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act, Jesus and the widow's mite, why God answers some prayers but not others, does

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"We can find our feelings in the stories we read. We can almost see ourselves in

the stories" Sister Brigid @

Sister Brigid is in the house!

Podcasting live from the IHM

2012/03/09

http://t.co/fThpkQvn 2012/03/10

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Practicing runner and practicing Catholic, Julia runs for the nuns! Read the 1st installment of her marathon training http://t.co/Bkh0W8QS 2012/03/09 Get A Nun's Life updates sent directly to your email inbox. Enter your email address: Subscribe TRANSLATE THIS PAGE Select Language

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set of relationships is *really* a vocation? Do you want some awesome discussions around faith in real-life and more? Think hanging out with

NEWS ON THE NUNFRONT

Wondering how God is calling you? Are you curious about how your job or

Catholic sisters and a fun thoughtful, faith community is cool? Then you are in the right place! Welcome! Explore and be sure to visit with us every weekday at 6 pm CT in our chat room.

Do you have to be Catholic to be a Nun? by SISTER JULIE on SEPTEMBER 17, 2008 J.M.J.A.T. in BLOG POST, NUN 101 ccasionally I am asked if a person has to be Catholic in order to become a

First, the word *nun* is used across religious traditions to refer to a woman who takes vows "committing her to a religious life." Wikipedia further notes that "the term 'nun' is applicable to Roman Catholics, Eastern Christians, Anglicans, Lutherans, Jains, Buddhists, and Taoists, for example."

nun. There are a number of ways to approach this question.

Here in the United States, the word *nun* most often refers to the Catholic variety of nuns because that's probably what most people are familiar with, even outside of Catholic circles. And for many the <u>distinction between nun and sister</u> is rarely if ever noticed by those outside of religious life (a term that refers to a way of life characterized by the vows of poverty, celibacy, and obedience).

Still there are a number of people who have a kind of generic image of nuns as women who dedicate themselves to God, pray a lot, and do good for others. Sometimes this image is also associated with a rejection of not only the world but with ordinary living and being human ... that that nuns somehow live a blissfully peaceful, utopia-esque life that is totally unencumbered by the ordinary stuff of life relationships, heartache, struggle, joy, fun, suffering, busy-ness, etc. While it is true

for people who have the generic image of nuns, they may have no idea that being a nun means that your vows and your way of life is located within a particular religious tradition, not just free floating. The Roman Catholic Christian tradition, of which I am a member, is not the only religious tradition, nor is it even the only Christian tradition that has nuns. I recently read <u>an article about Episcopal nuns</u> who belong to <u>The Order of Saint Helena</u> in Augusta, Georgia. There's even some who blog — check out <u>Sister Claire Joy</u> who is also a member of <u>Sister Bloggers</u>, "Catholic Sisters, Episcopal Sisters, women in formation, those discerning a religious vocation and others who want to join the conversation." There are also ecumenical communities of nuns such as the Benedictine Women of Madison whom I've had the joy of meeting.

So the answer to the question really is, No, you don't have to be Catholic to be a nun, but you do have to belong to a particular religious tradition. If you want to be a Catholic nun, then yes, you have to be Catholic! Share this post with your peeps! Like 4 Tweet

Tagged as: benedictine, benedictine women of madison, catholic sister, episcopal nun, faq-nun, nun, order of saint helena, protestant nun, sister or nun

28 comments**Shannon S.** September 17, 2008 at 6:40 am

(http://www.orderofjulian.org/home.html) mainly because Julian of Norwich is also a mystic figure the Catholic Church honors as well.

Ray September 17, 2008 at 12:29 pm

brown slacks! **Jen** September 17, 2008 at 8:05 pm Shannon: you don't have to be Catholic to become a Benedictine Oblate of some communities. An Oblate is a lay person who lives according to the Rule of St. Benedict as far as their station in life will allow in association with some

I once inquired into a religious order I heard on the Christian radio station during

Sisterhood of Mary was Lutheran! Their brochures also showed Lutheran

my days of discernment. Imagine my surprise when I learned that the Evangelical

Franciscan Friars! (They had a cool habit-brown tunic and cowl with cincture over

must have been a typo, i duno. Anyways, I just clicked it and here I am. Your blog looks good. Have a nice day. James.

Greetings from a Presbyterian nun! As a young girl I wanted to be a nun, but I

welcomes women of any Christian denomination to become full members. Life

here, with the ecumenical community at Holy Wisdom Monastery, continues to

nurture and energize me as we live and grow together. We also have oblates from

wasn't Catholic. Eventually, I became a Presbyterian minister. Twelve years ago I discovered it was possible for me to live a vowed life as a Benedictine sister with Benedictine Women of Madison and still remain Presbyterian. Our community

James September 18, 2008 at 12:01 am

Sister Lynne September 18, 2008 at 8:08 am

many different Christian churches.

welcome. Macrina September 19, 2008 at 7:09 am There are also the Protestant sisters of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The are a sort of sister community to the brothers of Taizé in France, but have developed in slightly different ways. http://www.grandchamp.org/

teacher and the finest person that I have ever known. The world could use more people like her. Thank you, Sisters of Saint Joseph. Sister Julie December 21, 2008 at 4:31 am Welcome, Michael! Robyn TSSF February 4, 2009 at 12:33 am The Anglican (Episcopal, in the USA) church also has religious orders. I am a

I'm happy to answer any questions about TSSF if anyone wants to know more. Pax

Sister Julie February 9, 2009 at 4:58 am

Elena February 8, 2009 at 7:09 pm

discerning other vocations.

help to you.

Patti

don't know how and where.

Robyn TSSF

Dear Elena, Thank you for writing. I am not as familiar with Christian Orthodox nuns, but I have a couple suggestions. First would be to talk with someone at to help you with learning about becoming an Orthodox nun. Another option would be to contact someone at the regional level. In the Roman Catholic Church it would be the diocese office. I did a quick search and found, for such as this should have a vocations office, or someone who is familiar with

I live in Toronto, Canada I'm Christian Orthodok. I have been living in Canada for many years now I have been thinking of becoming a nun and live in monastery. I

Reed April 17, 2009 at 9:46 am Do Catholic and Episcopalian Nuns get along? Do they ever meet each other? **Sister Julie** April 17, 2009 at 10:14 am Yes, we all get along. I don't personally know an Episcopalian nun, but I'm sure Catholic and Episcopalian nuns have met and worked together. **Patt B.** June 24, 2009 at 7:26 pm Hi Reed,

Lisa August 7, 2009 at 12:43 pm

There are communities of lay people that may or may not be associated with religious communities that might interest you. They are lay men and women who care about community, spirituality, and mission and support one another in each's various mission and life. Just type in "lay communities" into your search engine. Please let me know if I can help further. Blessings, Sister J

I might be jumping on this bandwagon a little bit too late, but I just thought that I

denomination that I belong to.) I don't know much about the Order, but I do know that it exists. You can visit the Order of Corpus Christi at the following website:

would mention the monastic order in the United Church of Christ (the

Hi Eileen, I know of a few websites that do that. The one I know best is <u>Vision</u> <u>Vocation Network</u>. Also, check out <u>The Online Guide to Religious Ministries</u>. Blessings to you on your discernment. Please let me know how I can help. **Peggy** August 14, 2009 at 10:37 pm I am part of a session on the history of Sisters this November at the National Women's Studies Assn. conference, where one of the papers will be given by a School Sister of Notre Dame, and the session will be chaired by Sr. Elena Thompson (no relation), who is an Episcopal priest and a member of the Sisters

longing. Please write more about your daily life. Kind regards, Desirè Sister Mary Paul October 14, 2009 at 6:39 pm

and Bishop. The joyful part is the Life given to God, alone.

There are a number of questionable people who seek this life; but, seek it for

incorrect ways. Perhaps, to further their opinions or manner or lifestyle. These ways are not to the Glory of God; these ways are human ways.

the nun or monk still works to obtain this grace.

Sister Mary Paul, Diocesan Solitary Religious, Diocese of Los Angeles

Sister Mary Paul October 14, 2009 at 6:41 pm

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PREVIOUS POST: Monday is now Nunday NEXT POST: A deeper understanding of the Eucharist

> Resources **Archives** Sitemap "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" - Mary Oliver's poem The Summer Day Copyright © 2006 - 2012, A Nun's Life Ministry. All rights reserved unless otherwise noted. Website designed by Rowboat Media on Thesis.

that we live a different kind of lifestyle and seek peace by the grace of God, we are still human and are affected by the world we live in and our own humanity whether we are cloistered nuns or nuns living in the mainstream world. All that is to say that

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Thanks for this explanation...it's something I've been wondering about lately. I've been reading "The Cloister Walk" by Kathleen Norris, and I didn't understand how

in Protestant faiths!

happy fun ball.

I used to wonder about this well and how it also applies to monks, since we have them in other traditions. One order I always found interesting is the Order of Julian of Norwich, a small Order of both Episcopalian nuns and monks

Another Sister Julie, CSSF September 17, 2008 at 2:09 pm

community. Each oblate program is slightly different, so different communities will have different obligations for their Oblates. In other words, your mileage may vary, consult local monastery for details, offer not valid in all 50 states, do not taunt

Sister Julie September 18, 2008 at 11:15 am Hi Sister Lynne! I think we met once. My IHM Sister is the niece of Sister Joanne. We were at the monastery for an event a year or so ago. I hope you, Sister Joanne, and Sister Mary David are well. Thanks for visiting. You are always

Hello Sr. Julie, I wanted to also add a third option for religious life, which are ecumenical, nonresidential religious communities. I am a Sister in the Augustinians of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, an ecumenical order following the Rule of St. Augustine (http://www.aihmfriars.org). We're open to lay, ordained, married/celibate/single Christian men and women. Because we're non-residential, our members live out their vocation where God has already placed them. It's a

slightly different way of doing religious life, but it opens up the possibility to those

I found your blog by searching for the Sisters of St Joseph. I attended St Peters school in Westernport MD in the 1950's. Sister Saint Monica was my first grade

who may be called to deepen their baptismal promises but are not be able to

member of the Third Order, Society of St Francis, which has ordained, lay, male, female, married and single members in vowed religious life. I am female, married, a mum of one, and a Sister – a pretty good combo in my humble opinion! We are inspired by the Franciscan charism as expressed in Francis and Clare of Assisi. We are a "community in dispersion" – we meet regularly for prayer, Eucharist, study and ministry, and live our vowed lives "in the world but not of it". We make the three vows of simplicity, chastity, and obedience to our Order and the church (chastity is interpreted as living in such a way as not to possess people, with no sexual relations outside of marriage).

TSSF is a bit like the AIHM community Sister Lyngine talked about above. We still have a very strong community life, but it's not in a monastery – although there are

some groups of TSSF members who choose to live together in community.

the various Church vocations. I also encourage you to check out Saint Kosmas Aitolos Greek Orthodox Monastery in Bolton, Ontario. They welcome visitors to the monastery and are available via email. Even if you are not Greek Orthodox, I think you'll find some good guidance from both of these places. You might also check this list of Christian Orthodox monasteries for other locations and other Orthodox Church traditions.

For more general help in terms of discerning a vocation to become a nun, do check out my page How to Become a Catholic Nun ... a lot of it also applies to

Blessings on your discernment, Elena. Please let me know if I can be of any

In answer to your question, when I was a postulant in an Anglican (Episcopal) sisterhood, the local Roman Catholic sisters acted as our Spiritual Directors, and we had our monthly, individual retreats at their convent, as our place was very small. We had a great relationship with them. Also, often Roman Catholic sisters will conduct the yearly retreat for Anglican

A Catholic group of communal hermits comprised of both men and women with a

comunities, in preparation for their Chapter meetings.

Yossi July 29, 2009 at 12:27 pm

http://www.spirituallifeinstitute.org

Carmelite spirituality:

way. However, sometimes I do wish I could get more support in this call and would like to be around others who also have this call on their lives. Nearly everyone I know is either married or hoping to get married, and I feel a bit left out at times. The thought of being around other nun-like people or actual nuns appeals to me. I've read that there are some non-Catholic orders of nuns out there. Currently I'm not sure if I'd want to live in a convent. I have a desire to

experience living in different places in the US and possibly Europe too (to move

become a nun affiliate, for example, or to be associated with an order of nuns and to experience some sense of community and support from other nuns and people

Hi Lisa, Thank you for writing. Many Catholic religious communities (nuns and

sisters) have affiliate/associate programs where you can be involved in the prayer, community, and spirituality of the community without actually being a nun. Most accept women and men, and most from Catholic and non-Catholic traditions. I'm not as familiar with non-Catholic religious communities, but I would think that they'd have some kind associate/affiliate program too. You'd have to check each individually. If you are drawn to travel, you may look for a community founded in Europe and/or that emphasizes overseas mission work.

I've been wondering what options might be available to me. Is there a way to

called to lifelong celibacy? Or to perhaps become a part of an order of non-

around a bit), and would like to pursue more grad degrees.

Catholic nuns without living primarily in a convent?

The Future Rev. Cody August 8, 2009 at 7:37 pm

Eileen August 14, 2009 at 4:25 pm

and I can't find it again.

Sister Julie August 14, 2009 at 6:47 pm

Sister Julie August 10, 2009 at 8:09 am

really is the best, most natural choice for me. I'm now over 30 and still feel that

more information about the Order of St. Luke at the following website: http://www.saint-luke.org God is Love, +Cody

There was a website that I found through Stumble that gave you a place to input what your qualifications were, and referred you to orders where you would fit. Is

marriage would not be recognized by the Catholic church, which helps), so I am limited in where I could go. After recent contemplation, I feel this way of life calling to me again and would appreciate if anyone knows this resource so I can explore whether or not this is my true calling. Thank you. My bookmarks were wiped out,

anyone familiar with this? I was once married, and am older (although the

(like the ecumenical Benedictines) used to be a Catholic order, but is now an interfaith community open to both women and men, married and single. You can find out more about it at: http://www.immaculateheartcommunity.org/ Desirè September 8, 2009 at 2:35 am

of St. Helena, which Julie mentioned in the original piece that heads all these comments. The final paper will be given by a Sister of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (Catholic), but it is written on the Immaculate Heart Community, which

The hidden life in Jesus is further arduous for one struggles in the internal desert seeking salvation and perfection of soul. These are by Grace, naturally; however, I am a Magdalen. And, a Professed vowed nun in Southern California ... a place rampant with materialism and Self. This IS the desert.

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a non-Catholic could become a Benedictine oblate. It completely makes sense if they work from an ecumenical framework. I didn't even know that there are nuns

Hi, I found your blog on this new directory of WordPress Blogs at blackhatbootcamp.com/listofwordpressblogs. I dont know how your blog came up,

Macrina September 19, 2008 at 11:10 am And I forgot to mention the monastic community of Bose in Italy. They are an ecumenical community of brothers and sisters. The majority are Catholics, but there are also Protestants. (And I've heard that an Orthodox bishop lives with them as well, although I'm not sure that he's really a member). They have opted for noncanonical status in the Catholic Church (I think the are juridically an association of the faithful, or something like that) as the Holy See will not allow

canonical communities to be ecumenical. But they are very well-received in the monastic world in Europe and the founder and prior is a sought-after speaker.

Sr. Lyngine Dominique-Marie, AIHM November 28, 2008 at 2:54 pm

http://www.monasterodibose.it/index.php/

pursue religious life in more traditional ways.

Michael December 20, 2008 at 12:05 pm

your parish — it might be the pastor or another parish leader. They will be able example, the <u>Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Toronto</u>. A regional organization

A nontraditional, noncanonical ecumenical and dispersed community-no monastery, wears habit when and where appropriate, married or single, in the Camaldolese tradition: http://www.communityofsolitude.com Peace in Christ, Yossi I'm a Christian and consider myself to be a nondenominational one, though currently I attend a Presbyterian church. When I was 16, I started considering the possibility of being a lifelong celibate. In my 20's, I decided more firmly that that

http://orderofcorpuschristi.org/index.htm Also, there is an order of monastics that is affiliated with the United Methodist Church (although they will accept anybody, from what I've read.) You can find out

I think becoming a nun must be wonderful, a fully committed life to God, that is my

Some might not know of a more 'hidden life' in the consecrated vowed tradition. It is both arduous and joyful. The arduous part is the confirmation of a Diocese

I apologize. I failed to mention that the Diocese of Los Angeles is an Episcopal See.

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