

INITIAL FORMATION



CANDIDACY

This period extends from 4 to 12 weeks. The candidate is introduced to the charism and spirituality of the Oblate Sisters. She is also introduced to the "Little Rules" of the Community, which assist the sisters in the daily living out of their religious commitment of charity and service.

POSTULANCY

This period usually lasts for one year. It may be extended for a brief period. The postulant begins to reflect on the basic teachings of the Church. She begins to experience some of the congregation's ministries.



NOVITIATE

This period extends for two years. The first year or the canonical year affords the novice the opportunity to further commit herself to the Church through the community. She studies the documents of the Church on Religious Life, the writings of the Foundress and the Spirituality of the Sacred Heart. The second year or the apostolic year is a period when the novice deepens her understanding of the above topics with a special emphasis on the Evangelical Councils. She also participates in the various ministries of the Oblates in order to discern where and how she may best serve the Church as an Oblate Sister. (Continue on next page.)



TEMPORARY PROFESSION

The novice with the recommendation of the formation director formally petitions the Mother General in Rome and asks for permission to profess the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience for a period of one year. The Junior Sister will follow this procedure for five consecutive years. During this period, the Sister may formally and professionally prepare for a ministry within the community.



PETUAL PROFESSION



At the end of the five years of temporary profession, the Junior Sister, with the recommendation of the formation director, may petition the Mother General in Rome to profess her vows for life. As a finally professed sister, she will continue striving to learn more and deepen her relationship with God, the Church and her community through a program of permanent formation.

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