

ANSWER KEY to SEEK2017 QUIZ!

Think you know all there is to know about Catholic vocations? Let's see how much you know about one of the most unknown vocations in the Catholic church: Secular Institutes.

To all of you who are joining us at the SEEK2017 conference—Thanks for visiting us! If you are looking for the answers to our onsite quiz then you found the right page. Answers can be found on this website as well as our very cheerful brochure. (Just look at it. Isn't it the most cheerful brochure you've ever seen?) This is an open book quiz, so don't go confessing to a priest that you cheated today. God forbid we would lead you into temptation.

It all started a long time ago in a land far away. Saint Angela Merici of Lombardy founded the **Company of St. Ursula in 1535 A.D.** in which single women consecrated their lives to God and devoted their time to educating girls and other works of charity. What made them unique was that they lived in the world and not in a convent. The movement spread throughout the region with the Pope's blessing but came to an abrupt end when St. Angela died. Without her strong leadership the movement of consecration in the world also died.

But beginning in the 19th century, as **atheist dictators and a materialistic mindset** took hold of Europe, the spiritual movement of consecration in the world returned and took root. Groups of celibate men and woman, along with priests, began to form pious unions and they made private **vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.** They remained in the world in order to evangelize people the Church could not reach. In places where the Church and priests went "underground," so did consecrated life.

In 1947, Pope Pius XII wrote Provida Mater Ecclesia, which recognized the pious unions as a valid and fruitful movement of the Holy Spirit in response to the new challenges in the modern world. He gave a new name to the unions, calling them Secular Institutes. **These institutes were not to be confused with lay branches of existing religious orders.** They were defined as a unique form of consecrated life and **added to the Code of Canon Law.**

Professed members are **fully consecrated and fully lay.** Like religious, members take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. They **practice daily prayer, meditation and frequent reception of the sacraments.** Each institute has its unique charism and spirituality that guides its members in their apostolic mission. However, while religious are called to be a visible sign of the Kingdom of heaven, members of secular institutes are **called to be the leaven in the world.** They **do not take new names or use surnames like sister or brother in public.** They do not live in convents or monasteries, but in the world, **either alone or with other members.** Their consecration is kept private and revealed only when necessary to their mission. Some members, called **"reserves,"** do not reveal their consecration to anyone other than their fellow institute members and their bishop.

Today there are **over 200 secular institutes in the world.** Because there are institutes carrying out the Gospel mission in hostile territory, the Church does not provide exact numbers and locations. It truly is an "underground" or "undercover" assignment with regard to consecration. But it is for the purpose of living the faith as leaven in the world, as the light in the darkness for those who would otherwise never hear or witness the love of Jesus Christ.

And by the providence of God, we will live happily ever after!

Hope we made this the **easiest quiz** ever! May you find blessing in this conference and find the vocation God has waiting for you. Peace and joy!