



Scripture reminds us:

“Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

Colossians 3:17

What We've Read: Faith Is A Gift

Faith is a gift. You do not earn it, nor can you claim credit for having it. You steward faith well by growing in faith, allowing it to shape your life, and sharing it with others.

Growing in faith is a process of placing your mind, heart, life, and spirit in the hands of God, trusting that God wants to be in deep relationship with you. God wants you to know and believe in him. When you grow strong in faith, you find that you naturally want it to shape your life, to direct your attitudes and actions, decisions and interactions, so that all you are and do is a reflection of God's love.

Sharing faith is a way to acknowledge the place God has in your life. It is the natural response of one who is in love – when you love someone, you cannot help but want to share the impact of the love with the people around you. You say, in words or actions, that you cannot imagine what life would be like without the one you love in it.

- 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; Step 3 – Learn...)**

4. LEAN INTO IT

Lean into your discernment.

Embrace it. Surrender to it.

Be intentional.

Talk to someone - because even before he or she says anything, it's really helpful for you to say out loud what your hopes and fears are. Use your imagination – imagine taking the next step and then reflect on what it feels like to do so. Imagine yourself as a consecrated woman with a particular mission being done in the midst of a community of other women doing the same. “Wade in the water” of life as a married person or one who offers her life as a single person. What does that look like? How does that feel? Take little next steps or make a decision. Make the phone call. Tell one person what you're thinking.

Lean into prayer too. Embrace opportunities to pray. Break open scripture with another person or two. Read the stories of God calling individuals in scripture. What were the responses? How might those stories lead you in prayer? Up the number of times you go to Mass during a week; spend time in adoration; participate in liturgy of the hours. Be honest and specific with God. Ask Jesus to befriend you in ways that will be of support. Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance.

I recall listening to a panel of sisters speak about their own vocational stories - sacred stories of women who had discerned God's will. Stories that were human and authentic and touching and joyful. We heard words like call, prayer, following God's will and phrases like, “if you're open, you'll hear” and “I entered and found things I didn't know about.” It made me grateful to be in that space to listen and I was also thinking of Galatians 5:22 – the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control – and that is what was experienced – women who had leaned into their discernment and came to know love and joy and peace....that's the promise when we welcome the Holy Spirit into our discernment.

Next Month: LOVE

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)

Looking Ahead:

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

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.nationalcatholicistersproject.org

This Month's Resources for Discernment:

The 15th General Synod on Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment is happening right now – October 3-28th – in Rome, Italy.

Check out the official website – and let us all pray for the power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit as all gather for the Synod.

<http://www.synod2018.va/content/synod2018/en.html>

*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

www.gerhardinger.org

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www.amssnd.org

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