



Jesus reminds us:

*I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who live in me and I in them will bear abundant fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

- John 15:5

### **What We've Read: Stewardship and Vocation**

*One of the most crucial questions we ponder in our lives is that of vocation.*

Who are you, and what are you called to do? In a fundamental way, we share a common vocation as Christian disciples. To be a disciple is our vocation. But there is a personal vocation that must be considered as well. What shape will this discipleship take in your life?

All of these questions of vocation are given clarity when we recall the root of the word "vocation" is the Latin *vocare*, which means to call. Christ calls each of us personally.

Beyond the call to a particular state of life – priesthood, religious life, married or committed single life – there are calls that we discern and live throughout our lives. In this sense, there is no singular, once-and-for-all calling. Rather, your entire life as a steward is a process of recognizing and responding to God's grace. You do this most profoundly when you acknowledge the gifts you have been given and discern what work or service most needs what you have to give. - 30 Days on Stewardship by Leisa Anslinger; Twenty-Third Publications, Copyright 2018. Used with Permission.

**Discernment Steps\*** (as developed by Sister Sandra Weinke, SSND; commentary by Sister Bridget Waldorf, SSND)

**\*PRAYER IS INTEGRATED INTO EACH STEP. (Step 1 – Look; Step 2 – Listen...)**

### **3. LEARN**

**How do you understand your role in the future? What could you give or share?**

**Be curious.**

**Ask questions.**

**Take advantage of invitations from individuals or communities who invite you to come and see or experience them more closely. It's okay – we want to help you. Clarify. For example, ask the question, "When you say you pray three times a day, what does that look like?" Ask questions about mission or ministry or educational debt or family visits or community life or material goods. Learn why a particular group wears what it does. Read. Weigh the pros and cons as you understand them. Take notes. Do the practical research. What is a community saying? What is it not saying? What is the history of the congregation? Is it an international congregation or diocesan?**

**Imagine yourself with a particular congregation – how do you see your gifts being shared? What interests you about a congregation's ministerial focus or mission?**

**Much of learning is necessarily practical, but it is only one part of discernment. We bring both our heads and hearts to discernment.**

**Next Month: LEAN INTO IT**

## Looking Ahead:

### *Nun Run*

San Antonio, TX

September 22, 2018 8:30am – 6pm

Come join us and visit different convents. Fun with sisters. Fellowship and worship.

Learn more and register here - [www.archsa.org/vocations/nun-run](http://www.archsa.org/vocations/nun-run)

For questions, contact the Vocation Office (210) 735-0553 or by e-mail [anacecilia.montalvo@archsa.org](mailto:anacecilia.montalvo@archsa.org)

### *Discernment Dash*

San Antonio, TX

Sunday, October 7, 2018 11a -4pm

Help commemorate the opening of the Synod on Youth, Young Adults, and Vocational Discernment in Rome by gathering with young people, families, religious, priests, seminarians, and people in discernment, and with the Archbishop. We will run or walk a 5K path from Assumption Seminary to Our Lady of the Lake University - praying for God to send holy men and women to be priests, religious sisters, and brothers. The event is free. Bring a group from your parish, youth group, or prayer community. We hope to gather as a great witness to the movement of the Holy Spirit in the Church. If you are a runner, come compete prayerfully for a great cause. If you are not a runner, come and walk with us as we pray for the future of our Church.

Registration is open and information is available: <https://www.archsa.org/vocations/discernment-dash>

### *Come and Be - Dinner & Prayer with the SSNDs*

Dallas, TX

Friday, October 12, 2018 6-8p

[bwaldorf@ssnd.org](mailto:bwaldorf@ssnd.org)

469-458-3130 or 507-217-0663, please call to let us know you'll be joining us!

### *National Vocation Discernment Retreat for Hispanic women (ages 21-40)*

San Antonio, TX

March 7-10, 2019

\$30 registration fee – includes retreat, lodging and meals

Deep Encounter: Listening with An Open Heart / Profundo Encuentro: Eschuchando Con un Corazon Abierto

Offered in English and Spanish

Hilton Airport Hotel

Online Registration opens [September 15, 2018](#)

[www.nationalcatholicsistersproject.org](http://www.nationalcatholicsistersproject.org)

### **This Month's Resources for Discernment:**

**Did you know? If you have a question or would like to speak to an SSND sister about vocation, we are available to meet with you personally. Please feel free to contact us....**

Sister Mary Kay Brooks – [mbrooks@ssnd.org](mailto:mbrooks@ssnd.org)

Sister Nancy Gilchrist – [ngilchrist@ssnd.org](mailto:ngilchrist@ssnd.org)

Sister Stephanie Spandl – [sspandl@ssnd.org](mailto:sspandl@ssnd.org)

Sister Rebecca Tayag – [rtayag@ssnd.org](mailto:rtayag@ssnd.org)

Sister Bridget Waldorf – [bwaldorf@ssnd.org](mailto:bwaldorf@ssnd.org)

*Love gives everything gladly, again and again...  
El Amor da todo con alegría y lo renueva cada día.  
- 24th General Chapter of the School Sisters of Notre Dame*

[www.ssnd.org](http://www.ssnd.org)

[www.gerhardinger.org](http://www.gerhardinger.org)

[www.ssndcp.org](http://www.ssndcp.org)

[www.amssnd.org](http://www.amssnd.org)

*Vocation Reflections is a monthly newsletter for those interested in learning more about discernment, prayer, and other topics related to the consecrated/vowed life. For questions, comments and [subscription information](#), please contact [sisters@ssnd.org](mailto:sisters@ssnd.org)*