

THE CALL TO THE CHARISM AND MISSION

The Bernardine Franciscan Sisters and the Bernardine Franciscan Associates are both called to the same Charism and Mission of the congregation, not to the individual religious members. If one is attracted to the mission and charism of a certain religious, it is a primary draw to the mission and charism. The charism is lived out both in consecrated life and in associate life. Both have a call but live it out differently.

What Associates are NOT:

- It is not a club, like belonging to a fitness center
- It is not primarily an alumni association, although some members might have been consecrated religious
- It is not a “wannabe” religious, or the “junior varsity or second string” of the community
- It is not a member of the congregation
- It is not a call to live religious life

What Associates ARE:

- It is a call to the mission and charism of the community
- It is a call to prayer, community, and ministry
- It is a call that responds to the mission and charism in a particular time and culture
- It is a connection, a relationship to a religious institute
- It is a movement and not a formal institution, it changes as the times change

Notes from a YouTube presentation on “The Associate Vocation” by

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