



CONTACT: Patrice Tuohy PHONE: 312.829.7200 or 800.942.2811
E-MAIL: ptuohy@truequest.biz WEB: www.VocationMatch.com

VOCATIONMATCH.COM attracts record number of inquirers interested in Catholic religious vocations. Nearly 7,000 vocation seekers complete profiles on the Vocation Match site in the past year.

Chicago, Sept. 29, 2008—**Vision Vocation Guide** and the popular **VocationMatch.com** website saw a record-breaking 6,930 people interested in Catholic religious vocations complete online profiles and request information from religious communities in the past year.

VocationMatch.com gathers information from inquirers and then matches their profiles against the profiles of religious communities in its database. Inquirers are put in touch with the communities that best match their personal preferences and interests—in much the same way successful dating websites bring potentially compatible couples together.

Prior to the launch of **VocationMatch.com** those who felt called to religious life were faced with the daunting task of sifting through hundreds of community listings. Keyword searches helped but still didn't offer insight to discerners on whether they would be more suited for the Benedictines or the Ursulines, the Jesuits or the Marists, for example.

Now with **VocationMatch.com** discerners are getting a better sense of where they might be called and a narrower list of communities to contact. Vocation directors benefit by receiving inquiries from more qualified discerners who have considered some of the more practical questions of choosing a religious vocation, such as: Do I want to live in a monastery or a house; minister overseas or in a local community; be part of a large or small community; wear a habit or religious symbol; and pray with others once a day or several times a day?

In Vocation Match's first year, reader profiles jumped from 1,503 to 5,591. This past year, Vocation Match drew in another 6,690 new (unique) visitors. "Vision Vocation Match has become an indispensable tool for Catholic religious vocation discernment," says Patrice Tuohy, executive editor of **VISION Vocation Guide**, published by TrueQuest Communications of Chicago on behalf of the National Religious Vocation Conference.

Indeed, the success of **VocationMatch.com** has caught the attention of mainstream media outlets, with mentions in *Time* magazine and on the *CBS Evening News* with Katie Couric.

"With fewer Catholics being taught by religious sisters, brothers, and priests, exposure to those living in religious communities has declined but interest in religious life has actually increased in recent years," says Tuohy. "The internet has played a significant role in getting the word out about religious life. Now Vocation Match has taken things one step further by assisting discerners in sorting through large amounts of information in a more efficient and accessible way."

VocationMatch.com (in Spanish at **EncuentroVocacional.com**) is among the many innovative vocation tools provided by **VISION Vocation Guide**. This August saw the launch of a sophisticated digital edition, **DigitalVocationGuide.org**, and a friendly new look for the main **VISION** website, **VocationGuide.org**. **VISION**'s unique online features include year-round vocation opportunity postings, searchable community listings, lively blogs, quizzes, and statistics on trends, articles in Spanish and French, and a new question-and-answer column by award-winning author Alice Camille.

"It is very gratifying for us to know that we are finding effective new ways to meet the needs of 21st-century religious communities and the men and women considering vowed life in those communities," says Tuohy.

For more information, go to **VocationMatch.com** or click on the links below for Vocation Match discerner statistics:

2007-08: <http://www.vocation-network.org/articles/show/154>

2006-07: <http://www.vocation-network.org/articles/show/64>

#

#

#

VISION VOCATION GUIDE, in print and online at **VocationGuide.org**, is published by TrueQuest Communications, LLC of Chicago, **TrueQuest.biz**, on behalf of the National Religious Vocation Conference, **NRVC.net**. **VISION VOCATION GUIDE** is the most comprehensive resource available for those interested in learning more about religious orders, religious life, or vocation-related opportunities.