



# Vocation Reflections

September 2022



School Sisters of Notre Dame

## 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 2015, Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

## Discernment Steps\* PART THREE (Read about Steps 1-4 [here](#))

(as developed by Sister Sandra Weinke, SSND; commentary by Sister Bridget Waldorf, SSND)

*\*Prayer is integrated into each step.*



### 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

***This month's vocation resource:***

Sister Jill Laszewski of the SSND North American Vocation Team, calls 25 years of religious life 'so worth it': <https://bit.ly/3RYYFYG>

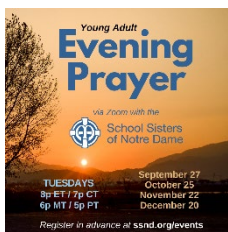
**Did you know?**

Back issues of Vocation Reflections are available [online](#).

You can stay up-to-date with SSND Vocations at [flowpage.com/ssnd](http://flowpage.com/ssnd) or scan the code below.

**Looking ahead**

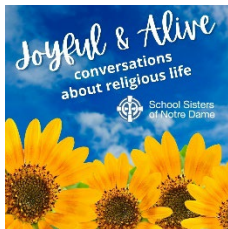
The following events are virtual. Click the event title to learn more and register for the Zoom link.



**Online Evening Prayer**

*Every fourth Tuesday of the month*  
8 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CT

September 27, 2022  
October 25, 2022  
November 22, 2022



**Joyful & Alive Conversation**

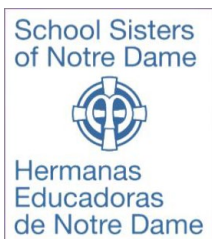
October 20, 2022  
8 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CT

**National Vocation Awareness Week**

November 6-12, 2022

**SSND Discernment Weekend (details TBA)**

February 17-19, 2023  
St. Louis, MO



*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).*