



RELIGIOUS LIFE

“Preach as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without pay, give without pay. Take no gold, silver, nor copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor a staff.” – MATTHEW 10:7-10

ACTIVITY

OBJECTS IN RELIGIOUS LIFE

Some things have strong symbolic meaning. For example, a religious sister’s veil symbolizes that she is a bride of Christ.

Many things in the religious life have special meaning, too. Your teacher will give the class a few objects. Explain how they religious life.

When explaining, show your knowledge of religious life. The more creative your answer, the better!



Three knots symbolize the three vows that religious make.

cord os st francis cilice cincutre PIX BY WAYNE PERRY

VISUAL ART



*“At the Monastery Gate”
by Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller*



READING



FUN FRIARS

Imagine walking down a busy street in New York City and seeing a man with a big beard dressed in a long simple robe like Saint Francis. Well that's exactly what happens every day in some poor, rough neighborhoods of New York. Some people may be surprised to see these men who wear ropes for belts and often shave their heads, but the people who live in those neighborhoods know and rely on these simple, loving, and brave brothers. The brothers are men from all around the world who have given their lives to love Jesus, to serve him in the poor, and to share the Gospel. They have given away all their belongings and money so that they can be free, poor, and close to those who are hurting. They share the Good News of God's love by bringing food, shelter, and friendship. Prayer is a big part of their life. These brothers are the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal.



Take a look at the friars' daily schedule.

DAILY SCHEDULE

- 6:00 a.m. Office of Readings
- 6:30 a.m. Morning Meditation Hour
- 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 7:50 a.m. Holy Mass
- Breakfast
- Serve Others (teach, work at soup kitchen, etc.)
- 12:00 p.m. Midday Prayer
- Lunch
- Serve Others (visit school, help at homeless shelter, etc.)
- 5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer
- 5:00 p.m. Holy Hour with Eucharistic Adoration
- Recreation (sports, reading, music, painting, etc.)
- Supper
- 9:15 p.m. Night Prayer and Rosary

Does it seem too wild to imagine that a boy from a nice place and home may one day decide become a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal? Well, hundreds have! Plus, there is a similar group of women in New York City called the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal. The Friars keep in mind what it is like to be young. They travel the country putting on retreats for teenagers, organizing Bible studies, holding assemblies at high schools, and even writing Christian rap music!



EXPLORATION

IMAGINE RELIGIOUS LIFE

Imagine that you are serving at a soup kitchen with religious sisters. You and a couple of the sisters will perform some music and poetry during dinner.

1. Make up a song or a poem with rhythm that would encourage the homeless people during dinner. If you want, you can pick a common song like “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” and change the lyrics.

Or:

2. Create a map of a neighborhood where you imagine the brothers’ or sisters’ monastery to be. Include brief descriptions of who lives and works in the neighborhood. Create a map key that shows how the brothers serve their neighbors.



PRAY TOGETHER

Vocation Prayer

I glorify You, God,
In all that I do.
Mind, body and spirit,
My best is for You.
For us to be close, Lord,
Is what you desire.
I trust that your good love
For me will not tire.
I say, “yes” like Mary,
And give you my heart.
To follow you Jesus,
I will do my part.
Help me follow your will
No matter the call.
Whatever vocation,
I promise my all.

AMEN.