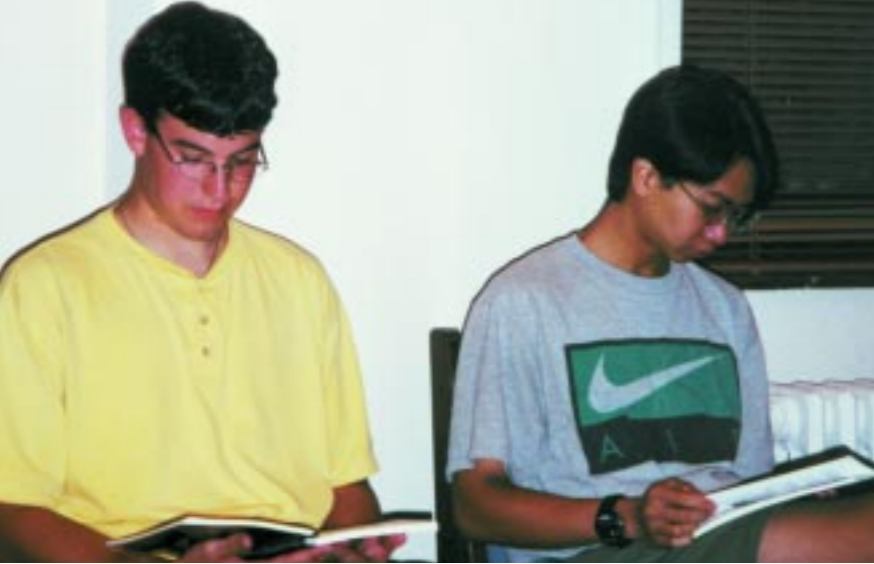




DISCERNMENT PROGRAM

**De La Salle
Christian Brothers
of the
Midwest District**





1. CONTACT PROGRAM

This is the initial step of the discernment process. The purpose of the Contact Program is to introduce students to the life of the De La Salle Christian Brothers and help them discern their vocation while at the same time allow them to participate fully in every facet of college life, including dating. It is an opportunity to provide those interested with a better understanding of the life and vision of St. John Baptist de La Salle, the educational ministries of the Brothers and colleagues, and what it means to be a Brother today.

A. College/University Phase

Criteria: This phase is open to high school graduates, Catholic males, who wish to assess their gifts and talents in light of service to God's people, learn more about the De La Salle Christian Brothers, and are willing to consider the Brothers as a possible vocational life choice.

Program: Contacts are invited to:

- Develop their spiritual life through prayer and dialogue,
- Meet with a "Brother Mentor,"

- Attend area gatherings, retreats, and District assemblies with the Brothers,
- Volunteer for service projects on a periodic basis,
- Attend the Regional Vocation Assembly,
- Participate in a summer work/community experience,
- Attend an annual Contact retreat/service weekend,
- An optional residency during the junior and senior year where Contacts can live together with other Contacts and Brothers on the university campus.

Duration: Contacts can annually renew their involvement in the program for up to five years.

B. Post-College/University Phase

Criteria: This phase is open to all post-college/university Catholic males. It may include Lasallian or other volunteers who wish to continue their discernment process. It may also include post-college-age men who have had no previous experience or knowledge of the Christian Brothers, but who wish to learn more.

Program: These Contacts are invited to the same activities as those in the College/University Phase, keeping in mind they are not living on a college/university campus.

Duration: They can annually renew their involvement in the program for up to five years.

2. BROTHER CANDIDATE PROGRAM

This step of the discernment program is similar to an internship. A Brother Candidate chooses to explore seriously the possibility of becoming a Christian Brother and takes steps to move forward in the process.

Criteria: Once a person has graduated from a college/university and has participated in the Contact Program, he moves into an off-campus resident program within the District.

Program: The Brother Candidate will:

- Continue to discern his vocation to brotherhood through an active personal, communal, and liturgical prayer life,
- Experience living and sharing in community life and its responsibilities,
- Work full- or part-time in a Brothers' ministry and/or take graduate courses,
- Meet regularly with the Formation Director,
- Participate in District activities and functions,
- Spend time visiting other Brothers' communities and ministries.

Duration: This program will last from one to three years depending on the readiness of the candidate for the Novitiate experience.



DISCERNMENT

3. NOVITIATE PROGRAM

Criteria: The person must have completed the Brother Candidate Program and be assessed as ready for the Novitiate experience.

Program: The Novitiate experience:

- Is a time for in-depth initiation into the religious life of the Brother,
- Helps the novice grow closer to God while focusing on personal growth, spiritual development, and study of the vows, *The Rule*, and life of the Founder,
- Prepares the person for profession of first vows,
- Takes place at the national Novitiate site for the Region.

Duration: One year.

4. TEMPORARY PROFESSION

Criteria: The individual must have finished the Novitiate and taken First Vows.

Program: The Temporary Professed Brother:

- Upon completion of the Novitiate, becomes an official Brother of the Province and Institute with all rights and responsibilities accorded him as Brother,
- Is assigned to a ministry within the Province,
- Participates fully in Province events,
- Meets periodically with a “Brother Mentor” and the Director of Formation,
- Attends programs designed for Temporary Professed Brothers,
- Continues to develop spiritually, psychologically, and intellectually,
- Prepares for Perpetual Vows.

Duration: Vows are renewed annually. Perpetual vows may be requested after five years of temporary vows, with a maximum limit of eight years.

De La Salle Christian Brothers of the Midwest District

The discernment program of the De La Salle Christian Brothers of the Midwest District allows an inquiring individual time, experiences, and support to determine if God might be calling him to a life of prayer, service, and community as a vowed Christian Brother. The program consists of four stages or steps. Each step represents a deeper level of commitment.





Brothers of the Christian Schools

Vocation Office

Christian Brothers of the Midwest
7650 S. County Line Rd.
Burr Ridge, IL 60521-6950

630-323-3725 fax: 630-323-3779
info@cbmidwest.org
www.cbmidwest.org