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 the material you need 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. Care and Nurturing of the Human Psyche
6. Religious Orders
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.)

1. Why do you want to pursue a monastic vocation?

2. In your own words, how does CG's Charism fit into your own spiritual philosophy?

3. How does the *Care and Nurturing of the Human Psyche* 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 may require about 4-6 hours or more per week. Also as a general rule, 3-5 hours should be set aside each week for reflective study. How you want to divide this time is up to you. Is there anything preventing you from fulfilling the minimum time requirement on a regular basis?

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. (Dates are usually set about a year in advance so members can plan schedules and save up costs) Other than work schedule conflicts, is there anything preventing you from attending these Convocations?

13. Will either of the above adversely affect your family or work relationships?

14. What values do you look for in your relationships with other people? How would you handle difficult or problem situations with them?

15. 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 to the Community), 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: