

## *What Should I do?*

### **Pray:**

Spend time with God, speak with Him, listen to His voice in the silence of your heart.

### **Seek Spiritual Direction:**

Regularly and honestly speak about your spiritual life with a priest, religious or trusted lay person. A spiritual companion can help us assess God's movement in our lives.

### **Inquire:**

Contact a Vocation Director, priest or religious to learn more about his way of life, his vocation story and how he came to discern God's will. Feel free to call our Vocation Office at **(718) 510-5822** or [vocations@olaprovince.org](mailto:vocations@olaprovince.org).

### **Get Involved:**

Try to attend a discernment retreat or weekend, become more involved in your parish and its many ministries, visit a seminary or house of formation, etc.

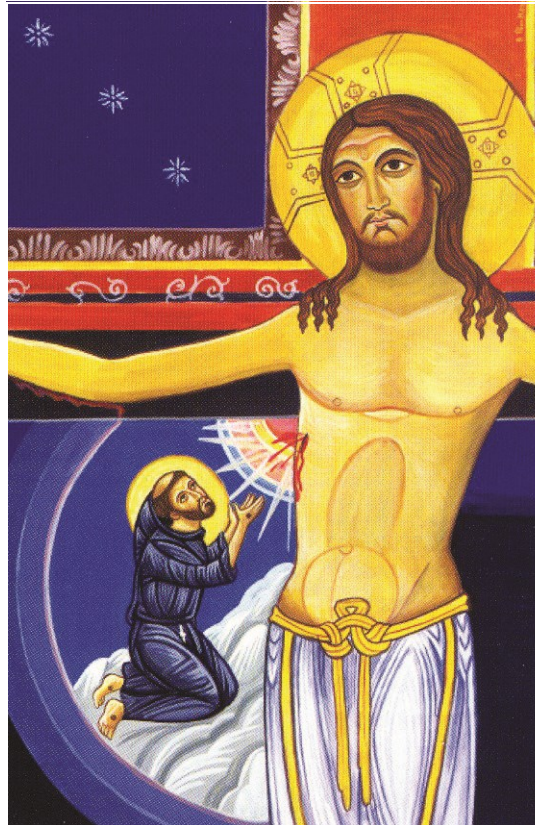
For more information go to:

[www.Franciscans.org](http://www.Franciscans.org)

[www.olaprovince.org](http://www.olaprovince.org)

or on Instagram:

[@conventuals1223](https://www.instagram.com/conventuals1223)



## Francis' Prayer for Guidance Before the Crucifix

Most High, glorious God  
enlighten the darkness of  
my heart  
and give me true faith,  
certain hope,  
and perfect charity,  
sense and knowledge, Lord  
that I may carry out Your holy  
and true will.  
Amen

# *How Will I Know?*



## Discerning the call to religious life

*Franciscan Friars Conventual  
Our Lady of the Angels Province*

For more information, please complete this form and return it to:

**Franciscan Friars**  
**223 Bedford Avenue PMB 306**  
**Brooklyn, NY 11211**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please check all appropriate boxes:*

- I would like to be placed on the Vocation mailing list.
- I am interested in visiting a local friary.
- I have questions about my vocation. Please call me.
- Please send me more information about the Franciscan Friars.

## How Will I Know?

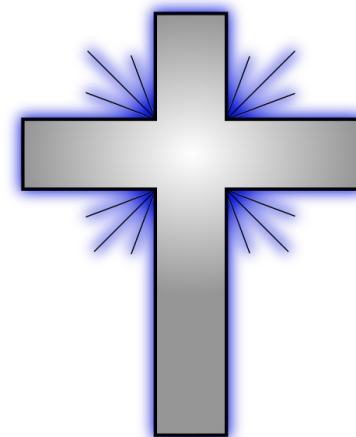
Most of us who have ever considered or wondered if the vocation to religious life was for us must have asked the question, "How will I know?"

It comes in many forms. "What is God's will in my life?" "Where is the Lord calling me?" "How do I find happiness and fulfillment in my life?" "What is the ultimate purpose for my existence?" "How will I know that God is calling me to live the religious life as a brother, sister or priest?"

An inherent part of life is the responsibility to make difficult, challenging and sometimes painful decisions. To make important decisions requires time, prayer and discernment. Perhaps today more than ever, individuals face a greater multiplicity and complexity of decisions in ordinary day-to-day living. In the discernment process, we consider the options, balance the advantages and the disadvantages and carefully examine the consequences. How will I know? What is good, right or best? How will I know what God is calling me to do?

Before the rainbow shown in the sky, perhaps Noah wondered, "How will I know?" Before John the Baptist sent his disciples from his prison cell to find Jesus, he must have asked, "How will I know?"

When Thomas heard from the disciples that Jesus rose from the dead, he must have struggled with the question, "How will I know?" As Mary Magdalene gazed into the empty tomb, that first Easter morning she must have pondered, "How will I know?"



Today, as in Jesus' own time, God continues to give signs to help us decide, to discern and to know what the Lord is asking of us. In particular, there are four general signs that are often seen:

- **Availability and Openness:** Am I open-hearted to whatever God is calling me to do? Am I disposed and free to respond to that call?
- **Desire:** Do I sense a degree of potential satisfaction, hope or joy when I consider religious life? If it is God's will, do I trust that I can be fulfilled?
- **Proper Motivation:** Is my primary motivation of a spiritual nature, such as serving and loving God and God's people? Would I experience adequate happiness and fulfillment in the vowed life?
- **General Disposition:** Do I have reasonably good health, emotional stability, social ease and spiritual centeredness? Would I like to live a "common" lifestyle, that is, in vows and in community?