

THE PROCESS OF FORMATION

COME AND SEE is a symbolic expression of discerning one's vocation in relation to our congregation. A young woman may live for a period of time in a Canossian community, participating in prayer, apostolic activities and daily life with the Sisters. This allows her to come to know herself better as she considers the possibility of a personal response to the Canossian Charism as lived by the community - the very first stage.

POSTULANCY follows as a sign of a first response, the first commitment. It lasts one or two years. Here the young woman is introduced to a more regular life of prayer and deepens the demands of Christian life, works in the apostolic ministries with the Sisters, and evaluates her experience with a prepared companion. One then moves into the next stage of formation.

NOVITIATE, the first canonical stage of religious life which lasts for two years. The Novitiate is a time of greater intimacy with the Lord, of study of the charism and the various requirements of religious life. It is a real time of discernment for a loving relationship. The spiritual journey continues at a steady pace with the accompaniment of an experienced guide. At the end of the Novitiate she makes her First Profession, a public commitment of the religious vows, renewed year by year, for a determined period of time.

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JUNIORATE The period of Juniorate lasts from five to nine years. It is a time both for professional formation and in-depth charismatic reflection. At the end of the Juniorate the young Sister makes a final commitment, her permanent religious profession as a Canossian Sister. After a period of immediate preparation lasting about four months, the Sister pronounces her Final Vows. Now she is ready to give herself completely to the daily commitment of loving through prayer, education, assistance to the sick, evangelization and formation.

ONGOING FORMATION is a formative process in which every Sister is now personally responsible for her own formation to continue her journey of identification with Christ Crucified.