

On the Use of Vestments

As a Christian Community, our main habits are “habits of the heart.” The attention we draw to ourselves should be because we treat others as though they were Christ. Our everyday habit is the external behavior we exhibit toward others and toward ourselves in keeping with the love of Christ in our hearts. While we wear no distinguishable clothing in day-to-day activities, we ask our Members to dress simply in keeping with our value of simplicity. Any Member may choose to wear a respectable neck cross in the style of his or her choice.

We do, however, recognize the value in wearing certain vestments in situations that may emphasize the importance and sacredness of the occasion. These vestments shall be known as "Celebration Vestments," and not daily "habits," since their use is limited to unique situations. The wearing of celebration vestments, however, is not required.

Professed Members *may* wear the Community’s Celebration Vestments when:

- offering Matins and Vespers in private settings where it is appropriate to do so,
- during the Eucharist (especially if serving at the Altar) with the permission of local clergy,
- engaged in special services, such as for the reception of new Members or where Novices make Full Profession,
- engaged in other special sacramental services and occasions where the wearing of the celebration vestments enhances the occasion and does not draw undue attention or concern from others.

The celebration vestments are not to be worn during local parish/church activities or at any time on the premises of the parish/church without the permission of the local priest/pastor. They will generally not be worn at Convocation for the Daily Office.

Oblates may wear a brown hoodless scapular after a prescribed length of service. The period of service will usually be two years, but may be shortened or lengthened upon approval by the Director of Oblates and Guardian.

Comfortable shoes or sandals are worn as part of the vestments. The Community neck cross may be worn with the vestments, but any appropriate neck cross is acceptable. Prayer shawls or stoles are generally not worn with the celebration vestments. All celebration vestment styles and colors should be within the intent and purpose of the Community and in the spirit of these guidelines.

Community of the Gospel