

Vocation Reflections

February 2022



School Sisters of Notre Dame

“LOVE is the sign through which the world should be convinced that we believe in Jesus.”

Blessed Theresa, foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame

Letter #949 written in 1850



Two questions to ponder:

1. To whom do I want to entrust my life?
2. To what do I want to entrust my life?

Reflection

Years ago, in an address to the National Catholic Student Coalition, I identified these two questions as being fundamental in discernment. Now, many years later, my recollection of the significance of these two questions focused on the phrases “to whom” and “to what.” And indeed, these are significant elements. However, I would like to begin by unpacking the work “entrust.” What does it mean to entrust something or someone? Webster has some thoughts by way of definition pointing out that “to entrust” means “to turn over responsibility, or consign, to put into someone’s care or protection, to commit or commend.” Entrust implies committing with trust and confidence.

I don’t often look to the dictionary for inspiration or direction but I think this definition is helpful. Discernment is a way of life, not just a movement or process for decision-making. Each moment invites a commitment coming from a place of profound trust and deep confidence, a place where God’s spirit dwells. To whom and to what do I entrust my life? God alone is deserving of such heartfelt trust and commitment. God’s presence in us, in others, in all creation is the manifestation, the incarnation, the spark that enflames our hearts in a selfless response, not once and for all, but moment by moment for time and eternity.

To WHOM do I entrust my life? To the God within, beyond, among – the God of mystery, yet the God made manifest. To WHAT do I entrust my life? To God’s work, to God’s design in whatever shape it comes, and in whatever way we choose to respond. One of God’s greatest gifts – maybe THE greatest gift – is freedom... freedom to choose! Discernment is not about God playing “hide and seek” with us, allowing us to stumble around until we find what seems to be “God’s will.” Rather, God’s great love and expansiveness provides us with multiple choices, multiple goods, from which we might choose. God’s deepest desire and design is our happiness...not just a sense of satisfaction, but happiness that is grounded in discovering who we are and what is being asked of us, and attempting to respond with all the love and passion that we can.

Years ago, I heard this little prayer and it continues to put into words my own “entrustment.” *God, remember my younger heart’s desire.* Life experience has led me to believe that this simple prayer is answered time and time again, inviting my older, sometimes battered and bruised heart to trust in a God who knows and remembers my younger heart’s desire.

Sister Catherine Bertrand, SSND

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.

Check out this resource:

[Sisters in Ministry: The Gospel in Action](#)

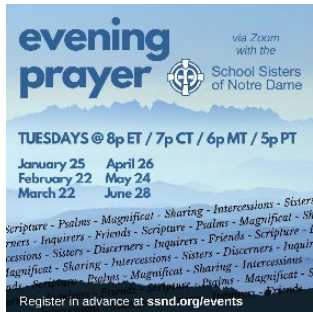
This introductory video explains who Catholic sisters are and how they live, work and serve others.
<https://youtu.be/I7E4Bt0JqW4>

Did you know?

Each of our Vocation Reflections is available online at ssnd.org/become-sister/vocation-resources/.

Looking ahead

The following events are all virtual. Learn more and register for the Zoom link at ssnd.org/events/.



Evening Prayer with the SSND Vocation Team
Every fourth Tuesday of the month
8 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CT

- February 22, 2022
- March 22, 2022
- April 26, 2022
- May 24, 2022
- June 28, 2022



Scan me

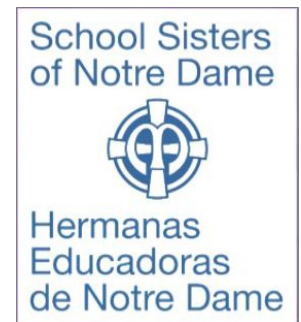
Young Adult Retreat: Grounded in the Heartbeat of God
Sunday, February 27, 2022
2-5:30 ET / 1-4:30 p.m. CT

Catholic Sisters Week
March 8-14, 2022

Joyful and Alive Conversation
March 9, 2022
8 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CT



ASH WEDNESDAY
March 2, 2022
First Day of Lent



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