

Reflection on Lumen Gentium
Chapter VI – Religious
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March 24, 2019

43. There are certain stable forms of living, referred to here as counsels, that promote poverty and obedience and in the example of the Lord, also commanded by the Apostles and Fathers of the Church. These religious families have branched out into various forms, giving their members the support for a firmly stable way of life and a proven doctrine of acquiring perfection. The Church considers these religious states between the clerical and lay.

44. These religious orders are joined by vows or sacred bonds. The consecration to Christ is made more firm when made to Christ and to His Bride. These vows and bonds are to be undertaken to the extent of the individual's capacity in keeping aligned with the proper type of their vocation. These do not belong to the hierarchical structure of the Church, but nevertheless undeniably belong to the life of holiness.

45. Therefore, it is the duty of the Church hierarchy to regulate the practice of these religious orders. With the help of the Holy Spirit, the Church hierarchy accepts the rules provided by these religious followed by further adjustments. Any institute of perfection and its individual members may be removed from the jurisdiction of local Ordinates by the Supreme Pontiff and subject to himself alone. Furthermore, the members of these religious ought to obey and accept the authority of their local bishop due to the pastoral authority of their church and the harmony of the apostolate. These religious orders are raised to a canonical status that they are consecrated to God.

46. Members of these religious should remember that they are present to the world of believers and non-believers in a striking manner as Christ. Though they do not mingle with contemporaries, in a more profound sense, these religious are united with the heart of Christ in interacting with the world.

47. Each of the faithful called to the profession of the evangelical counsel should persevere and grow in their vocation that God has given them, for the increased holiness of the Church.