



VOCATION VIBES

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You probably have heard by now that the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) has created an on-line service which gives women and men discerning a religious vocation the opportunity to participate in a vocation match to help them match their particular interests with a religious congregation by logging on to "Vocation Match.com". In the spring issue of HORIZON published by NRVC there is an article written by Patrice J. Tuohy based on 3,200 profiles completed by users between August 15, 2006 and February 23, 2007. Some of the findings are enlightening.

The two categories that match our Dominican Charism are the following:
1) Eighty-five per cent feel they want to be involved in active ministry in such fields as education, social service, campus ministry, parish work, preaching, healthcare, and prison ministry and 2) forty-two percent feel that living in community and praying together (not necessarily with their own age group) would be essential to them.

This year, as we celebrate eight hundred years since the founding of the Dominican Order, it is a good time to reflect on our beginnings. When St. Dominic established his young order he stressed the importance of the common life. His friars were to devote themselves to prayer, praise and to the holy preaching. They were to support their mission by practicing fraternal charity. Is this not exactly what these young discerners are valuing? How will we respond to them?

Our challenge as Dominican women is to reflect on the way we witness to others through our common life, prayer, and mission in 2007 so that we can invite others to create with us religious life for the future. It is an exciting challenge!

Blessings and Peace,
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Hope