

# Vocation Reflections

December 2023



**Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, SSND Foundress, reminds us:**  
“May the divine child, Jesus, at whose crib we have laid all the wishes of our hearts, fulfill, in the new year of grace, whatever serves his honor and glory.”  
(Letter #2773: December 30, 1848)

## God's Promises

Every year, in this holy season of Advent, we are given four weeks (and this year, only three!) to prepare to welcome Jesus – God with us! The amazing reality is that even as we prepare and wait, **God is already with us.**



In scripture we are reminded of calls that came forth and promises made:

- “The Lord said to Abram: Go forth from your land, your relatives, and from your father’s house to a land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you...Is anything too marvelous for the Lord to do?... Abraham was old, having seen many days, and **the Lord had blessed him in every way.**” *Genesis 12:1; 18:14; 24:1*
- “The word of the Lord came to me: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you. ‘Ah, Lord God!’ I said, ‘I do not know how to speak. I am too young!’ But the Lord answered me, Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak...Do not be afraid of them, **for I am with you to deliver you...**” *Jeremiah 1*

In Advent and Christmas readings we are reminded of these **promises**:

- “**The Lord is my shepherd**; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; Beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul...I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come.” *Psalms 23*
- “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for **his mercy endures forever...**” *Psalms 116*
- “Thus says the Lord God...**The Lord will give you the bread you need and the water for which you thirst...**” *Isaiah 30*



- “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus...Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be...?’ ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you...**For nothing will be impossible with God.**” *Luke 1:26-38*

Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859–1937), “The Annunciation”, 1868.  
[Philadelphia Museum of Art.](https://www.philadelphia.museumofart.org/)

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).

## FOR REFLECTION

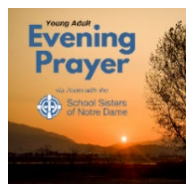
Discerning a call is not easy, but God's promises can assist us on the journey. May praying with the words of promise from our foundress, Blessed Theresa of Jesus (above), give you renewed hope in finding your response to God's call. Please join in one or all of the upcoming opportunities listed below as more food for your journey.

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

In addition to the [VISION Vocation Network](https://www.digitadvocationguide.org) website, the 2024 print version is available at [www.digitadvocationguide.org](https://www.digitadvocationguide.org).

## Looking ahead

Click the event title to learn more.



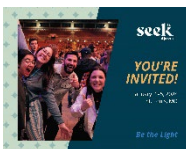
### [Online Evening Prayer](#)

*For young adults ages 18-45*

December 19, 2023

Every fourth Tuesday of the month in January-June 2024!

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

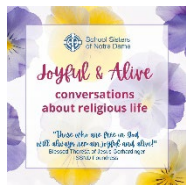


### [SEEK24 Conference](#)

*Visit us at Booth #741*

January 1-5, 2024

St. Louis, Missouri

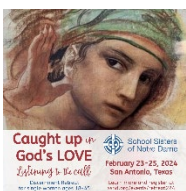


### [Joyful & Alive Conversations](#)

*For single women age 18+*

January 11, 2024 - 8 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CT

April 13, 2024 - 11:30 a.m. ET / 10:30 a.m. CT



### [Discernment Retreats for Single Women](#)

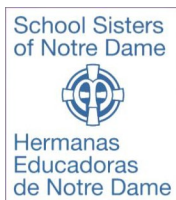
*For single women ages 18-45*

February 23-25, 2024 - San Antonio, TX

April 26-28, 2024 - in Baltimore, MD

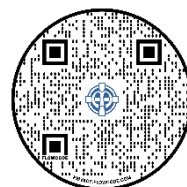
### DID YOU KNOW?

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



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

School Sisters of Notre Dame  
Disciples of Jesus Centering



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