



# The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross

## Service for Beginning Three-Month Period of Study and Discernment

*The Order encourages all interested women to begin the three-month period of study and discernment with a prayerful commitment to fully examine her call to the Order. It is fervently hoped that every woman will finish the whole course of study before making a final decision about being admitted to the Order but, if at any time, she determines that she is not being called to the Order she may end her participation. For those doing the study within a Chapter or Chapter-in-formation, the service is done corporately in private and is either led by a member of the clergy or Chapter leader.*

**Presenter to Clergy or Chapter Leader:** These women are beginning a three-month period of study and discernment. They desire to discern whether they have been called by the Lord Jesus into the Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross.

**Clergy or Leader:** Prayer, Service, Study and Evangelism are disciplines that deepen and strengthen every Christian life, however, to some women there comes a call to follow the fourfold Vow of The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross. As you undertake these three months of study and discernment, may the Holy Spirit be your Teacher, and may your calling be made clear. Remember, there are many gifts and many callings, but it is the one Spirit who gives them all. Every part of the body is needed; every member of the Church has received a gift for the good of all. Membership in The Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross may be God's plan for you or maybe it is not. You will know as you pursue it.

Will you commit yourself to complete the full course of study, diligently meeting with your mentor and faithfully fulfilling the assigned study and self-examination?

**Candidate(s):** I will with God's help.

**Clergy or Leader:** Will you hold in strictest confidence the personal information shared by the others in your study group?

**Candidate(s):** I will honor the trust of those who share their personal story and will keep all information confidential.

**Clergy or Leader:** To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power, and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages now and forevermore.

**Clergy (if one is present):** And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you now and remain with you throughout this discernment process.