



The life of Carthusian nuns is devoted to the **praise of God** and intercession for all



THE **CARTHUSIAN**  
ORDER

“An ideal place to live in solitude in order to devote oneself to searching for the One thing necessary.” Such is the ideal by which God seduced Saint Bruno, a man of a deep heart. In 1084, together with six companions, he began a way of life which gave rise to the Carthusian Order.

In the Order there are both monasteries of monks and convents of nuns, all sharing the same vocation: a life of prayer and solitude in the heart of the Church.



*Community celebration of the Liturgy*

## THE HEART OF A CARTHUSIAN MONASTERY

In the solitude of the hermitage, “the love for God opens wide the heart of a Carthusian nun so as to embrace the whole universe and the mystery of Redemption itself”.

The main trait of the Carthusian vocation could best be described as intimacy with God in silence and solitude. Within a Carthusian monastery there are three essential elements which combine to help each monk attain this sublime ideal:



**True Solitude:** implying separation from the world, symbolized by the observance of strict enclosure.



**A wise blending of solitary and community life:** although solitude prevails, there are times of fraternal meeting which balances solitude and make it more fruitful. Precisely this balance and harmony is characteristic of Carthusian life as a whole.



**The Carthusian liturgy:** centred on morning Mass, afternoon Vespers and the midnight Office of Matins and Lauds, all celebrated with pause and simplicity.



## THE LIFE IN THE HERMITAGE

“Retiring to a hermitage is a decision that can only be taken when in the heart burns the intimate certainty that in the deepness of solitude hides an incomparable love that cannot be equalled by any other.”

We Carthusian nuns “want to be the adoring heart of the Church and the loving heart of humanity. For that reason, day and night from our solitude, we raise to heaven God’s praise and we present him the countless needs of the entire world.”





*Gathering of the community on Sundays*

## FORMS OF CARTHUSIAN LIFE

There are different ways to consecrate one's life to God in the solitude of a Carthusian monastery:

- ✚ The *Nuns of the Cloister*, who live in the hermitages of the monastery during the greater part of the day engaged in prayer, study and manual labour.
- ✚ The *Converse Nuns*, who lead a life of authentic solitude and, besides prayer and study, realize their assigned tasks outside their hermitages in different workshops within the monastery enclosure.

# THE CARTHUSIAN ORDER IN THE WORLD



United States



Brazil



Argentina

United Kingdom

France  
Spain

Italy



Germany  
Switzerland  
Slovenia



South Korea



If you feel the call to become a Carthusian nun,

*Returning from the weekly walk*

For more information about the Carthusian Order contact us:

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be assured that God's grace will lead you to discover that nothing like solitude more readily reveals His Divine Presence.



*Monastery of the Grande Chartreuse in the French Alps,  
Motherhouse of the Carthusian Order*