

Vocation Reflections November 2018



Scripture reminds us:

“I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the LORD. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart.”

- Jeremiah 24:7

What We've Read:

Consecrated life is a call to incarnate the Good News, to follow Christ, the crucified and risen one, to take on “Jesus’s way of living and acting as the Incarnate Word in relation to the Father and in relation to the brothers and sisters.” In practical terms, it is a call to take up his way of life, to adopt his interior attitude, to allow oneself to be invaded by the Spirit, to absorb his surprising logic and his scale of values, to share in his risks and his hopes. “Be guided by the humble yet joyful certainty of those who have been *found, touched and transformed by the Truth who is Christ*, ever to be proclaimed.”

- A Letter for the Year of Consecrated Life, Section 5, paragraph 3. Copyright, Libreria Editrice Vaticana 2015

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; Step 4 – Lean Into It...)**

Step 5. LOVE

At the end of the day; at the end of our lives, we are simply and profoundly called to love and to be holy. The state of life doesn’t change that truth – we are called to holiness, we are called to love. Not about what you do – but who you are. Intentional, prayerful discernment will help in knowing the particular way in which we are called to love and to be holy – and we can trust that the God who created us, knows us, and loves us will not lead us astray. There is great freedom, a holy indifference even, once we can find that place of trusting God...and allowing God to lead us. In the words of Saint Augustine, “Love and do what you will”. Perhaps these thoughts by Teilhard de Chardin are also of help...

*Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are, quite naturally, impatient in everything
to reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way
to something unknown, something new.
Yet it is the law of all progress that is made
by passing through some stages of instability
and that may take a very long time.*

*And so I think it is with you.
Your ideas mature gradually -let them grow,
let them shape themselves, without undue haste.*

*Do not try to force them on as though you could
be today what time (that is to say, grace and
circumstances acting on your own good will)
will make you tomorrow.*

*Only God could say what this new Spirit
gradually forming in you will be.
Give our Lord the benefit of believing
that his hand is leading you, and accept the
anxiety of feeling yourself
in suspense and incomplete.”*

- Fr. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin SJ

Looking Ahead:

Advent Lectio Divina: Online Interactive Advent Faith Sharing Groups for young adults 18-40 yrs.

December 2-23

Groups offered in English and Spanish/Grupos ofrecidos en español e inglés.

Contact Sr. Stephanie at sspandl@ssnd.org or 651-278-4498. Se habla español.

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)

Come and Be – Dinner & Advent Prayer with the SSNDs

Mill Run Road - Dallas, TX

Thursday, December 14 6-8p

bwaldorf@ssnd.org

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

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

San Antonio, TX [Please contact Sister Bridget - bwaldorf@ssnd.org if you need transportation between Dallas-San Antonio]

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 due January 15, 2019

www.nationalcatholicsistersproject.org

Visiting Women's Religious Communities

St. Paul, MN

Saturday April 6, 2019

Contact Sr. Stephanie for more info at sspandl@ssnd.org or 651-278-4498

This Month's Resources for Discernment:

<https://www.catholicapostolatecenter.org/podcasts/on-mission-discernment>

***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

www.ssndcp.org

www.amssnd.org