

WHEN A DAUGHTER DECIDES TO RESIGN FROM THE ORDER

Read and become familiar with Article III, Section 4 of the National bylaws. Sometimes a Daughter hasn't paid her dues because she no longer wants to belong to the Order. As painful as that is, it is important to initiate a conversation to understand why. If you received a letter or email with this news, make every effort to contact her by phone. When possible arrange to meet with her face to face.

A Daughter may decide to resign because she is more than 2 fiscal years behind in paying her dues and is no longer in good standing. Become familiar with the reinstatement process and offer that as an option. This can be found in National bylaws Article III Section 5 at the National website under resources.

However, there are often other reasons and it can be an uncomfortable or contentious conversation. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you grace and words of understanding and love. Ask another Daughter to be in prayer during this time.

After an exchange of pleasantries, start with a simple statement and question. "It has come to my attention that you want to resign from The Order" or "Can you tell me why you no longer wish to be a Daughter?"

Hopefully, a dialogue ensues.

A. She replies that DOK is not what she expected. Ask for clarification.

1. "How were your expectations not being met by your chapter?"

2. "Did the study during your discernment period adequately prepare you for your vows?"

B. If she states she wants to resign because she is no longer able to attend meetings because of advanced age, failing health or invalidism, assure her it is not necessary for her to resign. She has taken her vows and is entitled to wear her cross. *

C. Encourage her to speak with her priest or a trusted clergy before making a final decision and returning her cross. She or the president of her chapter should return her cross to the National office and ask to have her name removed from the membership rolls. Offer to help her with this transition. *

D. Wish her well and encourage her to continue living a life of prayer and service.

*See National bylaws Article III Section 4.

Suggested Questions: WHEN A DOK DECIDES TO RESIGN FROM THE ORDER

When we learn a Daughter no longer wants to be in the Order, it is important to reach out to her. We want to offer support as well as learn why she wishes to leave. You may find it awkward and are at a loss as to what to ask and how to respond. These questions are a compilation of reasons given for leaving and are intended to help start a conversation. They also may give you some insight into the life of your chapters. Not all questions need be asked and are suggested only. FINALLY, pray first and proceed with love and compassion.

WHY DO YOU NO LONGER WISH TO BE A DAUGHTER?

Time commitment?

Competing Priorities?

Financial concerns such as dues?

Not what you expected?

Expectations not met?

Did not feel included?

Daughters did not make effort to make me feel part of the group?

Do not feel called?

RELOCATING?

Would you consider looking for a church with a chapter

Would you consider starting a new chapter if your new church has none or prefer DAL status?

Would you like me to help you with this?

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO THE ORDER?

What were your expectations and how were they met or not met?

Do you feel you were adequately instructed in what it means to live out your vows?

Did you attend chapter meetings during your discernment period?

Was your spiritual life not fulfilled?

DID YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE MENTIONING YOUR CONCERNS AND DECISION TO LEAVE WITH OTHER DAUGHTERS?

OR: Did you feel they were not interested or did not care?

Did you feel they were not interested in your thoughts and ideas?

Were you concerned about being perceived as a complainer or trouble maker?

DID YOU PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS, PRAYER LISTS, QUIET DAYS, SERVICE PROJECT, AND ASSEMBLIES?

Did you attend chapter meetings on a regular basis?

If you did not: Was the day and time inconvenient?

The length of meetings excessive or insufficient?

Were the meetings poorly organized?

Did you find the meetings not relevant to your spiritual growth and your spiritual life was not fulfilled?

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THE CHAPTER, DIOCESE, OR PROVINCE COULD HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY TO MEET YOUR NEEDS?