

The Rivendell Community Overview of Postulancy

The Postulancy in this Community is a period of exploration, discernment, study and reflection, preparatory to any formal commitment. During this period, Postulants have opportunity to explore and try out the various aspects of the Rule, as well as to find out about the goals and ethos of Rivendell and consider how they fit with their own life and your vocation. It is also a time for the Postulant and others in the Community to become acquainted.

Postulancy normally lasts six months, though it may be extended if requested, either by the Postulant or by the Community. By the end of this period, the Postulant and the Community together decide on one of three courses, any of which can be a positive outcome in furthering the Postulant's journey of faith: (1) continuing the process toward full membership by becoming a Companion in Formation; (2) becoming an Associate; or (3) choosing another direction, possibly by investigating another Religious Order or Christian Community, or by embracing some other form of Christian life.

During this period, the Postulant

- Becomes acquainted with the Community via a local chapter, or, if at a distance, by correspondence and perhaps by a visit
- At the invitation of the Chapter, may participate in Chapter meetings
- Maintains regular contact with mentor or formation director, as arranged
- Works through Postulancy study and reflection material
- Gradually explores and incorporates provisions of the Rule
- Seeks deeper understanding and response to God's call
- Prays for the Community;

and the Community

- Provides guidance and support through a mentor and/or formation director
- Joins with the Postulant in vocational discernment
- Prays for the Postulant.

Goals for Postulancy: The Postulant's experience will include

- Reflection on and personal adherence to the central goals of the Rule, as love of God and love of neighbor
- Personal affirmation of the desire to give oneself wholly, unconditionally and continually to God, and to seek and grow in holiness of life
- Affirmation and reflection on the role of prayer in one's life
- Reading and study of the Rule and Constitution
- Consideration and discussion of how Community life will affect and interface with family

and other commitments

- Practical understanding of prayer and hospitality; familiarity with the work and goals of the Rivendell Community
- Familiarity with the Community's ethos, including the image of "Rivendell"
- Familiarity with the practices of the Rule sufficient to undertake them, including:
 - Praying Morning and Evening Prayer; should be able to pray these offices privately, to participate in them according to the custom of the Chapter, and to officiate. Included are use of the Daily Office Lectionary, and familiarity with options for recitation of the Psalms
 - Understanding of the liturgical year; familiarity with use of liturgical calendars, and appropriate celebration of feasts, seasons, and days of special devotion
 - Practical familiarity with at least one or two approaches to silent prayer
 - Familiarity with the local Chapter and some participation in its life, if possible
 - Establishment of a spiritual direction relationship; exploration of one's vocation in the Community with the director
 - A sacramental confession during Postulancy

Outline of study

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| Unit A | The Daily Office and the Liturgical Year |
| Unit B | The story and spirit of Rivendell and one's personal story |
| Unit C | Eucharistic living |
| Unit D | Deepening the life of prayer |
| Unit E | Hospitality and Community |
| Unit F | Invitation and call; central intentions of the Rule |