

Apostolic vs. Contemplative Communities

Apostolic Communities

Apostolic describes active religious communities, communities whose mission includes ministry such as social work, health care, teaching and pastoral work.

God has never abandoned his people; he always raises up prophets and messengers to communicate the Word to them. Today people are still called to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. People are still inspired by God to dedicated their lives to doing the things that Jesus did: to bring good news for the poor, liberate the oppressed and provide a new vision for those without hope.

These Religious are nourished by a deep personal and communal prayer life. They support one another as a community who share faith. Their style of life energizes them for their work with those in need.

Contemplative Communities

Today as in the past monasteries of *Contemplative* women are oases of quiet, peace and joy; communities of nuns living lives of prayer and contemplation. Their life differs from apostolic religious life in that those called to this way of life have an obligation of special prayer, the Prayer of the Church (Divine Office) in choir. Their mission is exercised within their cloister, a place set apart from contact with others.

Prayer is at the heart of their daily lives, enabling them to live in personal and community intimacy with God. Their program of life reminds them and others that God alone is absolute, that all else is relative.

Most communities earn their living by a variety of productive activities, making vestments and communion breads, printing and gardening, etc. Each community has a real family atmosphere, providing affirmation, healing and growth for its members, with time for the development and exercise of personal talents like music, art, etc.