

EAC

# DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF AN INSTRUMENT  
THAT WILL MEASURE THE DEGREE OF MATURITY  
OF WOMEN IN THE RELIGIOUS LIFE

---

A Thesis

Presented to

the Faculty of the Graduate School

De La Salle University

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts in Guidance and Counseling

---

by

Sr. Gliceria Manuyag, FdCC

June 1988

**AKLATANG EMILIO AGUINALDO**



# DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES		PAGE
CHAPTER		
1	INTRODUCTION .....	1
	Conceptual Framework .....	6
	Objectives of the Study .....	9
	Significance of the Study .....	10
	Scope and Limitations .....	11
	Definition of Terms .....	13
2	REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE .....	15
	Part I: Concepts and Indicators of Maturity .....	15
	Part II. Relatedness of Maturity to Success in the Religious Vocation .....	19
	Part III. Different Instruments that Measure Personality and Behavior .....	21
3	METHOD	
	Research Design .....	32
	Subjects .....	32



# DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

CHAPTER		PAGE
	Instruments .....	33
	Procedure .....	34
	Treatment of Data .....	37
4	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION: THE SEARCH FOR CONTENT DOMAIN .....	39
	Maturity in the Community Life .....	49
	Maturity in the Apostolic Life .....	50
	Maturity in the Spiritual Life .....	50
	Maturity in the Vow of Chastity .....	51
	Maturity in the Vow of Poverty .....	52
	Maturity in the Vow of Obedience .....	52
	Interviews .....	53
	Summary .....	69
	Discussion .....	71
5	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION: TEST DEVELOPMENT ..	74
	Item Writing .....	74
	Content Validation .....	74
	Test Format .....	77
	Field Testing .....	77
	Scoring .....	77
	Item Analysis .....	79



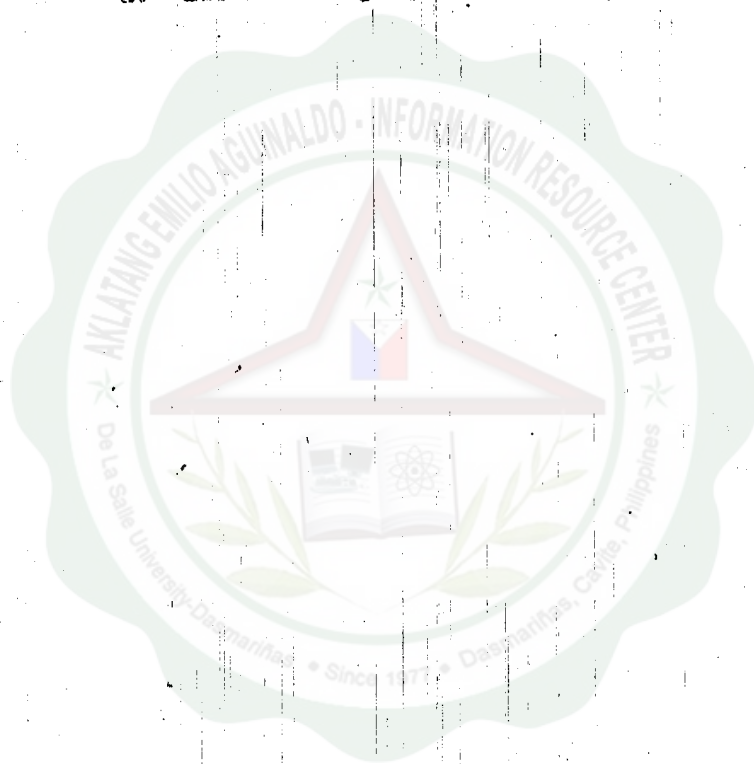
# DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

CHAPTER		PAGE
	Construct Validation .....	84
	Discussion .....	88
6	THE TEST .....	92
	Description .....	92
	Administration .....	93
	Instruction for Administration .....	93
	Scoring .....	94
	Interpretation of MIRW .....	95
	Reliability .....	95
	Factor Composition .....	96
7	SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION .....	97
	Summary .....	97
	Conclusion .....	102
	Recommendations: .....	102
	References .....	104
	Appendices	
	a. A Copy of the Letter Sent to the Respondents .....	108



# DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

b. A Copy of the Questionnaire Sent to the Respondents .....	109
c. Age Range of the Respondents...	110
d. No. of Years in the Convent of the Respondents .....	112
e. List of Congregation .....	113





# DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

## LIST OF TABLES

1. Understanding of Religious Maturity as Perceived by Superior, Religious Men and Women in Formation, Vocation Animators and Spiritual Directors .....	41
2. Indicators of Religious Maturity .....	44
3. Distribution of Items Before Field Testing .....	76
4. Result of the First Item Analysis Before Factor Analysis .....	79
5. Reliability Coefficient: Before and After Factor Analysis .....	82
6. Result of the Item Analysis After Factor Analysis .....	83



## Chapter VII

### Summary, Conclusions and Recommendation

#### Summary

The aim of the study was to develop and validate an instrument to measure the maturity of women in the religious life. It is the researcher's attempt to contribute to the development of local test.

To accomplish the above mentioned goal, this instrument development project underwent three phases: developing the content domain of the instrument, conducting preliminary validity studies and developing of the manual for administration. Norms in the form of percentile ranks were also constructed.

The following steps were made to accomplish the first phase:

1. Survey of opinion of maturity in the religious life from among men and women formators, superiors, vocation animators and spiritual directors.
2. Interview of the same group of respondents.
3. Construction of the behavioral statements based the results of the survey and interview that served as the item pool.
4. Submission of the item pool for "Judging" by five more experienced formators, superiors, vocation animators and spiritual



directors to find out whether the items were correctly classified, discarding some irrelevant items.

5. Further scrutiny of the items by the members of the panel and a guidance counselor from other school.

Phase 2 consisted of the following steps:

1. Field testing of the preliminary form.
2. Item analysis of the results and determination of the reliability of the instrument.
3. Factor analysis

Phase 3 dealt on the finalization of the instrument, improving the instruction for administration and scoring the inventory and construction of norms.

Forty one religious men and women formators, superiors, vocation animators, and spiritual directors participated in the gathering of concepts and behavior indicators, vocation animators for the classification and the thesis defense committee and one other guidance counselor for further scrutiny of the items.

### Findings, Suggestions and Description of a Mature Religious

In view of the search for content domain, the researcher sought the description of a mature religious.





Opinions that were given revealed a clear definition of maturity in the religious life. Through the given behavioral indicators a profile of a mature religious was seen.

Evident from the expressed ideas was that maturity in the religious life is the harmonious integration of the physical, psychological and spiritual aspects of the religious. It is a growth, a process, when a religious comes to the knowledge and acceptance of one's self and in turn is able to give to God and others to the fullest with all her assets and limitations. While in the process of becoming, the religious exhibits behaviors that are indicative of maturity which were identified by the respondents and were classified in terms of community life, apostolic life, spiritual life and the vows.

The preliminary item pool was subjected to "judging" to find out if the items were properly classified. In the process of sorting out items reaching the cut-off percentage of the respondents, that is three out of five endorsements were retained. From 167 items, 158 were retained.

For further judging, these 158 items were submitted to the thesis defense committee and one other guidance counselor and lay formator. The items that were found irrelevant were discarded thus reducing the items to 144.



In the second phase, Preliminary Reliability and Validity studies were made. Its main concern was to answer the following questions:

1. Will items discriminate between those who are mature and less mature?
2. What would be the reliability index?
3. What is the evidence of its validity?
4. Will the instrument confirm the characteristics mentioned in the preliminary interview?

The answers to these questions were based on the statistical analyses of the results of the Inventory.

## Item Discrimination

For the first question in phase 2 all the 91 items that comprise the Inventory had moderate to high item-total correlations and therefore had moderate to high discriminative power to separate the high scorers from the low scorers. The 91 items are those that remained after discarding the items that had low correlations.

## Structural Components

After the items were factor analyzed for two times the items converged to one topic only which is identified as religious life.



## Reliability

The indices of reliability of the final form of the Inventory are as follows: the 12 items that loaded highly in chastity attained a reliability coefficient of .75; 17 items on Poverty has a reliability coefficient of .83; the 12 items of obedience has a reliability coefficient of .798; 18 items for community life has a reliability coefficient of .87; .83 for the 17 items of apostolic life and for spiritual life 15 items has a reliability coefficient of .86. The reliability coefficient of this test range from .75 to .83.

## Construct Validity

The items of the inventory were subjected to Factor Analysis. There was no evidence of clusters based on the results of rotated factor. The process revealed that the items converged under one factor which is Religious Life.

Norms: Based on the test results of the 300 respondents who had taken the MIRW, norms in terms of percentile rank were constructed.

The ideas given from the preliminary interview of a mature religious corroborate with the instrument.



### Conclusion

These conclusions are drawn out of the analyses of the results of the study:

1. That religious life has different aspects; chastity, poverty, obedience, community life, apostolic life, spiritual life, and the degree of maturity of a religious cannot be measured by these areas taken separately.
2. Maturity is the attainment of the wholeness of the religious which is equivalent to success in the religious life.
3. Description of mature religious cited by the respondents were reflective of those characteristics of maturity mentioned by the psychologist and other experts.
4. Based on the findings in the present study on the development of an instrument to measure religious maturity, the MIRW is a reliable instrument.

### Recommendations

At this stage of the development of the instrument, the inventory can be used to assess maturity among religious women and those still in the formation period. The test can be administered to those young women who are just beginning to undergo their religious formation to





determine their level of maturity. These same young women can be retested after every stage of their formation like novitiate and juniorae. The results can help the authorities and people concerned in the assessment of their formation program. It is also recommended that this Inventory be part of the test battery to be used for follow-up of those young women entering the religious life.

Further research is also recommended for the improvement of the instrument:

1. Conducting a research study on the factors affecting maturity among women in the religious life like age, number of years in the religious life, formation experiences and program.
2. Conducting a survey opinion on maturity as a basis for development of an instrument relevant to men religious.
3. Field testing the MIRW to a larger group of religious women from different congregation.
4. To conduct further validity studies.

