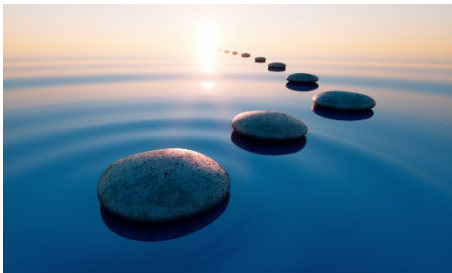


“God, in his wisdom and mercy, can and will direct all for our best.”
Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, SSND foundress
Letter 4884, December 30, 1873



How does God guide us and help us discern? (Part 2 of 3)

When discerning a choice or a vocational call, some patterns will emerge and provide a sense that you are being drawn in a particular direction. We continue with understanding how God guides and helps during our discernment. The following from Fr. Stephen Wang¹ are some indicators that may be helpful:

- **Values:** of the many projects and careers you are interested in, which of them are really worthwhile? Which allow you to contribute to something of value? What do you actually believe in and want to promote?
- **Events and Circumstances:** Sometimes an opportunity opens up unexpectedly and you want to make the most of it. The Lord opens doors, and closes them, through ordinary events of your life, through the decisions that others make, and through the concrete situation you are in. You can trust that God is guiding all these circumstances and leading you to where you are meant to be. God is more powerful than all the other forces that seem to be shaping your life.
- **Other people:** Sometimes others can see your own potential more clearly than you can see yourself. You might be afraid or lacking confidence, but they can see the possibilities, and encourage you to go in one direction or discourage you from going in another direction. It is good to talk to people that know you well – friends, family, teachers, priests – and see what they think about your ideas for the future. They might have another perspective that helps you.
- **Inner Conviction:** You might have a clear, inner conviction that something is right for you; almost like an unshakeable knowledge of who you are and what is important for you. More than just a desire or an attraction – it is like a sense of inevitability; part of your identity. It might have been a part of you for as long as you can remember; or it might have dawned slowly; or it might come upon you like a moment of inspiration.

*** Next month we'll look at additional indicators of how God guides us:
Ordinary Prayer, Holy Scripture, Extraordinary Experiences, Realism.

¹ Adapted from [How to Discover Your Vocation by Fr. Stephen Wang](#).

For Reflection:

God “speaks” to us in all kinds of different ways. Be mindful of God’s presence and messages as you go about your day, your work, your relationships. What are you noticing/hearing?

This month’s vocation resource:

Sister Ana Gonzalez, OP, shares her mother's skepticism as she discerned her call to religious life:
<https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/how-mom-came-around-my-call>

DID YOU KNOW?

Back issues of Vocation Reflections are available [online](#).
You can stay up-to-date with SSND Vocations at flowpage.com/ssnd or scan the code below.

Looking ahead

Click the event title for more information or go to ssnd.org/events.



Young Adult Evening Prayer

May 23, 2023

June 27, 2023

8 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CT

Online

Please register in advance for the Zoom link

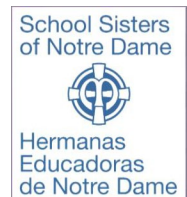


SSND Summer Service Week

June 11-17, 2023

at Whole Kids Outreach in Ellington, Missouri

Please register by May 15, 2023



God's cause
is the *only* concern of
our hearts



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.