

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

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

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

**Life Awareness Retreat**  
January 10-12, 2020  
Cordis Marian Retreat Center  
San Antonio, TX  
[bwaldorf@ssnd.org](mailto: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!

