

Steve Orth

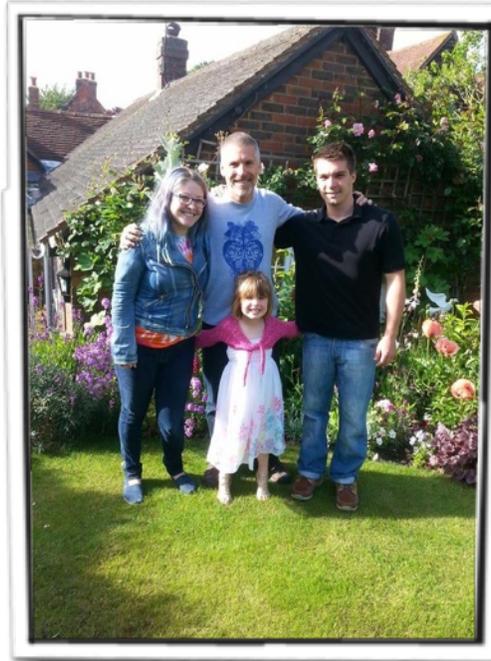
Why vocation?

Indeed, why? In attempting to respond to that question truthfully I must acknowledge and honor the path which leads me to this moment.

To be sure, entering a secular institute and living, potentially, as a consecrated secular, was not in the plans. I grew up in a suburb of Cincinnati, OH. I was raised Catholic; attended both parochial and public schools; graduated high school and moved on to college where I earned my degree in special education. I married my high school sweetheart right after leaving college and we started a family a few years later. To fill in the gap of the last thirty-five years, I think of the 25th Psalm, "Make known to me your ways, Lord; teach me your paths..."

It was many years ago that I became aware of secular institutes. Admittedly, the professional quality of the Voluntas Dei website is what first most impressed me. I spent a great deal of time reading the information on the website and becoming more familiar with the

Institute's spirituality. Eventually, I contacted the vocations director and began discussing the next steps in exploring this as a possible vocation. I attended the retreat in the summer of 2013 and both the retreat and congress last summer, 2015. At the end of last year's retreat and through direct fellowship with the Institute's members, I knew with certainty this was the direction in which I wanted my life to go.



This summer through God's good grace I will enter into the formation stage of *Aspirancy*. I have stopped asking myself, "How did I get here from there?!" and have more and more trusted in the guidance of the loving hand of God. If I truly believe that this is where my Lord wants me and that as a consecrated secular I will be a "leaven" in the world (marketplace), then I have to trust that every life

experience, light or dark, good or bad, will be used to some greater good. In other words, God knows better than I do. I ask for your prayers and support and look forward to seeing you all in August.

God's peace,
Steve(n) Orth

