

Pre-Postulancy Self Assessment

Community of the Gospel

I. Purpose

The purpose of this self-assessment exercise is to make sure that you have as good an understanding as possible of the Community of the Gospel *before* you make any commitments. Is monastic life right for you? Is the Community of the Gospel (CG) the right place for you? This self-assessment will hopefully bring out key points and ideas that will help you decide. While everything can't possibly be covered in this initial exercise, we hope it leaves you with a basic understanding of monastic life at this point.

II. General Information

Full Name:

City: State/Province:

Contact Phone Number:

Church affiliation:

III. Carefully Read (from the CG Website Library):

1. A Brief History
2. Why Become Monastic?
3. Is CG Right For Me?
4. In Solitude in a Community
5. The Common Rule (first 5 chapters – this can be found as a separate menu item)
6. The Oblate Vocation
7. Formation Philosophy
8. Our Vows Overview
9. CG Charism

IV. View:

- 1) The member biographies on the Community page of the CG website.
- 2) A few of the Convocation slides via links in the website library
- 3) The Frequently Asked Questions page of the website
- 4) Our Symbol page of the website

V. Answer the Questions on the Following pages: (Expand the area to write in if you're using MS Word, or use a separate sheet – please include the questions.)

1. Why do you want to pursue a monastic vocation (whether as a Professed or as an Oblate)?
2. In your own words, how does CG's Charism fit into your own spiritual philosophy?
3. How does the *Common Rule* fit into your spiritual philosophy?
4. Why do you think the Community of the Gospel is right for you at this time? How do you think the Community will help you on your spiritual journey?
5. Have you had any previous monastic experience? How much and with who?
6. What attracted you the most on the opening page of the CG website?
7. The Community is ecumenical and inclusive – that means we have very few exclusions to membership regarding age, race, sexual orientation, economic status, employment, Christian religious affiliation, etc. (We DO screen for sexual or other forms of abusive behavior, however). Do you have any problems or concerns about this? If so, what are they and why?
8. The Community is non-residential and dispersed. Much of what you do in your monastic practice will be independent. We do stay connected by email, texting, Facebook, phone calls, and regional and national gatherings whenever possible. Will this provide sufficient structure for you on your journey? Why or why not?
9. How do you respond to direction from others, such as from a Formation Guide or Spiritual Director?
10. In general, prayer life requires 1 to 4 sessions daily. Also, as a general rule, time should be set aside each week for reflective study. How you want to divide this time is up to you. Would this fit into your daily schedule?

11. Each phase of your spiritual vocation (Postulant, Novice or Oblate, Professed) has a structured formation plan, but allows for individual emphasis as well. We seek a balance between structure and flexibility. Would you find this too restrictive, too lax, or something that suits your style?

12. Our Community tries to hold at least one national gathering (“Convocation”) each year (usually 2-4 days in length). Attendance at these is not required, but is very important for community life. Expenses associated with the Convocations (transportation and retreat fees) are the responsibility of the member (but we sometimes have scholarships available). Other than work schedule conflicts, is there anything preventing you from attending these Convocations?

13. Will having a monastic life adversely affect your family or work relationships?

14. What other questions or concerns do you have about the Community?

VI. Send In:

When you have completed this assessment, (and still feel drawn to a vocation in the Community as either an Oblate or Professed), please complete a short biography (like the ones you’ve seen on the Community website) and *send a copy of this Self-Assessment* to –

Br. Daniel-Joseph Schroeder
Community of the Gospel
PO Box 133
Waupaca, WI 54981

We’ll contact you to arrange a phone meeting at some point in the near future. Please have this Self-Assessment handy for that call. Thanks for your interest!

VII. Short Bio: