

SOCIETY OF OUR LADY OF THE WAY

A SECULAR INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN



WHAT IS A SECULAR INSTITUTE?

WHAT IS THE SOCIETY OF OUR LADY OF THE WAY?

HOW DO MEMBERS LIVE?

HOW CAN I FIND OUT IF THIS LIFE IS FOR ME?



A secular institute is a form of consecrated life in which lay people, through taking vows of perfect chastity, obedience, and poverty, dedicate themselves totally to God, while remaining fully in the world.

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The Society of Our Lady of the Way is a pontifical secular institute of self-supporting women in various cities throughout the United States and twelve other countries, with its center in Vienna, Austria. The Society's spirituality is based on devotion to Mary, and on the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

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“ ‘Secularity’ indicates your involvement in the world. But it does not mean only a position, a function, which coincides with living in the world by practicing a trade, a ‘secular’ profession. It must mean in the first place awareness of being in the world as ‘your specific place of Christian responsibility’. To be in the world, that is, to be engaged in secular values, is your way of being church and of making her present, of saving yourselves and of announcing salvation.”

(Paul VI)

After a period of initiation and probation, lasting approximately three years, members take vows of perfect chastity, obedience, and poverty. Given the nature of their apostolate -- the Christianization of the world from within, using the means of the world -- members lead ordinary lay lives, indistinguishable from those with whom they work and live. They need not live together and do not wear habits. They manage their own money. They have no single apostolate; rather, the Society's apostolate is the individual apostolate of each member.

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If you are a woman between the ages of about 25 and 45, in good physical and mental health, if you have a job or career to support yourself, or are preparing for a job or career, God may be calling you to a life of total dedication in a secular institute.

If you feel called to serve God in a special way while seeing yourself "in the world", and if you are free to take vows, pray about this, and consult a spiritual director if possible.

Then contact:

The Vocation Director
Society of Our Lady of The Way
2339 North Catalina St.
Los Angeles, California 90027

HOW CAN I FIND OUT IF THIS LIFE IS FOR ME?

A vocation is God's gift to those he himself chooses.

A working woman who feels drawn to this form of life should ask herself:

Do I want to give my life totally to God?

Do I want to associate myself with a community working for the coming of God's reign?

Do I have the potential for maturity?

Am I legally free to make vows?

PLEASE SEND MORE INFORMATION

Name.....Age.....
Address.....
City.....State.....Zip.....
Profession.....
Telephone.....Parish.....

RETURN TO: VOCATION DIRECTOR
SOCIETY OF OUR LADY OF THE WAY
2339 North Catalina St.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90027