

TOP TEN LIST

SPs Sharing Community Life with PVMs

1. Remember to live by the Golden Rule.
Treat others as you would like to be treated with welcome, warmth, love, dignity, respect, affirmation, and honesty.
2. Remind yourself daily that the PVM and you are on the same team.
The PVM is working in partnership with the entire community of Sisters of Providence to further the mission of giving witness to the spirit of Providence, God's loving care for all creation, through works of love, mercy and justice just like you are.
3. Prepare a statement of community living expectations and discuss these with the PVM **during the first week.**
Please be sure to be specific and detail-oriented in your statement of expectations, and include the following items: guests, house-phone, use of car, community household chores, meals, emergency procedures, and other items that you might have.
4. Address difficulties immediately and directly with the PVM.
It might be a good idea to schedule occasional check-ins with the PVM, especially during the first 3 months to be sure that expectations are being followed and also to deal with any difficult issues that may have arisen.
5. Invite the PVM to participate in community prayer and community social life.
*The emphasis in this tip is on invitation. Remember that a PVM is not a "postulant" and is therefore not bound by "postulant" rules; however a PVM is encouraged to participate in as many community events (prayer, social, etc.) as she can. The PVM needs to be **invited**, but not **expected** to attend everything.*
6. Be patient with the PVM and yourself.
This is an adjustment and transitional time for the PVM and yourself. This transitional time may include adjustment to community living, a new city/state/country, new friends, new work, new supervisors, new cultures.
7. Be open.
Freely share your Providence history and stories as well as your joys/struggles with or your ministry and life with your PVM. You may be the first introduction of a Sister of Providence to the volunteer. Make it a great and lasting impression! Also be open to what your PVM has to share with you. Express interest in and ask questions about their day-day wellbeing and their ministry.
8. Respect differences
The best way to do this is by remembering that you are both learner and teacher, and that there is no one right way. Try to understand another's way, even if you don't necessarily agree with it. For example, be aware of the PVM's social needs, especially if they are young, and encourage them to get involved with activities within and outside of the community.
9. Laugh!
There is too little humor and fun in our world today. Seek to create an atmosphere of humor and fun in your community house. Laugh at yourself and your own mistakes and laugh with your PVM.
10. Enjoy the experience, and remember the words of our foundress.
"Place yourself gently in the hands of Providence." Who knows what learnings God will have for you this year, by accepting the invitation to have a PVM live with you.