THE COMMUNITY OF SAINT JOHN CASSIAN

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***Introductory Questionnaire for those Inquiring into Vowed Religious Life***

Please answer the following questions as thoroughly and honestly as possible, bearing in mind that there are no ‘right’ or ‘wrong’ answers. These questions simply begin a shared dialogue of discernment, and allow you and the Community to begin getting to know one another, so that we might authentically engage the process of determining whether or not you are called to be part of the life of our Order. All information relayed in this questionnaire is completely confidential, and bound by the pastoral seal of confidence.

1) What interests you about the vowed religious life, and why do you feel drawn to it?

2) What draws you in particular to the charism of The Community of Saint John Cassian?

3) Please outline your educational history, including degrees you’ve received, the institutions which awarded them, and the dates you received them.

4) Please outline your work history, including the particular jobs you have held and the dates you held them.

5) Please outline the experience you have with ministry (broadly speaking) in the Church.

6) What are some areas of ministry, and of Christian life more broadly, that now call to you?

7) Please describe any health issues or disabilities you might have, which you feel could in some way prevent or inhibit you from fully participating in the life of our Community—that is to say, in a liturgical setting, in maintaining a rigorous Rule of Life, in our outreach ministry, or in any other aspect of our life together as vowed religious.

8) Do you now, or have you ever, had any challenges with mental health? If so, please explain.

9) Do you exercise regularly, and do you have some form of physical spiritual and/or meditative practice as part of your daily routine (e.g. Hatha Yoga, T’ai-Chi)?

10) Are you now, or have you ever been engaged in formal spiritual direction with a Spiritual Director? If so, for how long?

11) Have you ever been charged with, or been convicted of, any criminal activities, misdemeanors, or other legal violations aside from minor traffic violations? (Please note that anyone seeking admission to Postulancy in the Order must undergo a thorough background check, administered by a professional agency and paid for in full by the aspirant.)

12) Would you consider yourself to be someone who is highly self-directed, or a “self-starter”? Why or why not? Please give a couple of examples from your life to illustrate either way.

13) Are you someone who is generally open to learning new things, to accepting completely new ways of thinking or living, and to genuinely putting on what the Zen Buddhists call “beginner’s mind”? Or, is this something that you find particularly challenging? Please explain, and provide some examples to illustrate your experiences.

14) Briefly describe your living (i.e. housing) and transportation situations, e.g. Where do you presently live, and with whom do you live? Do you currently own property or automobiles? Would there be any issues with you traveling to national or local meetings of the Community?

15) Briefly describe your relationship history, and your current relationship status.

16) Briefly describe the Vocational discernment you’ve engaged in to this point, either within the Church or otherwise.

17) Have you ever discerned with, applied to join, or been accepted as a member of another religious community or monastic order? If so, please state the community (or communities) in question, and describe when the discernment or affiliation took place, as well as how and why it dissolved.

18) What particular gifts do you feel you would bring to the life of our community?

19) What particular gifts do you feel you might bring to the world at large, as a member of our Community?

20) At the present time, what feels to you like the most important thing in your life? What is calling out to you most fervently, and why do you think that is?

21) What hopes do you have for yourself as you consider a monastic vocation?