

TIME OF FINAL DISCERNMENT

Quick Orientation Guide

This give you a brief overview of the what and why of the Time of Final Discernment



Be aware: Discernment is not linear. Use this guide as a sampler, listening for the Spirit's wisdom. Consult the Novitiate Team Leader if uncertain.

Key Sections

1. **Final Discernment (Novitiate)** — formation and testing before vows
2. **Potential Content & Experiences** — study, prayer, community, service
3. **Bringing Discernment into Focus** — clarifying readiness
4. **Concluding the Discernment Time** — possible outcomes
5. **Reporting Discernment** — communicate decisions
6. **Membership** — making profession and annual reaffirmation

Essentials

Final Discernment

- Season of study, prayer, community, and vocational testing
- Companion guides; spiritual director encouraged
- Begins with *Service of Admission to Final Discernment*
- Horizon: readiness for *Profession of Vows*

Potential Content & Experiences

- Rule of Life and Service: accountability, reflection
- Religious Life: study monasticism, OSL history
- Lukan Spirituality: Daily Office, worship, service
- Communal Life: retreats, fellowship, shared prayer

- Call to Service: discern gifts, connect with your mission field(s)

Bringing Discernment into Focus *could include:*

- Write an autobiographical statement
- Write a personal letter to yourself
- Meet with a spiritual director
- Share reflections with your companion

Concluding the Discernment Time—possible outcomes

- Ready to affirm vows
- Suspend for a season
- Terminate, recognizing vocation elsewhere

Reporting Discernment

- Companion reports readiness, suspension, or termination to Registrar, Novitiate Team Leader, and Chancellor General
- Reflect together on what was helpful

Membership

- First profession at retreat, chapter, or Covenant Community
- Complete Annual Affirmation form when you have made your profession
- Continue as annually vowed member per Constitution