

# The Vowed Life

## *The Marital and Monastic Life of Vows*

August 18-20, 2017

New Melleray Abbey

*One can expect something from married life because one can expect something for it that will transcend one's own capabilities. That "something" is Character.*

This is a retreat for couples married in the Catholic Church. Consecrated married life in the Catholic Church emphasizes the need for grace. One can expect something from married life because one can expect something for it that will transcend one's own capabilities. That "something" is Character.

Character is formed by the things we devote ourselves to for their own sake. Thus one's character is a gift of the thing to which one devotes the self. This is true for monks and for married couples.

Catholic consecrated life -whether marital or religious- calls us to nobility, willingness to sacrifice, and magnanimity. We need grace because we meet this call with our anxieties, insecurities, and inadequacies. Through the vowed life we do not necessarily "get over" these; we instead find something more important than these. Vows help us focus on what matter most. They give us direction.

Character exhibits the direction of self in the world marked by what we do and might count as reasons for our actions. Christian Character gives reasons grounded in Christian Convictions.

The Evangelical Counsels of Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience are given to all Christians to help them love God wholeheartedly and confront these obstacles to wholehearted love.

This silent retreat will consider how the monastic vows of Stability, Fidelity to Way of Life (which include poverty and chastity) and Obedience can help married couples devote themselves and grow in their shared wholehearted love for God that is the object of their marital vocation.

The retreat will begin at 5:30 p.m. Friday with Vespers followed by supper. The first conference will be at 6:45. There will be two conferences on Saturday and a discussion in the evening. Saturday meals will be in silence with a spiritual reading. The retreat will conclude with a renewal of wedding vows following the 9 a.m. Mass on Sunday.

Registration is limited to 8 couples. A fee of \$295 per couple includes room (linens and towels provided), meals, and materials. A \$50 deposit is requested. A limited number of grants are available. For more information please contact contact Fr. Jonah at (563) 588-2319 ext 100 or visit our website at [www.newmelleray.org](http://www.newmelleray.org).



*registration page >*

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**Please register me for: The Vowed Life  
August 18-20, 2017**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**I have enclosed: (check one)**

\$50 Deposit

Full registration fee of \$295.00

We will need two first floor rooms.

Please pick us up at the airport/bus terminal.

Arrival time: \_\_\_\_\_

We would like a double room if available.

**Please mail to**

The Vowed Life  
New Melleray Abbey  
6632 Melleray Circle  
Peosta, Iowa 52068

