

# Vocation Reflections

March 2023



School Sisters of Notre Dame

## Blessed Theresa, foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, reminds us:

“Those who want to erect a building must, first of all, clear the ground of all rubble and brush, then dig a foundation - the higher the building, the deeper, then begin to build and bring it to completion.” (Letter #2941)

*How must I clear the ground of my life to be more firmly rooted in following Jesus?*

## Conversion

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines **conversion** as “a radical reorientation of the whole life away from sin and evil, and toward God. This change of heart or conversion is a central element of Christ’s preaching, of the Church’s ministry of evangelization, and of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.” As we move through these Lenten days, we offer these points of conversion (adapted from our SSND Constitution) on which to reflect.

Christian conversion requires new thinking and new living, a continual change of mind and heart. Our call to conversion and our response find expression in:

- personal and communal prayer;
- authentic dialogue;
- openness to others and willingness to change,
- acceptance of diversity;
- the discipline of honesty and authenticity;
- mutual encouragement;
- patient response to slights and misunderstandings;
- assuming responsibility for our own interior life and the quality of our ministry;
- personal and communal asceticism;
- humble acceptance of our own inadequacies;
- mutual expression of failure and forgiveness;
- acknowledgment of our participation in social sin;
- encountering the Lord’s forgiving love in the sacrament of reconciliation;
- communal celebration of God’s mercy, especially during Advent and Lent;
- integration of our spirituality and ministry;
- serious study and professional involvement;
- accepting the responsibility of becoming knowledgeable about world events and issues;
- courageous coping with insecurities and fear;
- attempts to alleviate human suffering, especially that of the poor;
- the promotion of justice and peace.



## For Reflection:

1. Which of these expressions of conversion do you feel called to increase in your own life?
2. These words were written specifically for a community; imagine living out these expressions of conversion within a community of vowed religious – perhaps imagining that possibility assists in your discernment.
3. What excites you about the idea of following Jesus? What, if anything, do you find a bit scary?
4. The apostles followed immediately. What do you want your response to be?

## This month's vocation resource:

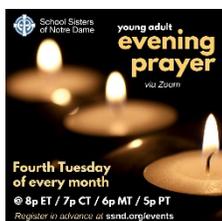
For additional reflections during Lent, see these weekly quotes and questions developed by the SSND Vocation Team at <https://ssnd.org/lenten-reflections/>

## 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

Click the event title for more information.



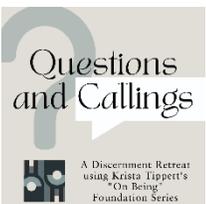
### Young Adult Evening Prayer

March 28, 2023  
April 25, 2023  
8 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CT  
*Please register in advance for the Zoom link*



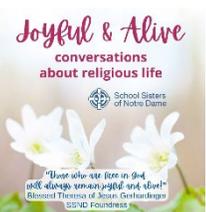
### Catholic Sisters Week

March 8-14, 2023  
*Thank the Catholic Sisters in your life!*



### Questions and Callings: A discernment retreat

April 1, 2023  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CT  
Carondelet Center in St. Paul, MN  
*Please register by March 26*



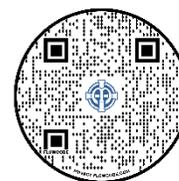
### Joyful and Alive Conversation

April 20, 2023  
8 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CT  
Online  
*Please register in advance for the Zoom link*



### SSND Summer Service Week

June 11-17, 2023  
at Whole Kids Outreach in Ellington, Missouri  
*Please register by May 1*



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).