

Love gives everything gladly, everything again and again.

Blessed Theresa of Jesus, foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame – Letter #1

## Risking in Faith: Following Jesus

Authentic discernment of a call to consecrated, married, ordained or single life within the Church can only emerge when rooted in relationship with Jesus. Naming and claiming a following of Jesus is the seedbed for a vocation. As you read the following words and take time with the reflection questions, may your connection to Jesus be strengthened and enlivened – and your discernment be clearer.

### Scripture Reflections

#### *The Call, Matthew 4:18-22*

<sup>18</sup> As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

#### *Leaving Everything, Luke 5:11*

<sup>11</sup> When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

#### *Follow Me, Mark 10:21*

<sup>21</sup> Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money<sup>□</sup> to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”



### Blessed Theresa of Jesus' Words:

We must follow Jesus. (Letter #3)

May Jesus be the way you walk, the truth you follow, the life you lead. (Letter #714)

Before You, O Jesus, I am wholly determined to follow You alone: You, the totality of unending truth, holiness and happiness: You, the first and the last: You, God and the way to God. (Letter #1824)

### For Reflection:

- Who is Jesus to you?
- What is your favorite gospel story? Why?
- What aspects of your life are most challenged by the words of Jesus?

- What does Jesus ask of you and what does he offer?
- What excites you about the idea of following Jesus? What, if anything, do you find a bit scary?
- The apostles followed immediately. What do you want your response to be?

## Looking Ahead

Los Angeles Religious Education Congress  
February 21-23, 2020  
Anaheim Convention Center  
*\*Stop in to see us at Exhibit Booth #767*

Twin Cities Nuns and Nones  
March 4, 2020  
Minneapolis, MN  
Contact Sister Stephanie at [sspandl@ssnd.org](mailto:sspandl@ssnd.org)  
or Sister Jill at [jlaszewski@ssnd.org](mailto:jlaszewski@ssnd.org)

Vocations Jamboree  
March 17-19, 2020  
University of Mary  
Bismarck, ND  
Contact Sister Stephanie at [sspandl@ssnd.org](mailto:sspandl@ssnd.org)  
or Sister Jill at [jlaszewski@ssnd.org](mailto:jlaszewski@ssnd.org)

Catholic Sisters Week  
March 8-14, 2020  
Let's plan an event!  
Contact [sisters@ssnd.org](mailto:sisters@ssnd.org)

## SSND Women's Leadership Luncheons: You're Invited!

Setting the World on Fire: Our Diversity is Our Strength  
March 5, 2020  
Milwaukee, WI  
<https://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/news-events/womens-leadership-luncheon/milwaukee>

Developing a Culture of Diversity and Inclusion  
March 9, 2020  
St. Louis, MO  
<https://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/news-events/womens-leadership-luncheon/st-louis>

Embracing Diversity in Our Struggle for Unity  
March 17, 2020  
Dallas, TX  
<https://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/news-events/womens-leadership-luncheon/dallas>

Embracing Diversity: The Struggle for Social Justice  
March 26, 2020  
St. Paul, MN  
<https://www.ssndcentralpacific.org/news-events/womens-leadership-luncheon/st-paul>

## 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:** *Shalom* is the international network for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation for the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Each sister is a member of the *Shalom* Network, as well as associates, colleagues and various *Shalom* clubs. The network is guided by an international coordinator missioned at the Generalate in Rome and five continental branch representatives working with contact sisters in every country where sisters minister. Enjoy the latest edition of the newsletter from the North American *Shalom* branch: <https://conta.cc/2RG1Mbz>

*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)