



Rings & Things

As you prepare to take your first vows with the Order of the Mustard Seed, you'll need to consider and plan your answers to the following 4 questions:

1. Where will you take your vows?
2. What symbol will mark your vows?
3. Who will be in your Cymbrogi?
4. What will be in your initial Personal Customary – the initial set of practices you're committing to as you take your vows?

1. Vow Ceremony

We encourage candidates (as much as they're able) to be with other OMS Members as they take their first vows, because our commitment is communal and not simply individual.

Of course, this isn't always possible – it might be necessary to book the online vow ceremony, and if this is true for you, do encourage other friends and supporters to be physically present with you, and to pray for you as you take this major step.

A number of Vow Ceremonies will be in operation around the globe in the September – November window. These will be confirmed to you by email and will also be available via the OMS website.

Only by booking (and attending) a Vow Ceremony will your name be included amongst the OMS membership.

2. Symbol of your Vows

When you're ready and have received confirmation from your Cohort Leader 1-2-1 that they support your decision to take OMS vows, you will need to choose your symbol of membership in the OMS.

Rings

Members of the OMS generally wear either a tattoo or a ring carrying the words of Romans 14:7: "ΟΥΔΕΙΣ ΗΜΩΝ ΕΑΥΤΩ ΖΗ" ('None of us lives for themselves.'). This is the original text worn by Zinzendorf and the founders of the first OMS, and it emphasises the communal aspect of our Rule - seeking to prefer one another and to honour those who have gone before.



You'll find a list of authorised ring suppliers at the bottom of this document. The OMS has specific requirements for the official OMS rings, including the ethical sourcing of materials. As the order grows, we're developing a global network of suppliers who can deliver official OMS rings according to these requirements.

The official OMS ring is the one symbol that unites all OMS members, and there's something to be said for making a choice to wear this ring, as we choose a communal commitment and relinquish our desires and drives for individualism.

In some cases, members choose to use an existing ring, and they have it inscribed.

Any new ring should be made from ethically sourced materials and carry the words from Romans 14 above. This inscription may be on the inside or outside of the ring.

Tattoos



If you choose to mark your vows by selecting a tattoo, you may design it yourself (*this picture is just an example*).

It does not have to carry the words of Romans 14:7, however we expect it to be representative of the vows you have taken, as this should be its primary purpose in this context.

Please carefully consider the visual language incorporated. We suggest you avoid incorporating words other than those reflective of the Order of the Mustard Seed.

Other symbol

If a ring or tattoo are not appropriate for you and you need to mark your membership by another symbol, your symbol of commitment should have the same inscription.

3. Cymbroggi

All OMS Members need to have a Cymbroggi (see Section 4.13 OMS Guide).

The OMS Guide explains that our Cymbroggi are *“companions on our spiritual journey, trusted Christian friends or advisers who will check in with us about our vows and practices, and whom we will seek out to discuss our adherence to our vows over the coming years. They are long term, mature, Christian friends, who want to cheer us on.”*

We recognise that the grouping of soul friends that make up our Cymbroggi might well change over time, though Members all understand that they need to work toward establishing an effective, accountable set of relationships, where they are known, encouraged and challenged.

The Cymbroggi need not be made up of OMS members, though some have found that the depth of challenge and encouragement goes deeper when those others are also committed to living out the same vows. Try it for yourself, and experiment until you find a final healthy Cymbroggi.

4. Personal Customary

Throughout your Season of Preparation, you've been exploring exactly which practices are bringing you life – ones that will help you fulfil the 3 vows of the OMS: to be True to Christ, Kind to Others, and to Take the Gospel to the Nations.

Each month, you've been pondering the personal commitment you'd like to make, as you've captured the specific practices that you want to commit to. These personal practices enable you to fulfil the related vow, and as you've captured your desires month-by-month, you've been adding to the big picture of your initial Personal Customary.

As you commit for the next 5 years to shape your entire life around the OMS Framework (of vows and practices), it is incredibly helpful for you to have a clear starting point drafted in your Personal Customary. Your customary lays out with clarity the expectations you set for yourself, and whilst we know that we'll all fail, and have to start again and again, we know that our personal Customary describes the life that we want for ourselves, so we keep picking ourselves up, and starting again!

Without a clear Personal Customary, there is no specific rule of life that we're committing to as we take our vows. Do take the time to document a clear starting point for your customary, moving from the concepts of the practices to a tangible trellis that you'll begin with. We all understand that this document will continue to change, as we respond to God's invitations along life's journey, yet it must start somewhere. It's helpful to have the specifics of your Personal Customary in mind as you take your vows.

Official OMS Ring Suppliers

We've worked with all of the following suppliers to ensure that they are able to provide an official OMS ring. Prices vary – do shop from the supplier / continent that suits best. Please make contact with them for the details, prices and timings that they offer.

Canada & North America

Premier Gems – [click here](#)

The 'official' ring is Silver – these guys offer other metals too, though they're pricey

UK

Silver Fish Jewellery – [click here](#)



Germany & Europe

Benedictine Monastery, Münsterschwarzach, using recycled silver ([check out the monastery!](#)) – to order a ring email goldschmiede@vier-tuerme.de with size, estimated cost €110-135

Australia & Oceania

Mayben Jeweller – [click here](#)