

**Chapter 8**

**apostolates** From the word *apostle*; the activity of the Christian that works to extend the reign of Christ to the entire world (see CCC, Glossary). Apostolates include teaching, ministering to the sick, and many other tasks.

**cloistered** The part of a monastery reserved only for the monks or nuns who reside in that monastery. Such monks and nuns may be referred to as “cloistered,” in that they strive for religious perfection within the confines of a monastery.

**consecrated life** A permanent state of life recognized by the Church and chosen freely by men and women in response to Christ’s call to perfection. It is characterized by profession of the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

**eschatological sign** Something that points to eternal life.

**hermits** Those who separate themselves from the world in prayer and penance in order to be devoted to the praise of God and the salvation of the world.

**monks** Male members of a monastic or contemplative order.

**nuns** Women religious living a cloistered, contemplative life in a monastery.

**religious brothers** Men who take religious vows, usually poverty, chastity, and obedience. A brother is not ordained to the priesthood.

**religious sisters** Members of a religious order or congregation of women devoted to active service and/or contemplation. Members typically take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

**vows** Acts of devotion in which a person dedicates himself or herself to God or promises God some good work. A vow is “a deliberate and free promise made to God concerning a possible and better good which must be fulfilled by reason of the virtue of religion” (CCC, Glossary) Religious women and men typically take vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience.