

Vocation Reflections October 2019



Blessed Theresa, foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, reminds us:
“Do not lose courage. Jesus will stand at your side.”
– Letter #714; May 30, 1847

ORDINARY Time 2019

This month we continue with short paragraphs from **CHRISTUS VIVIT (Christ Lives)** the POST-SYNODAL APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS TO YOUNG PEOPLE AND TO THE ENTIRE PEOPLE OF GOD. What Pope Francis shares in these paragraphs can be helpful as you seek to know God’s call...

... we have to realize that it is a calling from a friend, who is Jesus

... when the Lord thinks of each of you and what he wants to give you, he sees you as his close friend

...if he plans to grant you a grace, a charism that will help you live to the full and become someone who benefits others, someone who leaves a mark in life, it will surely be a gift that will bring you more joy and excitement than anything else in this world

... More than rules and obligations, the choice that Jesus sets before us is to follow him as friends follow one another

The call of Jesus our friend

287. To discern our personal vocation, we have to realize that it is a calling from a friend, who is Jesus. When we give something to our friends, we give them the best we have. It will not necessarily be what is most expensive or hard to obtain, but what we know will make them happy. Friends are so sensitive to this that they can already imagine the smile on their friend’s face when he or she opens that gift. This sort of discernment that takes place among friends is what I suggest you take as a model for trying to discover God’s will for your lives.

288. I want you to know that, when the Lord thinks of each of you and what he wants to give you, he sees you as his close friend. And if he plans to grant you a grace, a charism that will help you live to the full and become someone who benefits others, someone who leaves a mark in life, it will surely be a gift that will bring you more joy and excitement than anything else in this world. Not because that gift will be rare or extraordinary, but because it will perfectly fit you. It will be a perfect fit for your entire life.

289. A vocation, while a gift, will undoubtedly also be demanding. God’s gifts are interactive; to enjoy them we have to be ready to take risks. Yet the demands they make are not an obligation imposed from without, but an incentive to let that gift grow and develop, and then become a gift for others. When the Lord awakens a vocation, he thinks not only of what you already are, but of what you will one day be, in his company and in that of others.

290. Sheer vitality and strength of personality combine in the hearts of young people to make them constantly aim higher. This exuberance will be tempered by time and painful experiences, but it is important for “this youthful and still untested yearning for the infinite”[160] to encounter the unconditional friendship that Jesus offers us. More than rules and obligations, the choice that Jesus sets before us is to follow him as friends follow one another, seeking each other’s company and spending time together out of pure friendship. Everything else will come in time, and even failures in life can be an invaluable way of experiencing that friendship, which will never be lost.

- As you read these paragraphs, what excites you?
- With which of your friends could you share these words and thoughts?
- What is your prayer for today?

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:

Vocation Fair
October 14, 2019
University of Dallas
Irving, TX
bwaldorf@ssnd.org

Sweets with the Sisters
October 18, 2019
Cristo Rey Dallas
Pleasant Grove, TX

SSND Foundation Day Prayer
Celebration
October 24, 2019
Notre Dame High School
St. Louis, MO
cjdust@ssnd.org

Sweets with the Sisters
October 24, 2019
Mount Mary University
Milwaukee, WI

Miryam Dinner
October 25, 2019
MCDP Convent
San Antonio, TX
bwaldorf@ssnd.org

National Vocation Awareness Week (USCCB)
November 3-9, 2019
During this week, a good question to ask ourselves is, "How am I being called to respond to the love of God in my life?"

National Vocation Awareness Week
"Kickoff" Mass
November 3, 2019
St. Luke's Church
San Antonio, TX
bwaldorf@ssnd.org

Meet Our Sisters Tour
Communicators for Women Religious (CWR) Chicago Region
November 3-9, 2019
Chicago, IL
jlaszewski@ssnd.org

Chicago's Got Sisters
Chicago Archdiocesan Vocation Association (CAVA)
November 8-9, 2019
Chicago, IL
jlaszewski@ssnd.org

Marian Brunch for High School Women & their Youth Ministers / Catechists / Campus Ministers / Teachers
November 9, 2019
Saint Rita Catholic Church
Dallas, TX
bwaldorf@ssnd.org

Twin Cities Nuns & Nones
6:30-8:30 p.m.
November 6, 2019
December 4, 2019
St. Jane House, 1403 Emerson Ave. N,
Minneapolis, MN 55411
<https://www.facebook.com/nunsandnonestwincities/>

Candlelight Christmas Novena
December 20, 2019
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mankato MN
Carpooling to Mankato provided
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Life Awareness Retreat
January 10-12, 2020
Cordis Marian Retreat Center
San Antonio, TX
bwaldorf@ssnd.org

Did you know?
Each of our *Vocation Reflections* is available on-line at our website:
<https://ssnd.org/become-sister/vocation-resources/>

This month's resource:
More vowed religious talking about the choosing this life:
<https://youtu.be/gkJiBryEjRs?t=8>

October: Month of the Holy Rosary –
Let's Pray!

