conception, Missouri. Meanwhile, Father Eugene Weibel, after repeated requests, was sent four Sisters to teach in the parish school in Pocahontas in 1887. Bishop Edward Fitzgerald desired that the community be affiliated with a more stable authorization outside the diocese. In 1893, while remaining under the bishop of the Diocese of Little Rock, the community became officially affiliated with the Olivetan Benedictine Congregation. Because the railroads bypassed Pocahontas, and also, because many of the Sisters contacted typhoid fever from the drinking water, the community officially moved from Pocahontas to Jonesboro. In 1899 malaria fever broke out in Northeast Arkansas and the Sisters were asked to help care for the sick. Now St. Bernard’s Medical Center is the leader of health care in Northeast Arkansas. In 1974, the community relocated to the new Holy Angels Convent.

### **Charism / Mission / Ministries:**

**Charism:** "We are a community of Monastic women who seek God through prayer and work in the Olivetan Benedictine tradition. Accordingly, we proclaim Jesus Christ and the Gospel message through our service to each other in community, hospitality, healthcare, education, and other apostolic works. **Mission:** Teaching, pastoral care in the hospital/hospice, Hispanic, prison & youth ministries and parish work.

### **Structure:**

Diocesan with the bishop as authority. Final authority is with the pope. The Prioress assigns the mission of each sister after looking at her gifts and talents and the needs of the community and diocese. We have daily Mass and pray the Liturgy of the Hours in community. Each sister is asked to pray the rosary, Stations of the Cross, 1 hour of Lectio Divina and spiritual reading every day.

### **Vows / Habit:**

We take Vows of Poverty, Chastity, Obedience, Reformation of Life, and Stability until death within the community. We wear a white habit with black veil

### **Formation:**

We currently have about 35 professed Sisters. Process of becoming a member of the community includes candidate, postulant (6 mos.), novice (18 mos.), first vows (annual for 4 years as junior sister), then perpetual vows.

**Contact Us:** [www.olivben.org](http://www.olivben.org)

Sr. Mary Clare, OSB, Vocation Director  
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HACvocations@yahoo.com 870-273-6872 (cell phone)

## RELIGIOUS SISTERS OF MERCY

**Type of Religious Order:** Apostolic

**History:** Catherine McAuley founded the Sisters of Mercy in Ireland in 1831. In 1843 Mercy Sisters arrived in Pittsburg, PA and opened a hospital. In 1851, the first Bishop of the newly formed Diocese of Little Rock, Andrew Byrne, went to Ireland and requested Sisters of Mercy to come and serve in the diocese, and they have served here for over 160 consecutive years in education and healthcare. Since their first arrival in the US in 1843, Sisters of Mercy have ministered in and established hospitals, schools, retreat centers, social service ministries, prisons, and have used their collective influence to advocate for social justice on issues that threaten the intrinsic dignity of the human person as well as care for earth.

### **Charism / Mission / Ministries:**

Sisters of Mercy strive to deepen and make evident Gospel-based spirituality through compassionate service to those most in need and through vibrant community life and ministry life. We have always demonstrated a particular concern for women and children--especially the economically poor. At this time we have a particular concern for and stand in solidarity with immigrants. We believe that creating a sustainable future for all people includes care for earth and all creatures. **Ministries** in the diocese include education, pastoral care, spiritual counseling, prison ministry, healthcare, service on Boards of Directors for hospitals, schools, or nonprofit organizations serving the needs of the economically poor.

### **Structure:**

International. There are six Institutes of Mercy worldwide. The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas serve in 12 countries in North, South and Central America. Within the US, we are configured in 5 Communities (Provinces). Final authority for the order resides in the Papacy. Sisters of Mercy are missioned to serve by their respective Community Leadership Teams. Each Sister discerns with her congregational leaders where she might be called to serve based on her education, skills, experience and most of all, the areas of greatest need in the Church & Institute.

### **Vows / Habit:**

Vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and service of the poor, sick and ignorant. Sisters may choose to wear a modified habit with or without a veil and/or to wear contemporary simple dress in keeping with their founding charism. Our distinctive symbols include a silver ring inscribed with a motto chosen by the Sister and a Mercy Cross.

### **Formation:**

There are 3800 Sisters in the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, with about 30 in the Diocese of Little Rock. Process of becoming a member of the community includes: Discernment (1yr.), Candidacy (2 yrs.), Novitiate (2 yrs.), First Vows (after 3yrs.), then request to make final vows.

**Contact Us:** [www.sistersofmercy.org](http://www.sistersofmercy.org) **Blog:** [sistersofmercy.org/connect](http://sistersofmercy.org/connect) **Facebook:** [Facebook.com/mercy sisters](https://www.facebook.com/mercy.sisters) **Twitter:** @Sisters of Mercy

Sr. Kathy Tinnel, RSM [ktinnel@sistersofmercy.org](mailto:ktinnel@sistersofmercy.org)

Or 1-301-587-0423, ext. 2312 [newmembership@sistersofmercy.org](mailto:newmembership@sistersofmercy.org)

## ST. SCHOLASTICA MONASTERY

**Type of Religious Order:** Monastic

**History:** We were founded from Eichstat Bavaria then to St. Mary's, PA, to Erie, PA, to Covington, KY, to Ferdinand, IN and on January 23, 1879 St. Scholastica Monastery found a home in the Diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas in Logan County. *Please refer to [www.stscho.org](http://www.stscho.org) 'History' for more information.*

**Charism / Mission / Ministries:** Charism: To seek God by a total gift of self in a religious community according to the Rule of Benedict, the norms of the Federation of St. Gertrude, and the norms of the Monastery. We promise to be faithful to our Benedictine tradition of prayer, work, and leisure, and to be a Christian community where persons are revered in their uniqueness and diversity. We respond to local and global needs according to our giftedness and material resources. *Please refer to [www.stscho.org](http://www.stscho.org) 'Charism and Mission' for more information.*

**Mission:** We seek God through prayer (Divine Office) Lectio, and our common life together. Our ministries include but are not limited to: Education, Hispanic Ministry, School of Spiritual Direction, Retreat Ministry, Healthcare, visiting shut-in and elderly, helping the poor.

**Structure:** National. Final authority lies with the Federation and then the papacy. Assignments are approved by the Prioress/Federation; by discernment and Council.

**Vows / Habit:** Promises of Obedience, Stability, and Conversion of Life. This encompasses Poverty and Celibacy. The optional habit is typically a black skirt or suit and white blouse. The veil is also optional.

**Formation:** We have 40 Members The process of becoming a member includes affiliate, postulant (6-9 mos.), novitiate (2 yrs.), and temporary profession (3 yrs.). Our prayer includes daily Eucharist and Morning & Evening Praise.

**Contact Us:**

[www.stscho.org](http://www.stscho.org)

Sr. Kimberly Rose Prohaska, OSB

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Fort Smith, AR 72903

(479) 783-4147

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## SISTERS OF CHARITY OF NAZARETH

**Type of Religious Order:** Apostolic

**History:** The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, (SCN) an international congregation with Sisters and missions in the U.S., India, Nepal, Belize and Botswana, Africa, were founded near Bardstown, Kentucky in 1812, to meet the needs of the time. We were the third Religious Congregation to be founded in the United States. Early on the Sisters moved their Motherhouse to the present site at Nazareth, Kentucky. Led by a young, compassionate, fearless visionary, Catherine Spalding, the Sisters responded to the most urgent needs of the times on the Kentucky frontier. From the beginning we chose to follow the rule of St. Vincent de Paul. Following in the footsteps of Catherine Spalding we continue to serve in diverse places and diverse ministries to meet the needs of the time. In 1888 five SCNs came to Arkansas in response to the need for a hospital in Little Rock.

**Charism / Mission / Ministries:**

The SCN charism is rooted in the tradition of St. Vincent de Paul, as well as the pioneer spirit of Catherine Spalding. Like Vincent the SCNs honor Jesus Christ as the source and model of all charity. Like Catherine Spalding we strive to actualize the Beatitudes in our times in a spirit of humility, simplicity and charity. CHI St. Vincent Hospital in Little Rock & Hot Springs, continues to have one SCN in ministry and two SCNs in service on hospital boards.

**Structure:**

International with a President, we serve in 20 states in the U.S.A, in India, Nepal, Belize and Botswana. A Provincial in each province discerns with individual Sisters in regard to their ministry. The Pope has the final authority.

**Vows / Habit:**

Perpetual vows. No habit.

**Formation:**

The process of becoming a Sister of Charity of Nazareth includes a time of discernment, candidacy, novitiate, temporary profession and final profession. Our life style is flexible depending on our ministry and geographical location. We strive to balance prayer, ministry and community life. Community prayer takes a variety of forms based on the Liturgy of the Hours or Scripture. The Eucharist and our annual retreat are most valuable in strengthening our spiritual life.

**Contact Us:** [www.scnfamily.org](http://www.scnfamily.org)

Sr. Nancy Girth, SCN

Vocation Director

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(502) 331-4516

## ADDITIONAL WOMEN RELIGIOUS IN ARKANSAS

### Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy

Motherhouse and formation in Nigeria

Contact: Sr. Chetachi Chikezie

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[nmafne@yahoo.com](mailto:nmafne@yahoo.com) 956-456-2255

### Daughters of Divine Love

Motherhouse and formation in Nigeria

Contact: Sr. Mary Francis Amanfo, DDL

Little Rock, AR

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### Dominican Sisters of Tam Hiep, Vietnam

Motherhouse and formation in Vietnam

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## Religious Formation

“Formation” is best defined as a process by which a person is being trained or "formed" in the ways of a specific institute and hopefully in the ways of God, so that she may live the life they live. Formation never stops once you enter the community.

The purpose of this chapter is to familiarize you with the terms used by women religious to describe formation. Each order has its unique process. Subsequent pages will describe each order's formation process and length of expected time in each stage.

Following is the most common formation progression with leadership roles noted at the end:

**Affiliate/Aspirant/Discerner/Candidate/Pre-Postulant:** This part of formation is usually when a candidate is in contact with a particular order. She is conversing either in person, by phone or email with one in authority who will assist her in determining if she should take the next step.

**Postulant:** [Persons](#) who aspire to the [religious life](#) and choose a particular order may be called postulants. They live with the Sisters while further discerning membership in that order.

**Novice:** Those who, having been admitted into a [religious](#) order, spend 1-2 years with much silence and contemplation, while learning more about the Religious congregation's charism, mission and ministry.

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Definitions taken, in part, from Wikipedia and the Catholic Encyclopedia



## PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

*The following prayer was written by Bishop Anthony B. Taylor in June 2011.*

**Heavenly Father,  
remind us that when we pray  
“Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”  
we commit ourselves to do your will,  
whatever that may be.**

**Free us from the temptation to do  
our own will rather than your will!**

**Give those you call to the priesthood and religious life  
the courage to embrace your will with generosity  
and self-sacrificing love.**

**Remove their fears and fill their hearts with gratitude  
that despite their unworthiness, you would en-  
trust to them a role so great and necessary  
in your plan of salvation.**

**Amen.**



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**Religious Profession:** The term religious profession refers to the solemn admission of women into a religious order by means of public vows/promises. By religious profession members make a public vow/promise to observe the three [evangelical counsels](#): [chastity](#), [poverty](#) and [obedience](#). Religious profession is often associated with the granting of a [religious habit](#), which the newly professed receives, with or without ceremony, from the superior of the institute or from the [bishop](#). Acceptance of the habit implies acceptance of the obligations of membership of the religious institute.

**First Profession/Temporary Profession:** Conditions for making a temporary religious profession are a minimum age of 18 years, completion of a regular novitiate, freedom of choice on the part of the person making the profession, and acceptance by the superior after a vote by the superior's council and perhaps by a membership chapter.

**Final Profession:** See Temporary Profession; conditions for making perpetual profession are a minimum age of 21 years and the completion of at least three years of First/temporary profession.