

Some Differences between a Diocesan Priest and a Religious Priest

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Diocesan Priest	Religious Order Priest
Discerns one call: to priesthood	Discerns two calls: priesthood & religious life
Sacramental consecration and sacramental graces of priesthood	Same, plus he receives religious consecration and grace proper to religious state
Generally called to be spiritual father to a spiritual family - parish	Called to the spirit and mission of the religious order in question
Free to benefit from any school of spirituality in the Church	Obligated to live the specific spirituality of the Religious Congregation
Make promises of obedience and celibacy	Vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience
Acts of poverty, chastity, and obedience don't fall under virtue of religion – thus don't get double merit or double guilt	Acts of poverty, chastity, and obedience come under the virtue of religion – thus acts yield double merit or double guilt
Formation involves the four pillars – human, spiritual, pastoral, theological	In addition to priestly formation – a number of years are added to be formed in religious life and charism (novitiate)
Generally will live alone; but sometimes with an associate or priest in residence	Generally will live with an number of priests/brothers from community
Self-accountability	Accountability of superior and community
Will generally pray alone according to one's own chosen schedule	Will pray in common according to a set <i>horarium</i>
Some freedom to choose which needs in parish and beyond to be involved in	Assigned to the works of the congregation by a superior. Little freedom to choose.
Daily routine is less regularized	Daily routine is generally regulated by rule
Wears clerics	Wears a religious habit
Should live a simple life but owns personal possessions, assets, etc.	Takes vow of poverty and renounces right to own, to receive, and to give gifts
Few of one's daily activities are directly commanded by the Bishop	Most of one's daily activities are directly commanded by Rule or superior
Has to discern God's Will in daily activities since he has not the vow of obedience	Generally has certitude about God's Will because of vow of obedience
Can be moved anywhere in the Diocese	Can be moved anywhere in the world
Time available on day off for friends and family	Friends and support are normally from within new family of religious order
Can visit family and friends and receive their visits at his own discretion	Visits from and to family and friends is restricted by the rule of community
Doesn't vow to the means of perfection	Vows to the means of perfection
Bishop is the superior	Provincial or Superior General is superior
Vocation is more common	Vocation is less common
Responds to general need of sanctifying, teaching, and guiding people through parish	Responds to particular needs in the Church not met by diocesan clergy across parishes
Called to be in world and not of world	Called to flee the world