

Convent of Saint John the Baptist Order of Friars Minor Conventual

Application for Admission

This admissions application form is for the Convent of St. John the Baptist of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual of Saint Francis of Assisi, an institution of the One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic Church, which was founded by Our Lord Jesus Christ.

By submitting this form, the applicant requests admission to the Order and Convent to prepare for a religious vocation, and understands and agrees to the following:

- I. The applicant warrants the information provided (both herein and any supporting documents that may be provided at a future date) to be true, and gives his permission to the Father Guardian (i.e. Religious Superior), or his designated representative, to verify that information, and understands that any false or misleading statements are grounds for denial of admission, immediate expulsion and/or invalidation of vows at any time after being admitted;
- II. The applicant understands and acknowledges that his application is being made to a pre-Vatican II, traditionalist Roman Catholic and Christian religious institution for the purpose of vocational formation and/or seminary studies, and therefore criteria regarding spiritual as well as academic experiences will be considered in the review of this application;
- III. The applicant understands and acknowledges that his application is being made to a pre-Vatican II, traditionalist Roman Catholic religious institution that does not -- and never will -- seek the recognition of, or acceptance by, the modern-day Vatican II "Catholic Church," its "popes" or hierarchy, as they have shown themselves to be non-Catholic, heretical and schismatic;
- IV. The applicant understands and agrees that, for the duration of membership [Postulancy, Novitiate, Simple (temporary) and/or Solemn (perpetual) Vows], he is required to live the Evangelical Counsels (i.e. vows) of Poverty, Chastity & Obedience;
- V. The applicant understands and agrees that, for the duration of membership [Postulancy, Novitiate, Simple (temporary) and/or Solemn (perpetual) Vows], financial compensation is not provided for physical, intellectual or artistic labour(s);
- VI. The applicant understands and agrees that, for the duration of membership [Postulancy, Novitiate, Simple (temporary) and/or Solemn (perpetual) Vows], he is required - by both Canon Law and our Constitutions - to live within the Convent and is lawfully subject to the superior(s), customs and disciplines of the community;
- VII. The applicant understands and agrees that, for the duration of membership [EXCLUDING Solemn (perpetual) Vows], he is free to leave, may be dismissed or expelled, at any time and for any reason.

Please return completed application along with required documents to:

The Convent of St. John the Baptist
Post Office Box 462
Summerville, South Carolina 29484-0462

The following is a list of required documents which must to be submitted with this application, unless other arrangements are approved by the Fr. Guardian. Unless specifically noted, photocopied documents are permitted.

1. Birth Certificate*
2. Parent's Marriage Certificate
3. Baptismal Certificate*
4. Confirmation Certificate
5. School Transcripts (high school, college, vocational, seminary, etc.) (*Must be sent directly from the school.*)
6. Letters of Evaluation from the Rector of each seminary previously attended. (*Must be sent directly from the Rector.*)
7. Letters of Evaluation from any Religious Community previously a member of. (*Must be sent directly from the Religious Community.*)
8. Curriculum Vitæ/Résumé/Employment History (Up to 10 years, if possible.)
9. Any and all Ordination Certificates* (Minor and Major Orders)
10. Criminal Background Check, Bureau of Criminal Investigations Report ("BCI") or similar report from your local law enforcement agency. (*Original report must be submitted within one month of issue.*)
11. Three (3) letters of recommendation: no family members; ideally, one should be from a priest or religious. These must attest to your moral character, religious principles, the practice of your faith, and ability to live a life of self-sacrifice & service.
12. Physician's letter/medical certificate of good health, stating applicant is able to undertake studies for religious life and/or priesthood and is free from contagious diseases; HIV and drug testing required.
13. Driver's Licenses and Passports should be valid for at least 2 years from the date of this application.
14. If you are applying as a "second-life" vocation and you were married, you must submit your Marriage Certificate and wife's Death Certificate.*
A second-life vocation is generally an older person who is making a "career change" or one who was previously married and now considering a religious vocation after the death of their spouse. A valid marriage is an impediment to pursuing any religious vocation, other than 3rd Order Secular. Only the death of a spouse or the valid annulment of a marriage removes this impediment.
15. List of all the addresses where you lived for the past 10 years.
16. Three-page (single-sided/single-spaced) autobiography of your life, family background, parish experiences (Mass attendance, activities, volunteering, etc.), process of discerning a vocation, and your commitment to living the Evangelical Counsels of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience.

*You may initially send photocopies of certificates or documents marked with " * "; however, you must submit the originals or certified copies upon your arrival or you shall be immediately dismissed. Certified copies are defined as: civil (government) or religious documents which bear an original and official seal; an embossed seal, sometimes called a "raised" seal, is considered the norm.

For security and preservation, all documents shall be stored in the Convent's vault. When documents are needed and/or upon voluntary or involuntary departure from the Convent and Order, any and all documents shall be returned to you before you leave.

Please type or clearly print (blue or black ink only) your answers and other information in the provided areas. If you need to use additional pages, please include the corresponding title, section or question number with your answer(s). ALL items require an answer; otherwise, mark "n/a" if it does not apply.

With this application, please include a recent photograph of yourself: minimum size – 2"x2" (passport-type photo), maximum – 4"x6".

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State,
Zip+4: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alternate Phone No.: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Age: _____ Date & Place of Birth: _____
(County, city & state)

Do you have any dependents (i.e. children, parents, etc.) which you are financially supporting either now or possibly in the future? YES or NO (If YES, please explain)

Are you applying as a "second-life" vocation? YES or NO

For the purposes of this application, a second-life Vocation is 30 years old or older.

Second-Life Vocations Only

What is your current marital status? Single or Widowed

Have you ever been married? YES or NO
(If YES, please explain)

Do you have any Children? YES or NO
(If YES, please explain: number, ages & if they support your pursuit of religious life)

Do you have a valid Driver's License? YES or NO

If YES, you will be asked to provide your license number as part of a background check.
If NO, you are encouraged to get a driver's license or state-issued I.D. card.

Do you have an un-expired Passport? YES or NO

If YES, it should be valid for at least two years after your application date.
If NO, you are encouraged to apply for one before entering.

Have you ever been convicted of any crime, misdemeanor or felony? YES or NO

If YES, please explain in detail. Use another sheet of paper, if needed.

RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND

Date of Baptism: _____ By Whom? _____

Place of Baptism: _____
(Church name, city & state – if not in a church, name the location)

Date of Confirmation: _____ By Whom? _____

Place of Confirmation: _____
(Church name, city & state – if not in a church, name the location)

Are you a convert to the Catholic faith? YES or NO
If YES, from what religion/denomination and when? (*This includes the Novus Ordo/
Vatican II church.*)

Tonsure & Holy Orders:

If you have already received Clerical Tonsure, Minor or Major Holy Orders, please list them by name, the date you received them, who ordained you and where the ceremonies were performed. Please use a separate sheet of paper.

Have you ever been an altar server or Master of Ceremonies? YES or NO
(If YES, for how many years and what have you done?)

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

1. High School: _____ Location: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Diploma/GED: _____

2. College/University: _____ Location: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Degree: _____

3. Vocational/Tech School: _____ Location: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Certificate/License: _____

4. Seminary: _____ Location: _____

Graduation Date: _____ Certificate/License: _____

Use additional pages for Academic Background, if necessary.

MILITARY SERVICE

If you are a veteran, please provide a notarized copy of your long-form DD-214.

If so, from what branch of service? Army Air Force Navy Marines Coast Guard

Rank _____ Job Title _____

Dates of Service: From: ____/____/____ To: ____/____/____

Did you receive an Honorable Discharge? YES or NO

Were you medically retired? YES or NO

If you received a less-than-honorable discharge, what type of discharge did you receive and why? If more space is needed, please use another sheet of paper:

Were you ever deployed to a combat theater of operations? YES or NO

If so, for how long? _____ Deployed more than once? YES or NO

Where were you deployed?

PERSONAL INTERESTS & HOBBIES

Please provide a list of interests, hobbies and/or sports that you enjoy and participate in, such as:

- | | | | | | |
|----------|------------|------------|-----------|----------|---------------------|
| Baseball | Basketball | Volleyball | Soccer | Football | Tennis |
| Canoeing | Hunting | Camping | Reading | Movies | Photography |
| Painting | Running | Cooking | Computers | Skiing | Musical Instruments |

(This is only a sample list, please include any others.)

Were you or are you now involved in any athletic programmes? YES or NO

If YES, please describe what you do/did.

Are you currently reading any books? YES or NO

If YES, what is the title and subject matter?

What is the title of last book you read and when? _____

MEDICAL HISTORY

(Please give an explanation if you answer “YES” to any of these questions, matching your answers to the question number on a separate page.)

1. When was the date of your last medical exam or physical? _____
2. When was the date of your last dental exam? _____
3. When was the date of your last eye exam? _____
4. Do you currently have any health care/medical insurance? YES or NO
If YES, can you keep this coverage while a member of the Convent, for at least 2 yrs.?
5. Are you currently under a doctor’s care? YES or NO If YES, please explain.
6. Do you currently suffer from any medical conditions, illness(es) or disease(s)?
YES or NO If YES, please explain and indicate if there is a risk of being contagious?
7. Do you have any disabilities: physical, cognitive (i.e. understanding), mental, etc.?
YES or NO If YES, please explain.
8. Are you currently taking any prescription medications? YES or NO
If YES, please list them and what they are for.
9. Have you had any surgical procedures in the last 5 years? YES or NO
If YES, please list them and if the procedure(s) were successful.
10. Please provide a list of any known allergies to foods, medications, etc.
11. Do you use any alcohol or tobacco products? YES or NO
12. Have you ever been in rehabilitation for the abuse of drugs or alcohol? YES or NO
13. Do you have, or have you ever been hospitalized for a mental illness/“break down”?
YES or NO If YES, please explain.
14. Do you wear glasses or contact lenses? YES or NO
15. Do you have/use any artificial limbs or prosthetics? YES or NO
16. Do you currently have or have you ever had any tattoos, piercings, dental “bling” or cosmetic surgeries which are medically unnecessary or non-therapeutic? YES or NO
If YES, please explain, as a dispensation may be required for any of the above.
17. Please provide a family medical history for both parental lines. Include such things as: Cancer, Heart Disease, Hypertension, Diabetes, Alcoholism, Mental Illness, etc.

WORK HISTORY & FINANCIAL BACKGROUND

1. Are you currently employed? YES or NO
If YES, what type of work do you do?

2. Please list any licenses, certifications, or degrees you may have for professional, para-professional or skilled jobs, including expiration dates. (i.e.: Nursing, EMT, social work, mechanical, etc.)

3. If you have any outstanding debts at the time of this application, will they be paid-off before your acceptance/entrance into religious life? YES or NO
If NO, when and how do you expect this be accomplished?

4. Have you ever filed bankruptcy? YES or NO
If YES, please provide a copy of the judgment/order.

5. Are you willing or able to provide any financial assistance to the Convent before Solemn Profession? YES or NO

6. Do you have a personal benefactor and/or sponsorship? YES or NO

A personal benefactor and/or group sponsorship is an individual or a group of people from your home parish, family, friends, etc., who can support you monetarily to help offset expenses for your room and board, and other financial needs while you are here, until you make your profession.

The Convent of Saint John the Baptist observes the Vow of Poverty and community living expenses can be costly. Every donation is tax deductible as we are a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. We do not receive monetary support from parish, diocesan or national Church structures.

POINTS TO CONSIDER REGARDING TESTING YOUR VOCATION AND PERSONAL FINANCES

Aspirants (vocation prospects) may return to the world at any time during Postulancy and Novitiate, which totals 1½ years, and will be faced with expenses for traveling back home, housing, and daily living expenses – not to mention seeking employment. Therefore, it is strongly urged, advised, and recommended that each aspirant have and maintain a minimum of \$500 to \$1,000 (more is definitely recommended, however) for travel and relocation expenses for when and if they return to the world. As a safeguard, one should choose a trusted family member or friend to hold this money for later use, or, they may choose to have these funds held in a savings or “trust account.”

If the aspirant (vocation prospect) has previously inherited or inherits monies or properties at any time during this period of Postulancy/Novitiate, it must be held “in trust” until they depart or make Solemn Vows. The Novice, in accordance with our Constitutions (Ch. 2, Art. 20 §150), and Canon Law (569, §1, 2; 580, §3) “who owns temporal goods or property shall make provision[s]...for the administration and use of his goods for the duration of his simple profession.” Once simple profession is completed, but before making solemn profession, these temporal goods and/or properties must be transferred or disposed of according to the friar’s wishes.

The Order of Friars Minor Conventual is classified as an “exempt” religious order of mendicant friars, as defined and empowered by the Papal Bulls: *Ad fructus uberes* (Martin IV - A.D. 1281) and *Super cathedram* (Boniface VIII - A.D. 1300). Therefore, members of the Order, individually and collectively, are not subject to the authority or control of “local ordinaries”/“bishops” (especially those of the Vatican II church, hierarchy, dioceses, or other religious institutes) and not in need of their faculties or permissions to live in or operate our own institutions, including but not limited to: churches, chapels, shrines, religious & novitiate houses, schools, charitable service centres, retreat houses, youth or elder programmes, infirmary or medical facilities, etc.

The Convent of St. John the Baptist is an independent & self-governing community - observing the Holy Rule of St. Francis of Assisi as “conventuals” - committed to following, preserving and teaching the authentic norms, customs, Constitutions (*Constitutiones Urbanæ*), Sacred Canons & Traditions, including the traditional Latin Mass & Sacraments of the pre-Vatican II era, up to approx. the mid-1940’s. Members of the Convent consider the modern-day Conventuals of the Vatican II church to be in error, heresy and schism, therefore we reject its hierarchical leadership until such time as they conform to and align themselves with the true and proper Catholic and Apostolic faith, by rejecting the *Novus Ordo* and the reforms of Vatican II.

The Convent is an all-male religious community consisting of: Clerics in Holy Orders, Lay Brothers and Oblates (re: Oblates - Const., Chap. II, Art. 23, §171-172). Resident Tertiaries (3rd Order Secular) may be considered on an individual, case-by-case basis, with the final determination being made in favour of the spiritual life of the Convent and its friars.

All members of the Order and it’s Convent(s), individually and collectively, shall be subject to the authority of a valid and legitimate Supreme Pontiff, meaning one who adheres to the sacred Traditions and *Magistérium* (i.e. Teachings) of the Holy Roman Catholic & Apostolic Church and is not known as a public heretic or who compromises the Legal & Spiritual Rights of the Church by promoting and continuing the reforms of the Second Vatican Council and its modern-day definition of “ecumenism,” which has been condemned by the Church and her Pontiffs throughout the centuries before Vatican II.